

**NCAA Volleyball | First and Second Rounds**  
**Louisville, Ky. | Cardinal Arena**  
**Southern Illinois vs. Illinois Post Match Quotes**

**Illinois Head Coach Kevin Hambly**

(Opening Statement) "Congratulations to SIU, first time making the tournament I believe. Coming into the match when we were scouting them we thought they would be a really tough team for us to play. That it was an interesting matchup as far as their tempo they run and the speed that they can play, their athleticism. I thought we did a pretty good job of handling that. It was very different than what we've seen all year and I thought a big key was we did a nice job of playing in that tempo. Especially early in those first two sets, got a little bit away from us in the third but we figured it out. It was a fun match to play. I thought because it was an aggressive match on both sides. Both teams were going after it, no one let up, it was great to be in a fight at the end. It was a good match, it was fun to be a part of especially for our first round match."

(On the importance of winning the first set) "Yeah I think it's huge to get the first set. The first round you never know how the team is going to play. Once you get to the tournament it's always kind of – you never seen anything like that know the first match of the year and you never know the first NCAA match, you always feel like let's see what these guys are about. I agree with what they said we were really nervous to start off with. I thought we started to settle down and figure out the tempo. They're hard to play because we haven't seen anything like that so it took us a while to adjust too our eyes to the speed and I thought once we started to adjust with our eyes and see their game a little better we really got calm and we were able to side out at a high level at the end which was huge. I think we rode that a little into the second set and you kind of get that confidence and just getting the first set of the tournament any year is a big deal and I thought it was a little bit of that confidence can be felt right there, a little bit of an upper hand, as long as we kept the pressure on."

(On importance of comeback in third set and closing it out in three sets) "Yeah, you don't want them to feel too good. You can see it and they can get going offensively especially they were starting to get loose. I thought it was big because you never want to give anyone new life. If you have a chance to put a team away than you put them away. That's what we were talking about in the break. We knew they would push and we knew they'd have another push in them. We talked about that and about how we would respond when they made that comeback. I thought our team responded very well to that. We responded and stayed calm and we handled their pushes the way a veteran team that has been here before knows how to handle it. I think that's a good sign."

(On preference of who Illinois wants to play in 2nd round) "I'm just glad to be in the second round. We will see what happens. We saw both of those teams. We saw Louisville earlier this year and we saw Belmont last year. They play hard. I think it's going to be a really fun match to watch. You just have to move on and whoever comes next is who you play, so I have no preference."

(On how Katie Stadick did tonight) "I think both of our middles got going, but Katie - she had .630 and had 12 kills. She has been struggling offensively, but we made a couple of changes this week and got on some things and I thought she did a nice job of getting on the slide and Jordyn (Poulter) did a nice job of using it right and the change in tempo that we made I think had a good impact on it, but I think more, Katie just played with a little bit more confidence that she started to show throughout this week."

**Jocelynn Birks, Sr., OH**

(On your final year, getting in the NCAA and making a run) "Obviously I'm really excited to be here, have the opportunity to be in the tournament especially with this group of girls. I think we have had our ups and downs this season but we're ready now to make our run it's what we have been talking about all season. I'm excited and I want it to go as long as it can because like you said it's my last one. "

(On the importance of winning the first set) "I think it was important for us to get the momentum going. I think both sides were a little rusty in the first set and getting warmed up so it was good to be able to close that one out. In the second and third I think both teams were definitely were a lot more competitive and it was more fun."

**Katie Stadick, Jr., MB**

(On what was working tonight) "I thought Jordan was doing a great job of just spreading the ball around to all of our hitters and putting them in places where we could hit them and I thought our defense did a really good job too just handling their tempo like Kevin talked about."

(On Southern Illinois making a strong run in the third game) "I think starting to focus back on our side and how we need to defend them and how we did it the first and second set."

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**Post match quotes – Southern Illinois**

**Head Coach Justin Ingram**

(Opening Statement)

"First, couldn't be more proud of this group. We certainly had ups and downs like any other team this year, not just within our conference but within the country. We felt strong in what we were doing. Our system is incredibly difficult to defend. It is part of what identifies us and as the season progressed, we certainly got better and better at being a force within what we are good at and identifying our strength which is speed of set and being a very offensive team.

Tonight's matchup was certainly going to be a challenge just because Illinois is a very good blocking team as we are, but we haven't seen that size of a right-front and middle-block combined - pretty much all season, I just can't remember one that's as big. The first play of the game, Andrea (Estrada) went out and the speed of set absolutely froze the blocker, and she killed the first set of the match. However, as the match progressed they got a bit more comfortable with the speed. We relied on our middles not just on the attack, but on the defensive side of it as well, I thought they were tremendous. Taylor (Pippen) on the attack and Alex (Rosignol) on the block and then our right sides had to have some impact and lay some pressure off our left side attack so Meg (Viggars) and Nellie (Fredricksson) I thought, as the match progressed, got more comfortable and did a fantastic job for us.

