

JAMES MADISON POST GAME QUOTES

Head Coach Shelly Klaes-Bawcobe: Wow. I'm just so excited to be here sitting here with the big W. BC played an unbelievable game today, kept it close the whole way through. But JMU just had what it took to win the game. Fifty years strong. We come away with a national championship and credit to these studs right here.

Question: What was the difference in these two final four games? You guys were able to start so quickly and jump out to a big early lead and that wasn't really working for you at home against Florida and Virginia.

JMU Senior Midfielder Haley Warden: I think that defensively we had a lot of big stops. We weren't getting the draws in the early part of the game. I think that the defense came up huge for us and those little mistakes that BC did make we ended up capitalizing on them and I think it just shows how strong our defense is as a unit. And then our attack just went off and finished their shots.

Question: You guys had doubters all season long. No one thought James Madison could do this. How thrilling was it to prove everyone wrong and win this national championship?

JMU Redshirt Freshman GK Molly Dougherty: There's something I would say in the locker room which is that people were talking about this being like a magical year and a Cinderella story for us. But we put in all the hard work. That seems like almost kind of a lie to say. That discredits everything everyone put in. It's not just us, it's all of the scout players, all the freshmen taking notes during film because they want to be the best scout players that they can. It's top to bottom a whole team effort from the 5 AM, early morning runs, to staying late after practice taking extra shots. That's that's what got us here and that's what's going to keep us going.

Question: Kristen, what can you say about Haley Warden this weekend? I don't know if I knew who she was before this weekend and I think everyone knows who she is now.

JMU Senior Midfielder Kristen Gaudian: No, she's just always been a great player for us. I mean she's so consistent with every single practice we have, every single game we have. Her skills on the draw are just unreal. Her wrist strength is just, wow. And she just finished all of her shots this weekend, which was incredible and it really helped us on the attacking end. She's just an incredible player and I've loved playing with her the last four years.

Question: Molly, what was it like to have everyone chanting your name in the stadium in the second half?

Dougherty: I think in the second half a lot of it was actually Boston College fans. It's surreal, it's just like we've been talking about, a lot of hard work and I'm lucky that I was given the chance from my coaching staff and the trust of my teammates that I was able to step up. When I did have those couple of minutes here and there, I did my best to make a difference and come up with what I could.

Question: Haley, looking back on the weekend, you battling UNC's [Marie] McCool on the draw on Friday and [Sam] Apuzzo today. What was your reaction going against a pair of Tewaaron finalists?

Warden: You know, they're both really great players and very good on the draw. I think that as a unit we did a very good job neutralizing them. I think Friday we won the draw 15-14, and then today was a bit harder but I think that it doesn't matter who we face, we know that we put in the work and we're confident in ourselves. I think that's why we've come out on top this weekend.

Question: Rebecca, your defense held Boston College scoreless for a long stretch in that second half and then you guys went on a 4-0 run, do you think that was the difference down the stretch?

JMU Sr. Defender Rebecca Tooker: I think that helped. As soon as our defenders saw Corinne [Schmidt] got fouled out we knew that we had to play for her. We were playing for each other but we really had to play for her. She's been there from the beginning, the hard times, and the ups and downs, but we just really wanted to come together and just get it for her.

Question: You guys were able to withstand those late rallies. I think it was 22 seconds left for 16-15 what's going through your mind in a one goal game?

Dougherty: I was looking over on the sidelines and even just looking kind of in the middle of the eight and saying to the girls, all we need is one. All it takes is one stop, and it's always tough, that last shot hit me and then I looked back and it rolled and now it's like "oh ok". That's why we're here and that's why we play the sport. It's the national championship game, we want it to be close and you want it to be a dogfight. Give credit to Boston College, they didn't give up. They had a lot of fight in them, some great players and very great shooters, but we just came out and we were ready to face them.

Question: Kristen, just simply put James Madison is the national champions. Was that mean to you and to your senior class to end your careers that way?

