



*2017 NCAA Volleyball Tournament
Gainesville | NCAA Regional Semifinal
USC 3, Minnesota 0
Coach and Player Quotes
December 8, 2017*

USC Head Coach, Mick Haley

Opening Statement...

“The first thing I would like to do is congratulate Minnesota on one heck of a season. That is a really good team with some pretty young kids playing major roles. The coaching staff of Minnesota should be complimented for such an excellence job. They were really difficult for us to play against and prepare for, so hats off to Minnesota for such a good effort. We are pleased to win and move on to what we consider the fourth match in this six-match series. We have been working for this all year. We have a lot of good players who are sacrificing for each other and tonight was one of the most exciting times for me because we were all on the same page for the entire match. The team was focused on the game plan and never backed off. I am most proud of our aggressiveness, especially on our serving and the way we played defense. We committed to not leaving the gym until we were successful.

On defensive effort...

“[Victoria] Garrick really anchored the defense with the two right front blockers. [Brittany] Abercrombie has shut down right front blockers for us all year, but [Niki] Withers going out and sealing the line with the left side attackers was huge for us. The matchup was good for us because they are predominately left sided and we are predominately strong on the right side. We got a chance to matchup. Where we thought we would have trouble was in the middle, but Dani Geiger and Jordan Dunn did a fine job of defending against them. That opened us up to let Khalia [Lanier] to have a heck of a match. She had about 50 or so swings and terminated on around 20 of them. She is playing like a big-time first-team All-American right now. It looks to me like she is really at peace with herself out there. Her passing is good, her defense is good and her blocking was good.

USC Sophomore Outside Hitter, Khalia Lanier

On offense hitting stride...

“With this offense, it is all about sticking with it and sticking with this program. It is not always going to be perfect and pretty, but on nights like these, you think, ‘Mick might be right, we will continue to go with this game plan.’ It felt good tonight, so we just need to continue that and find our rhythm.”



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Minnesota Head Coach, Hugh McCutcheon

Opening Statement...

“I would like to congratulate USC on a great performance tonight. I certainly wish them well as they advance in the tournament. We are disappointed not to be playing tomorrow but, sometimes it happens. It is an occupational hazard, sometimes you win and sometimes you don’t. Tonight, I was impressed with how USC was swinging, especially in transition. They took a lot of really good cuts out of system and for us we couldn’t find a rhythm, and a lot of that has to do with their block. We are very proud of our team for our body of work. Our season was very impressive relative to where we started. The quality of volleyball we were able to play the past couple of weeks was really good. Really proud of our team but, obviously still upset with the result. We’ll get some lessons learned and come back next year and have another crack at it.”

On expectations to be in this position...

“No and yes. I didn’t know how good we were going to be. As I have said all along, I knew we were going to be talented and a good group and I thought we were going to be a good team. We ran into another good team today. The thing is and I think that the student-athletes can speak more to this. We were struggling to find a rhythm and that is hard when one or two players could have made a difference in the match.”

On what USC was doing defensively...

“I think that they did well and obviously the transition game was a little stronger. They were able to do some things to disrupt it. We tried to do the same thing but, obviously not on the same level. Obviously, the third set got away from us but, the first two sets were pretty close.”

Minnesota Senior Middle Blocker/Opposite, Maddie Beal

On four years at Minnesota...

“Like Molly said, coming in in 2014 we had a bit of a rocky season but, every team that we have had here have been such an amazing group of girls. Each year different girls but, great girls coming in. I think our team this year was also a great group of girls and strong group of girls. I think it will be amazing to see what the future holds for them.”

On the program going forward...

“I think that we had such a young team this year and they have so much potential for next year. Just seeing how good the freshmen were this year coming in it will be exciting to see where they



go the next few years. Like Molly said, I'm really excited to see where it takes them the next few years."

Minnesota Senior Middle Blocker, Molly Lohman

On four years at Minnesota...

"Obviously, it has been an amazing journey. I think Maddie would say the same thing. We came in to a program that was just changing its culture and we worked so hard to become a better teammate, better team and just an overall person. It has been an amazing journey. I can't really put it into words."

On the program going forward...

"I think the team has a ton of depth and I'm so excited to see where they go. I know in the offseason they are going to get that much better. We were a young team this year and they are going to come back even stronger next year."