Illinois is a great team, well coached, they adapted to the speed pretty fast throughout the course of the match. I thought we were right in that third set. We dialed it a little bit different, we had different matchups in the third set. We came out and I really thought for most of it was ours. We out-dug Illinois, we had the same amount of kills, we were less efficient and that is what the difference was between the win and a loss. We had 25 errors to their 15 attack, but we killed as many and out-dug them. We feel good about the product for most of the night, but at the end of it Illinois was better and certainly best of luck to them as they move forward.

We have one senior to my right, Taylor Pippen, and it is a tough moment for any senior as they have a stellar career and not just a two-year start - Taylor has been a four-year starter for us and I couldn't be as proud of her development as a person and as a player as anybody as anybody that I have ever coached. So it is tough to see an exit, of course, but she was certainly strong tonight as she was throughout the entire season for us and best of luck as we move forward, but once a Saluki, always a Saluki and we are proud of you."

(On Illinois' size)

"(Naya) Crittenden was good, she was the size difference, number nine their opposite. She was a very big presence out there.

(Talk about the efficiency)

"That is part of why Illinois is so good. They're rank is higher, they were better this evening. The efficiency, to calculate it is kills minus errors divided by attempts. We killed as many as they did, so the kill efficiency was just as good as theirs. However, the errors came from the left side. Andrea (Estrada) hit negative tonight and between Abby (Barrow) and Shannon (Hagen) there were some errors going on over there as well. You saw three miscues from the setter to the attack on the left side to where they jumped and there was nothing but air. That has happened one time all season. So there were some misfires out there, I don't think it was anything except just an off night for the setter-hitter relationship on the left side. But it is what we lived and died on all year, it is something that allowed us to get here to the tournament. That is a little twist, it is a high risk high reward offense. The risk is if you don't do it you could misfire and create error opportunities. That is what happened tonight."

(Talk about preparing this week, was it different from normal weeks)

"I don't the preparation was much different. We had a little bit more time to prepare for one opponent rather than two. We spent some time dissecting their offense and what they were good at. I thought that (Katie) Stadick did a way above average job for what she has been doing this season. I thought she was a good attacker but she was tremendous tonight. (Jocelynn) Birks is Birks. She has been their go-to for years now. I thought we did fine with her. I thought we touched her and slowed her down. I thought our defense was very good. Not just the digging but 10 blocks for our team, that's a good job and seven for (Alex) Rosignol that's a big time number. I thought our presence was impactful up at the net. I thought our digging was above average behind it. It was the left side not just in reception but in transition that was the difference that you are seeing within the score."

(On scoring off of serves )

"If we block it, that's a score, that's a point. If we dig it and get an attack on it, a lot of those opportunities are going to go left side. That's part of transition volleyball, that's what women's volleyball is. It's a lot of transition, left-side attack. It happens because the dig, for the most part, happens off the net. Once that goes on, most of the time it goes out to the left-side sitter. Sometimes you can pump it out to the right, but tonight, of course, some left-side attack and some errors combined in there for a lower efficiency on the left."

(On the competitive first set, how much different is it if you go into the second set up?)

"I'm sure it could be very different. We felt good about our product going into the third set. We just had to make some adjustments. We matched up different, we gave Andrea (Estrada) a different block. We let Abby (Barrow) go after (Naya)Crittenden and that matchup was far better for us. We need right side production which happened throughout the course of the match and we had Taylor (Pippen) production which was very good offensively. But we needed somebody on the left to step up and that was the difference in their comebacks and why we couldn't sustain the lead."

**Meg Viggars, Jr., S/OH**

(On whether the first set got away)

"Yes, at one point our pass couldn't pass it and then at the next point me and Hannah (Kaminsky) and I weren't connecting with our left sides and like coach said we were not hitting efficiently. If we had passed a little bit better in the first set and gave the ball to the right people, we could have taken that set off of them."

(On the unforced errors)

"I think our main errors were setting to the left side like we already said. Me and Hannah (Kaminsky), we couldn't connect with them. They were trying to improve to our sets and we were trying to improve to them and it just wasn't working tonight."

**Taylor Pippen, Sr., MH**

(On how they were feeling before the match)

"We were really excited going into this game - it was the first time going to the NCAA Tournament. So going into the game we had a lot of confidence, there was nothing to lose so we wanted to go out aggressive and win."

(On Illinois' size)

"Like coach had said, I don't think we had seen size like that pretty much all the season. They were some pretty big girls. Going in we knew that, our speed was going to be the factor to win it, because they were such big girls and it was going to be a big block, but I think the whole connection between the setter and hitter, the block won on that tonight."