



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

Friday, Dec. 6, 2024

Ferrell Center (Waco, Texas)

Attendance: 1,022

# BAYLOR POST-MATCH QUOTES

## **Baylor Head Coach Ryan McGuyre**

### ***Opening Statement...***

"Congratulations to Tim and Peyton and their team. We knew this was going to be a battle. There's no easy sets for any teams and any point in there. It's one of those matches where the margins are just really thin. Clearly Lexi (Almadovar) should be an All-American. She did a really, really good job with 34 kills. We knew that was a key that we needed to stop there. Proud of this Baylor team and this squad. I clearly felt like we were fighting all the way through the match and especially what we were able to accomplish this season when others counted us out and who we are now is so much better and bigger than who we were at the beginning of the year both as a volleyball team but most importantly as women and followers of Christ and the impact these girls have on each other. It's disappointing because it's been a fun, real fun season. You know, I've coached a long time and maybe there's seasons where it's kind of a relief when it's over and that's not been the case since I've been here at Baylor but then especially with this squad right here. It's been really, really spectacular. You know, I think disappointment is normally not the end of a great journey but the start of something bigger and better moving forward. So for our seniors, I look forward to seeing what God's going to continue to do in their lives as they move forward. And then, you know, the future of Baylor continues to be bright, like we have Allie (Sczech) on a big stage, 21 kills, (hit) 463, spectacular individual performance from her offensively in that regard. Our hitting percentage was good, or even on blocks, like you look at serving percentage, their 89% to our 88% and those are just little things that are difference makers right there."

### ***On Allie Sczech's performance***

"I think she came in with some fire, some tenacity, she had 600 last night in that regard. One thing about Allie is she's probably put more hours in the gym than anybody, you know, in addition to their centers, getting reps from blocking, getting reps with attacking, but clearly she made the decision that I'm gonna come in, I'm going to elevate and annihilate. But really this year too she's been able to do some off speed and get some kills, like 2 errors on 41 swings, I think, is immaculate. So her ability to start seeing the court much better has been huge for us and yeah, there's no way we're not in the match without her doing what she did today."

### ***On the match being a good, NCAA-style match ...***

"You look at the hit percentages of both teams, we hit .282 and they hit .275. I think normally, when you hit .300, that gets you a win. Both teams I thought did well offensively. Set one, they hit .500 and we hit 33-percent. We've probably won all sets this year that we've hit 33-percent or higher. We came back .300 and brought them down, but they came back and hit .300 those last two sets. I think the plain takeaway is that I could talk more x-and-o's probably little bit dynamic and mixing things up that we have to be better at. Things like that where we can't make those little adjustments, those little things have got to be in play right there. At the end of the day, which teams are going to take big swings is what matters. [Allie] Sczech was doing that for us and No. 4 [Lexie Almodovar] was doing that for them."

### ***On players coming back ...***

"I think our future is super, super bright for us here. They're all in there crying. They're all in there hugging. In our new NIL and transfer portal days, I'm not expecting any surprises, but we'll forward to those conversations. We returned our middles. We returned our opposites. We returned great setters. We have great DS's in the gym. [Kendall] Murphy's been playing with a bad shoulder all season, so we'll get that healthy and healed. I think that'll make a huge difference for her game and what's coming there. I feel with even just the returners, we can go back out there and battle again. Again, I think they'll have great takeaways and looking to Sczech as a future leader for us. She's always been a leader, but it'll be different voices in the huddles. I think the same virtue will come out."

## **Allie Sczech, OPP, Jr.**

### ***On the difference the last couple nights...***

"I'm gonna try not to cry when I say this but honestly, Jackie Barrett Frazier has just talked a lot about how we have to play for the seniors and how it really is our last match. Especially with this group of seniors, they just had a really big impact on me since my freshman year and specifically Elise (McGhee). I just think they've all really poured into the program a lot and I

don't know if I've played with a better senior class. I think every time we stepped out there, I'm just gonna go as hard as I can for them and regardless of what happens, I was talking to myself and I was like hey, 'I'm gonna go out there and ball for the team and my friends'. I know obviously the friendship is not over. I think it's just sad right now just because of where we sit and like we can't play another game together and put on another practice shirt with Elise. I just think like the love is still there and I'm just so grateful to have gotten the opportunity to play with them and be with them."

***On what was working for the third set ...***

"I think it's just so good to have key players like that are so confident in me and confident in themselves. I think it just goes back to the relationship that we've built and the trust there that I felt. In the match, I had trust in both of them to get the ball exactly where they need to be. With that, it's just like now I have to go do the work. It was awesome, but I'm just super proud of the way they've continued to trust me and continue to pour into me. They're another group of people that I enjoy and am so grateful I've gotten the opportunity to learn from."

***Elise McGhee, OH/OP, Sr.***

***On what you'll take away from your time at Baylor ...***

"That's a loaded question. I think just how much I love every single person on this team. I can just go on about each of them. I feel like this is a one of a kind group. I truly just would not have spent my last four years any where else besides Baylor and with this staff and these people. Like Allie [Sczech] said, it's not that the friendships will end, but it is sad knowing that I won't be able to play with them anymore."