 Dayton (30-2) 3, South Carolina (16-12) 1

Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024

Ferrell Center (Waco, Texas)

DAYTON POST-MATCH QUOTES

Dayton Head Coach Tim Horsmon

Opening Statement…

“We did a lot of really good things and executed it at a pretty good level. Just really proud of our team, how they prepared and the energy that they played with. They were a lot of fun to coach today. They followed the game plan and executed at a high level. Great teammates today to each other so the energy was really good and it was fun to watch them play.”

On a big day for the A-10 with a Loyola win over BYU …

“I saw Ryan (McGuyre) yesterday and he asked me if that was too soon to bring that back up and I told him it was too soon. Rough day last weekend. We had to recover quickly and figure out why and make some changes in how we practiced. We had a really good week of practice. Loyola played really well. Today, maybe affirmed that they are a really good team and can give you a lot of issues if you are not playing well. Excited about their win and what we did today. It’s a good day for the A-10.”

On Ryan crediting his coaching journey to Tim …

“Ryan is an extraordinary coach. He would be here with or without me. He would’ve found his way. He is probably one of the best volleyball minds in volleyball. I am humbled with him saying that but he is a very good coach and would’ve found his way to this level either way.”

On taking the momentum from the win today into tomorrow …

“That is a great question. We have not been very good at that in year’s past. We are going to have to figure that out. We have a very seasoned and experienced team. Last year we got to play a really tough Washington State team in the second round and they were really good. We had some moments (in that game). We have been in a lot of these moments. A few years ago we had Washington in five sets and Purdue we were up 2-0 and both were ranked sixth in the country. We’ve been in these moments. Lexie (Almadovar) has played in these moments. Brooke (Nichols) was at Louisiville when they were in the final 4 and the national championship match. I am going to trust them to do what we do. They practice the right way and I thin kat this point you have to let them go and hope they are trained the right way and be fearless in how we play tomorrow.”

Lexie Almadovar, OH, R-Sr.

On a match-impacting run at the serve line …

“For me personally, I’ve trained to be in that moment. We talk about those things all the time at practice, playing like you’ve practicing every day. I’ve been in those moments before and I was prepared for what that would be like. My teammates played amazing behind my serve and they didn’t get anything away. We played super confidently and super aggressively the whole match and especially through that long rally. We were able to just punch, punch, punch and we weren’t letting up. That confidence and aggressiveness really led us to that moment.”

On feeling disappointed in not hosting the first and second rounds …

“Obviously that day and the following day was rough. Our coaches gave us a minute to breathe and take it all in, understand what happened and give us time to reflect. When we came back to practice on Monday we talked about letting it go. It is over, it is in the past. What can we do to be better moving forward? We had a day to be upset about it and once we were back in the gym we had work to do, we have places to go and we want to make a run in the tournament. That was what was on our minds. We weren’t upset anymore. We were vengeful to get that opportunity for redemption.”

Brooke Nichols, S/DS, R-Jr.

On the run that fueled the win with Lexie Almadovar on the service line …

“Lexie is our fire on the team, she brings it every single day. At this point it is something we expect from her. It is a really big load that she has to carry and she handles it the best out of anyone. She is someone we can trust. She works hard every day in the gym. When she is on the serving line we know she can be deadly back there. As defenders we are just trying to protect her and keep her on the line.”