



#5 Dayton (31-2) 3, #4 Baylor (23-8) 2

Friday, Dec. 6, 2024

Ferrell Center (Waco, Texas)

Attendance: 1,022

## DAYTON POST-MATCH QUOTES

### Dayton Head Coach Tim Horsmon

#### *Opening Statement...*

"Wow, what a day, what a night? What a weekend. Just incredibly proud of our group and the hard work. Just to celebrate this group. We have some alumni in our locker room right now. They kind of started this whole process and we talk a lot about legacy and family and there are just so many generations now that I think are gonna be incredibly proud and happy of this program. Just a cool night. Just great volleyball. Baylor played great. They were tough. We knew they would be. They're well coached, which made it even better, made it sweeter. I know they had a heck of a season and I'm sure they are disappointed. I know we beat a really good team. These three were unbelievable - the heart and soul of our group tonight and performed in a really high level. I'm just excited about what the program did today."

#### *On the difference in a tight match ...*

"We were just really consistent in our process. I think we lived in the moment. I think we never got too far ahead of ourselves or got too down on what was happening, even when things weren't going the way we wanted. We kept hammering away from the service line. I thought we were really aggressive. Brooke Smith turned her ankle this morning and we didn't know if she was gonna go. Then our other outside, Taylor Russell, had shoulder issues, so we kind of came into this thing feeling like, we're in a tough spot and we just talked about being fearless. We just wanted to come out and try to be the aggressor in every single point and we knew how physical they were. Again, they are well coached and we just knew we had to keep coming at them, and I think again, this group did."

#### *On if Lexi Almodovar is the best 5-foot-8 outside hitter in the nation ...*

"I challenge, if there's been a better 5-foot-8 player ever. I know there have been some really good ones, but I got to coach this one and she's ours. I will go to the grave saying she's the best one that I've seen."

#### *On Alyssa Miller's performance ...*

"She's being really humble. She was really good tonight. Again, to beat a team like that and have your L1 struggling with her injury and finding ways to score points. Liana (Sarkissian) could be in here after having a great just an unbelievable night as well. Brooke (Nichols) kind of mustering up enough energy and toughness to be able to play and kill balls today and do that. It wasn't easy for her and she found a way to do it."

### Lexi Almodovar, OH, R-Sr.

#### *On this win ...*

"I think we've just been in this moment so many times and we've continued to say that we can compete with the best teams in the country, that Dayton volleyball should be respected and that we belong playing against these great teams. Since I've been here, we've lost two five-set matches, tight like that. Just back and forth games and we've just wondered what is it gonna take for us to be able to finish and get to that next round, the sweet 16. Like coach was saying, this is legacy. This has been building up for a long time and we finally had our moment and I think that we just took full advantage of it and we went out there and we said we were gonna be fearless and that we were gonna have fun and that we were gonna leave it all out there if there were regrets. So I think for me this moment is one of the best of my life, just cause I know how many people have worked towards this who are here today and who are not. So I think it's just a combination of years and years of work and uh time spent doing this."

### Alyssa Miller, S, Sr.

#### *On a 51-assist night ...*

"I mean, everybody else did all the work they just made my job easier. Karissa (Kaminski) was getting me absolute money, which made it so easy just to give it to Lexi and Lexi was on fire. So, I mean, I can't really take any credit for it. These two did all the work."