

**11/21/14**

**NCAA Tournament Second Round Quotes: Arkansas vs. Stanford**

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**Stanford Head Coach Paul Ratcliffe**

**Q: Close game – chalk it up to great goalkeeping or what?**

**Ratcliffe:** They were a well-organized team, their goalkeeper was good and I thought we had some good chances we just didn't put away. Overall, I thought it was a solid performance by the team and I'm happy to advance.

**Q: You said seniors have to step up, they seem to have heard you guys.**

**Ratcliffe:** Yeah, no doubt about it. Your best players, especially your seniors that are leaders, have to step up and be inspirational leaders for the whole team. Lo'eau stepped up to take the PK and she had a great game. Chi had another really strong performance. I thought all the seniors played exceptionally well.

**Q: Playing Washington again, thoughts?**

**Ratcliffe:** We respect Washington. Leslie Gallimore is an incredible coach and they have a talented team so it's going to be another hard game.

Credit to them for getting to the final 16. It's not going to be an easy match when you get to the top 16 in the country, they're all good opponents.

**Q: Arkansas had a couple chances, did it make you nervous?**

**Ratcliffe:** They have a potent offense so they're going to get a couple chances every game. They had a couple of chances and Jane [Campbell] stepped up. The defense played solid.

It was to be expected. If you look at their record, they had scored against most strong opponents they played against.

The hard part for me was I thought we could've scored more but it wasn't meant to be today. So hopefully we're saving some goals for later in the tournament.

**Q: Maddie played well in the back, can you talk about her play?**

**Ratcliffe:** Maddie and Kendall had strong performances in the back. Their mentality was strong, they were winning 50-50 balls, aerial balls and their distribution was solid. They had composure on the ball bringing the ball forward and making good decisions. That's what we ask of them.

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## **Stanford Senior Lo'eau LaBonta**

**Q: On the PK, you waited a long time, where you trying to psych her out or calm yourself?**

**LaBonta:** Every PK I take, even in practice, I take a deep breath and wait a while to relax. People rush to it and don't always get as good a hit as usual.

**Q: You looked like you were in command on PK, did it feel that way?**

**LaBonta:** Oh yeah, always. I switch up my PKs sometimes. Washington was sitting in the corner yelling, "She's going right," so I said, "alright I'm going to drive it left then. Why not?"

I make my decision, take a deep breath and just drive the ball in there.

**Q: Did that make you laugh, Washington cheering on Arkansas?**

**LaBonta:** Oh yeah, it makes me laugh that they were cheering on Arkansas but it motivates us even more. It made me strike it harder into the net and make sure it went in.

**Q: You got it going in the second half but couldn't seem to break them down ... how did you not get too frustrated to stay in the game?**

**LaBonta:** The great thing about this game was the midfielders had a lot of space all the time on the ball.

**Q: They doubled you a lot and got in your shooting lanes, was it tough to work around that?**

**LaBonta:** When they shut me down and sent another player that just means another player on our team open. So that was my goal, to draw players and get the ball to that open player so that they could get the shot. I don't mind getting an assist or passing around, I don't need to get that goal, as long as our team gets a goal.

**Q: What will it be like against Washington since you know each other fairly well?**

**LaBonta:** We'll look at the film and see what adjustments they made but I think we're going to stick to our game plan and play our game, and hopefully come out with a W again.

**Q: Paul [Ratcliffe] has said that the seniors need to step up in this tournament, do you feel like you're there?**

**LaBonta:** I definitely feel like we're reaching our peak. Our team has come so far. We've had games where we've been behind, gone into overtime. It's playoff time and our seniors are like, "we're not going home, we're not going to lose." We've come together as a team, instead of individuals getting a goal, we're going to work so the team gets the goal.

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## **Arkansas Head Coach Colby Hale**

### **Q: Thoughts on the game?**

**Hale:** At first we certainly weren't able to keep the ball on the break, we just kept giving it back to them. Our defending was quite good, the problem was all we were doing was defending. We knew we weren't going to be able to connect 10 passes together.

Overall, we created some nervy moments, 1-0 late, I'm sure they weren't really comfortable with that. We thought a set piece, a throw, a corner, we might get a chance.

### **Q: Playing from behind?**

**Hale:** We felt we could have snatched a goal at the end. Coming in and playing the No. 2 team in the country, they are one of the best teams in the country. We knew it would be a massive challenge but we thought we were up for it and honestly we were pretty pleased with the effort. Overall, it was a good performance for us against a very good team.

### **Q: Thoughts on the season overall?**

**Hale:** Our conference is definitely getting better. I think you saw A&M beat Arizona 7-2, Kentucky beat Arizona State 3-1, Florida beat Cal 3-1, so I think it says we are right up there with some of the best conferences in the country, we are certainly improving as a whole.