



## BAYLOR POSTMATCH QUOTES

### **Baylor Head Coach Ryan McGuyre**

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

"Congratulations to Steven F Austin for a great season. I am always so impressed with what Debbie [Humphreys] has done with her program. We play each other often because we are in these regionals and their teams play hard and always have great seasons. It feels harder and harder to have extended success, as they seem to be good every year. I know they're disappointed in the season being over, but they're a good team and I'm sure down the road we'll keep seeing them again. Really thought our blocking set the tone for us tonight, practice-wise we focused on their back-side hitters 16 and 19. We feel a lot of their offense goes through them. Both of them hit negative so I thought we had some early stops and blocks there. Then it goes through their outsides with some pretty live arms. They are really deceptive so we had to work on it but I thought Allie Sczech set the tone. It's hard to not get tooled when hitters are looking one way and hitting the other way. Not since Kara McGhee as a freshman have I had a freshman blocker as strong as she's been for us all season. That I thought put us in control on the defense and then it was just a matter of how well we transitioned. I thought we served and received well and we did a good job moving the ball around so we were able to have a lot of fun. I thought we were good in all phases of the bench today."

#### ***Looking forward to Rice...***

[There's] not a comfort level, if anything it makes it more of a battle. We had to play really well to play them at their place, and they don't have many losses on the season and we're one of them. I'd imagine if we were in their shoes that they would want to get back and rewrite the script, so we have to make sure we are just as prepared as the first time, if not more. They've made a lot of adjustments since we played them the last time. We've made some adjustments as well. That was a match that was not quite highlighted on the schedule for me because it was a midweek game during conference, but we knew it would probably have ramifications for us down the road and probably played a factor in us getting to host here as well. We are expecting them to play with a chip on their shoulder and they have a fifth-year like Carly Graham playing as a setter and Anota as a middle. At the end of the day winners win so we need to go out there and earn it. I'm looking forward to the battle and it's a quick turnaround so I think the challenge is can we go back and remember what we did Monday, Tuesday and during the day Wednesday before we played them last time, plus add the new stuff in here with the help of our amazing coaching staff. This team is playing with great maturity for as young as we are, and tonight was a good example of that. I think I was more nervous for all these freshmen in their first postseason match. I didn't know what they were going to be like, and they stepped up and played really well."

#### ***On the seniors...***

If there were nerves which I didn't really see any, [having leaders] settles them down. Kara [McGhee] and Lauren [Harrison] can both take over matches for us. Just to know they are focused and dialed in, being who they are in every practice is calming and reassuring. The other fact is that these athletes love them, they're not just playing for themselves, the seniors are playing for the underclassmen and the underclassmen play for them and want to give them a great experience as well. Together we're one."

#### ***On Baylor's consistent spot in the NCAA tournament***

Baylor is a great place, and I think at every institution you attract people who are like minded. If you look at all sports programs but specifically to volleyball, we want to grow and be mighty Christ-like warriors who play with great confidence and character. In a day when there are so many challenges, I think we have so many people at Baylor who encourage great decisions for our student-athletes which helps us with adversity. Adversity is a good thing; we can't grow without it and through COVID we are sustaining things and everything. I think this program is very player lead and their ability to love each other through adversity really helps them keep growing. I can't wait for Allie [Sczech] as a senior because the things she is doing now remind me of Kara [McGhee] as a freshman and it shows a great hopefulness here at Baylor. Specifically, though our program that this next season is going to be as good or better as the previous one."

### **Baylor Libero Lauren Briseño**

#### ***On receiving a scholarship...***

"I am still honestly speechless about Sunday. I was not expecting it whatsoever, I knew we were doing a white elephant with the team and just messing around. Then low and behold I get this mystery box and I had no idea what it entailed. Sure enough, I open it up and it's a scholarship. I just burst out into tears. I truly just left with so much joy, I am so grateful to be here playing with this team and these coaches. Not letting scholarship or no scholarship define who I am as a player and just being eternally grateful for what I have. I had no idea that it was coming, but I think the fact that my entire team was in on it made it that much more special."

### **Baylor Middle Blocker Kara McGhee**

#### ***On a blocking attack plan...***

"You can definitely see it in their decision making and how they choose to attack the ball after that, so in their tips, rolls, we got a lot of that after Allie was shutting down their outsides. I definitely think you can see that in their decisions."

#### ***On Allie Szech...***

"I don't know if I feel like I've had to [guide her] much because she is just naturally so good, but we are actually roommates so that has been fun to get to know her on a deeper level as roommates. She definitely does some silly freshman things like she doesn't know how to do her own laundry so I do it for her which is kind of funny. She's just a fun person, I feel like she's very different than me, I feel like I am kind of more calm and she's more outgoing so just us balancing each other out has been fun to see on the court for sure."

#### ***On this year's team vs. last year***

It is crazy how one year can change so much. We have a whole new coaching staff and 11 seniors left and we have so many new people coming in. It is different but you learn to love the teams for their different atmospheres. Last year was so much fun for different reasons than why this year is so much fun. Embracing that has been enjoyable."