

NCAA Women's Basketball Championship: First Round - Grand Canyon vs Baylor

Thursday, March 20, 2025

Waco, Texas, USA

Foster Pavilion

Grand Canyon Lopes Trinity San Antonio

Tiarra Brown

Molly Miller

Media Conference



level -- getting into the tournament, and getting your bid here?

TRINITY SAN ANTONIO: This is Tiarra and I's first time ever going to the tournament. So to know after about 4 or 5 years for her, that we finally got to put our work to show and kind of got here -- I mean, it means the world that we're able to display on such a big platform what we can do and kind of give ourselves a chance to prove our name and prove that we can play basketball.

TIARRA BROWN: Yeah, actually very exciting like she said, it's our first time -- not just for us, but also for the program. And to be in this position is, you know, it's different. So we, you know, we've been on a little high, and a lot of excitement the last few days.

Q. Trinity, you have gone up against some Big 12 teams and beat them. What gives you as a team that confidence, that when you go against a bigger school, that you're not going to be intimidated?

TRINITY SAN ANTONIO: Yeah, I think a lot of people can get caught up in the name, but at the end of the day, you know, it's basketball. It's a game of play. We go out there and we play basketball, you know, it doesn't really matter who we're up against. At the end of the day, it's the game of basketball.

Q. Hi, Coach. First time for GCU. What was the excitement level? Obviously, you knew it after you won the conference tournament. What was the excitement level like there?

COACH MILLER: Our kids were so fired up. I mean, they had worked hard. We said we're winning the championship in June, not March. And that's played its way through this whole season. There's a lot of pressures throughout the year -- pressure to keep the win streak alive, pressure to keep the undefeated at home, pressure to win a regular season conference title, pressure to win a conference title -- and they just handled that so beautifully. So I'm really proud of them, and they deserved all the joy that came with winning the conference.

Q. Trinity, San Antonio -- Good Texas name. Where does that come from? Talk about the winning streak that y'all been on. What's the run that y'all been on?

TRINITY SAN ANTONIO: San Antonio -- obviously my last name. San Antonio, Texas, most of you know, because we're in Texas. But yeah, just my dad's side of the family -- Puerto Rico. That name has a stronghold in our lineage. There's a town called San Antonio in Puerto Rico, so, you know, just Puerto Rican, that's it.

Oh, this streak. I mean, it's been a good streak. We haven't really paid too much mind to it. We're just out here playing basketball, and, you know, we're racking up wins. But at the end of the day, you know, that's not what's really on our mind. We're just playing basketball.

Q. You've gone up against plenty of other teams with bigger size and all that. What's your defensive mindset when you do go up against a team that is bigger than you?

TIARRA BROWN:

We definitely went over some schemes and techniques when we go against bigger players. We definitely just also know to play smart. But we have our own techniques that Molly, our coach, Miller, and the coaching staff have been showing us the last few days, so we definitely have defensive techniques that we're working on.

Q. First time in the NCAA Tournament. What was the excitement level? I mean, obviously, when you won the tournament, you knew, but what was the excitement



Q. Coach, Trinity was saying that, you know, a lot of people might get caught up in the name of the school. When it comes to going up against a bigger team, you beat a couple Big 12 teams. What is it about this team that they don't get intimidated? What is it about this team that keeps them level when the lights are the brightest?

COACH MILLER: I think they rely on their work that they've put in up until this point. This is a good practice team. I've really, really enjoyed practices this year, because they put so much effort and intensity and work in. So at the end of the day, they're just going to rely back on that. And we always say, be ourselves and do what has gotten us here. We don't need to change our identity at this point. Baylor is a really good basketball team that's got a lot of tradition, but I really have a lot of faith and trust in those 14 girls in the locker room.

Q. Coach, just your thoughts on Baylor. Obviously, kind of a balanced team, has a lot of different scorers. What are your thoughts on them?

COACH MILLER: I mean there's some pros on that team, and they've got a lot of depth. I think in terms of switching up inside, outside, they're athletic. They'll try to get you out of your stuff -- very aggressive on defense, push it in transition. They run a lot of the pro stuff with the two-man game, which is obvious. And then I think for us, it's got to be transition defense, guard the pick-and-roll game, and we've got to crash, and create collisions to rebound against this team, because they're very aggressive on the rebound. So if we get a good stop, our job's not done -- we've got to start our offense by ending with a defensive board.

Q. You've gone up against plenty of size this year. What's your defensive strategy, when you go up against a team like Baylor that is significantly bigger than you?

COACH MILLER:

Team defense. We've got to be scrappy. We've got to work hard, do our work early. I always say low man wins, so be really aggressive. It's going to take a team effort. So when we're flying around and we're in rotations, we've got to be able to not only stop who we're guarding but everyone else around you. It's going to be a great challenge for us, understanding their interior presence but also what they have on the outside. We've got to be ready. I say, do both well -- we've got to guard the perimeter, and we also have to guard the interior.

Q. Coach, if you could, just in your own words, what

would you say is the identity of this team this year?

COACH MILLER: Relentless I mean -- relentless energy, relentless pressure. I think for us, we found the key pieces and fit them all together really, really nicely. You can't just focus on one or two of our players, because we've got someone that can shoot it really well out there. We've got some slashers. We also have a good inside presence. We've got scrappy point guards that are getting after it on defense. So I think for us, we've just found a way to put the pieces together. We kind of check every box that you need on the floor to be a threat.

Q. Talked about kind of those different things along the line with that streak. Did the streak itself ever become too big, where they were just consumed with that? Or how did you keep that from being "the thing"?

COACH MILLER: Our streak was always 0-0. So every time we finished, we said, "What's our record? 0-0." Going into the championship game, "What's our record? 0-0." Going into the final game of the non-conference, "What's our record? 0-0." So that mentality, I think, helped us just stay stable and stay committed to the process. The byproduct was an undefeated conference season and 30 wins in a row, but all that came from the daily mindset and how we approached every day.