Gaudian: It's just an incredible feeling. I mean it's so surreal that this is actually happening. But it just shows all of our hard work the last four years is finally paying off. It's really big for lacrosse in general and the fact that JMU was ranked 17th in preseason and now we just won the national championship is pretty incredible. It just shows that anyone can beat anyone on any certain day. So yeah, I'm really proud of the team right now.

Question: You guys as individuals have a lot of self-sacrifice. Was it worth it as individuals to come together and give up some of that individual recognition to get this championship?

Tooker: 100 percent. I mean, I would be lying if I didn't say that I don't love seeing my teammates get up there and win big awards. I think it just comes down to the fact that we all put in the same amount of work. We're all in it together as a team. We don't really want to see each other as individuals. Some people are going to rise, but people still get the hustle stats that many people don't talk about. I think it shows us playing together as a team, rather than just focusing on the individual. That really leads to us winning big games like this.

Question: Haley, on Friday you said something to the tune of we're not ready to stop calling ourselves underdogs or something to that effect. You're sitting up here now with the national championship hat on with the trophy right next to you. You still the underdogs?

Warden: I think that no one expected us to win this game today. And going into this game I'd say, yeah we were the underdogs, but right now I just think that our hard work this whole entire season has really paid off and I'm happy we embrace that mentality. It really helped us thrive in this weekend.

Question: You talked from the second half BC was winning a lot of draws. With 22 seconds you won the draw and you took it out. What's going through your mind when you win the draw and all you need to do is run off the last 20 or so seconds to become national champions?

Warden: I would say that it was a sigh of relief when we won that draw. I remember when Hanna [Haven] got the ball and I was like just run, just run, and she had it in her left hand. I was so confident in her and then the time ran out and it was just an awesome feeling.

Question: Kristen between you and Katie Kerrigan, there were a couple of times when BC was trying to clear and you two kind of came back to force her to turn it over. How big are those little moments that the attackers come back and backcheck, and are able to create those turnovers for you guys?

Gaudian: Yeah I mean it's the little things that really make a difference on the field and you know that kind of sparked our offense. Katie K was really big on that aspect for us, it was huge.

Question: Shelley, you just talked about that underdog mentality you guys have?

Klaes-Bawcombe: Well I think for a lot of us, it's all we know. And so you could either whine about things or you could attack things, and I think it's all about creating a mentality that helps you to be productive and helps you to be positive. When you are positive then you can be happy when you're happy you can make great things happen. So for us it's just finding a solution. You know we are JMU, we're not ashamed of that, we're proud of that. James Madison University. JMU Nation! We're very proud of who we are. We're proud of our decisions and we're proud of our choice to go to a great academic institution. When we walk on that field, we're proud of our work and we're proud of each other and we have a great deal of trust in each other. I think that you know that mentality was something that I learned at James Madison and it's something that I want to give back to my athletes and it works. So I think it's just about embracing your situation and giving yourself the best possible solution for your path in life. Again, there's a lot of options out there to choose what school you want to go to and there's a lot of great choices and so just choose what's right for you and then believe it's right. I just really do feel that it gives us that competitive edge. I mean, you heard Rebecca Tooker talking about her teammate Corrine Schmidt. It was really tough on her as an individual to get red carded out of her final game on Long Island, being from Long Island. It would have been really easy for her to fall into herself and be upset and then be a distraction on the sideline. But instead, we talked about character and how it shows in times of struggle and she knew to step up and be there and show that she had strength so the team could have strength and I think from that moment in the game things changed for JMU and that's when we took our run and that's when we took charge of the game.

Question: What does a win like this mean for the overall growth of the sport?

Klaes-Bawcombe: Yeah I just think it sends a great message that our sport is in a really great time right now. Everything is not perfect. There's a lot to clean up but we're moving things in the right direction. We have more schools playing than ever, across all divisions. We are making great changes in our rules

so that it attracts great fans. Those changes are also attracting other great athletes to want to choose our sport over others. Other communities are picking up the sport. So I just think the time is really great for our sport and I think when you have two schools like BC And JMU in the championship, I think that just shows the opportunity that's out there and I think it's going to continue to attract great talent to the sport of lacrosse.

Question: Coach how does everything Haley does embody the way you coach and the underdog mentality and lifestyle?

