



*2017 NCAA Volleyball Tournament*  
*Gainesville | NCAA Regional Final*  
*Florida 3, USC 2*  
*Coach and Player Quotes*  
*December 9, 2017*

**Florida Head Coach, Mary Wise**

*Opening Statement...*

“We have been so fortunate to be a part of some pretty amazing Regional Finals and this one will go up with all of them. To advance, it’s so typical to have to play a team with an elite player and (someone) was that and then some and we obviously didn’t have answer, but this match we were able to think about the things that we’ve used all season. Whether it was playing against Kentucky or playing some of the better servers in the conference. So, there are players we’ve played in the SEC that helped us to win this match. I love that this story, that is still being written, will have one chapter in it that will talk about Shainah Joseph. The player who could have left, who was willing to wait her turn until her senior year. A player like that, in any sport, would have transferred but she stayed with the Gator family.”

*On closing out the fifth set with a 12-3 run...*

“What Carli Snyder did at that moment, there was a kill that went down the line that we served out of the timeout, on a night where it didn’t come easy, and credit USC. As physical a block as they are, it was hard for Carli to find kills but she went back there and went to a different level. We just felt like we were finally getting a beat on the speed of their offense. That is not an easy thing to prepare for after you’ve just played a match the night before.”

*On having offensive production from multiple players...*

“It’s been the story of our year. On any given night, there were matches where it could’ve been Rachael Kramer, and we got a typical Rhamat performance. To lead us in points only playing three-and-a-half rotations. Cheyenne Huskey came up with a huge block towards the end. I think it’s one of the things that makes this group so special: they’ve embraced their role.”

*On the crowd...*

“I would be remiss if I didn’t talk about how tremendous that crowd was. To learn about us hosting just a week earlier, and to show up and to be there as into it as they were, it was magical to experience that. The Gator Nation came through for us today.”

**Florida Redshirt Senior Outside Hitter, Shainah Joseph**

*On clinching the victory with the final point...*

“If we didn’t have a pass, I could not have had that last kill. We worked so hard; we were tired, it was scary, but we were resilient. It could have been anyone having that last kill, but the emotion after it [knowing we were moving on] was amazing. It was really good.”



*On mentality of going into the fourth and fifth set and needing to get it done...*

“Our team never gives up; we have found wins in the most stressful situations and this was just a good example of how we do this in practice. We have drills where one team is up a few points and the other team has to fight back. I told the team that we do this every day in the gym and that we just have to keep working hard and we have to focus on one point at a time.

*On her message to the team between fourth and fifth set...*

“I’m not sure, I kind of blacked out. At one point, I said, 'Just pass the ball and I will get you some kills.' At another point I said, 'If our passers can get the ball up, the hitters will get us kills.' So many things were said. I just wanted everyone on the same level of intensity.

“What is so special about this team is that we have so much depth. Any given night, we can kill the ball from the middle, the left side, the right side and the back. We all support each other and we all trust one another and that makes us up our game. We have many big stud players and that will take us far.”

### **Florida Senior Middle Blocker, Rhamat Alhassan**

*On finishing their senior home season on such a high note...*

“It was a surreal feeling. You’re done playing in the O’Dome, where we have been for the last four years. But it was important to know that I am just done playing here, but not done playing for Gator Nation. We have two more matches; we are going to Kansas City and it was a great feeling stepping off the court knowing that we still have more to go.

*On home crowd...*

“They are always amazing. There were times when we were down, but just to take a moment and step outside yourself to hear the crowd cheering that they want you to win – it makes you want to go all out for them.”



*2017 NCAA Volleyball Tournament  
Gainesville | NCAA Regional Final  
Florida 3, USC 2  
Coach and Player Quotes  
December 9, 2017*

**USC Head Coach, Mick Haley**

*Opening Statement...*

“We want to congratulate Florida on a great victory tonight. So many times you’re talking about losing a match, but they won the match. That was as strong a battle as you are going to see in the NCAA Tournament because both teams went for it. You have to give [Carli Snyder] credit because she went for it at the end with a top-spin serve and she was able to rip it inbounds and scored. I give her a lot of credit for going for it. We had our chances in the first set and we had our chances in the fourth set, but we were not able to finish. Again, I have to give Florida a lot of credit because they did not back off. All in all, I am really proud of my team, they played their best volleyball at the end of the season. The last two or three weeks have been so fun to coach this team with the way they play and the way they represent USC. I told them in the locker room that they were true Trojans and played like Trojans tonight. It didn’t work out in our favor, but in collegiate sports like this, you just have to go for it and hope for the best.

*On having lead in fifth set...*

“What happened is they got [Carli Snyder] away from [Brittany Abercrombie]. Abercrombie and Jordan Burns did a fantastic job on [Snyder]. [Snyder] has been unstoppable all year and if you look at the stats she has been the go-to for Florida. We virtually held her to a small roar until they rotated. We had an option to match up, but in the fifth game we went with the lineup that would score the most points, knowing that we might only get 9-12 rotations. If we could’ve gotten by those last two rotations with some first-point kills, we would have been able to carry that one. The fifth set is all about errors and if you get 1-3 errors, you’re in trouble. We did ourselves in on that.”

*On Mary Wise’s success...*

“We played Mary in the finals in 2003 – that was a really good team. She played a 5-1 then, now she is playing a 6-2 with two setters, so it is a little different style. She has a chance to win this time because she has so many scoring opportunities. If you look at this team and see the breakdown, they had five players in double-figures – that is quite a distribution to defend against. Our distribution is around three people, like most in the country. This team plays some of the best defense that her teams have played and they have more scorers. Their ranking throughout the season has been very close. They are a top-four team and once you make it to the Final Four, you certainly have a chance to win. I think this is one of [Mary’s] best teams.



**USC Sophomore Outside Hitter, Khalia Lanier**

*On playing so well to fall short...*

“It’s really hard because you are so close and last year did not go as well for us. You can feel yourself tasting it, imagining going to Kansas City for the Final Four, so it is very hard to end, especially for our seniors who have done so much for us. But for the younger girls, it lights a fire so much more, my goals for next season are going to be even higher. I am excited for what to come.

**USC Senior Middle Blocker, Jordan Dunn**

*On slowing Carli Snyder down...*

“Our scouting report said that we needed to shut her down and that she was all sharp or line, so I knew that any time she was up there I had to put up the best block I could and close as best as I could. We did that for the first couple of sets, then they got on top of us.”

*On her four years at USC...*

“It has been a long four years, with each being vastly different for me. I’ve struggled through injuries and things like that. These last few seasons I have tried to give everything I could to this programs and the teams I have been on. It really sucks finishing out not at a national championship or a Final Four, but the fight that this team had in this postseason has been so inspiring. There a lot of young girls on this team and this is only going to light a fire underneath them.”