Klaes-Bawcombe: You hear them talk so much about team. We understand great teams allow individuals to soar. I mean we get that. But you have to be a team first. And so I think there's just a lot of individual sacrifice that goes on in our program and we really get them to buy into that. And when they do, really amazing things happen. I mean look at Haley Warden, she's the Defender of the Year for the conference. The year before she was the Player of the Year for the conference. I think she's the only player that has ever gotten a Player of the Year and Defender of the Year. She's clearly a midfielder who's earning these defensive accolades and then here you have her in the NCAA Championship stepping up and scoring nine goals in the championship weekend. So I think that again, it just shows the kind of character that she has and how she is willing to make sacrifices as an individual. But she understands what it takes to win games and she's willing to step up and take those risks and put her team on her shoulders. I think that's what champions do.

Question: I'll go back to something you said a couple of weeks ago for your first NCAA Tournament win over Virginia. You talked about shaking up the world and talking about people and how they didn't expect you to win that game. How much is this now shaking out the lacrosse world that the James Madison Dukes are the national champion?

Klaes-Bawcombe: Yeah I mean we were the No. 3 seed in the tournament and a lot of people didn't think we were going to get through that first round. And I think that it could be really disheartening or it could be the fuel that fires you to work hard and put yourself out there. And I think that these girls really embrace it. I use it quite a bit to fire them up and they rally behind it. And I think it gives them that edge to just work harder and want to do more. So we're going to continue to use that to our advantage as often as possible

Question: To see Katie Kerrigan as an attacker cause two turnovers, one of which directly led to a goal, what does that mean for you guys?

Klaes-Bawcombe: I don't know another person like Katie Kerrigan, I mean that girl wants to shoot more than she does. But she's taken a step back. She's really made a sacrifice as an individual to be a feeder first. And to see her work so hard, to have the discipline to have good checks and to attack in numbers so Kristen can there to clean up that trash. It's just a testament to their unselfish work ethic, not worrying about the play before we clearly must have turned the ball over in some capacity. So not focusing on the mistake but more so focusing on the next play at hand and letting that go and focusing on the next play and just getting the job done. She's got great mentality. We're so happy to have her on our team.

Question: Being a JMU alum and being part of this program for song long. Do you feel like this is the culmination of all that dedication to put into this program finally paying off. How emotional is it for you?

Klaes-Bawcombe: I don't think my emotions have come through because those that know me know I am very emotional. I hope there's many more to come. But it is a great deal of work over many years by many people. I am not alone in this process. Many people have chipped away at this for a very long time. Like I said we're 50 years strong. Half my life I've been a collegiate coach now and I've made some big decisions to stay at James Madison when I've had opportunities to move on to do just this. And so it really is tremendous satisfaction. And I can't wait for it to soak in.

Question: This senior class has contributed so much, when in their career did you see their chemistry start to develop together? Where you kind of thought of maybe this is a possibility?

Klaes-Bawcombe: Yeah I've been telling this story quite a bit it actually happened right as freshmen that year we had a really great senior class. We had come off of the bracket just being expanded to 26 and we were in a position where we had lost to Towson a couple of years and we were a great program we were a ranked program. We just did not win our conference championship and the bracket was not large enough for us to get an at large bid and it really hurt. And so that year our seniors freshman year the seniors were on a mission and they set the tone really early that they weren't going to mess around. And here you have this huge class of freshmen coming in and they were not scared. They were not intimidated. And the seniors are actually a little bit taken aback by the confidence and they didn't understand how these freshmen could be this confident in such an unfamiliar environment. And I had to remind our seniors that you know coaches are going to attack program weaknesses and are going to look for characteristic traits out in the recruiting process that are going to help the program and we felt we needed to be more confident. And so we found student- athletes that could bring us that confidence because confidence is contagious. And so we wanted the seniors to be uncomfortable and we wanted them to have their you know selves on edge so that they could keep working for the program and I think that right from the get go this senior class has made their mark in this program. They've brought us to four national NCAA tournaments. And here we are their senior year winning the whole thing.