

**2003 NCAA TOURNAMENT
FLORIDA VS. COLORADO STATE
DECEMBER 12, 2003
POSTGAME QUOTES**

Florida Head Coach Mary Wise

"The match was won in the passing battle. Jen (Mandes) and Aury (Cruz) were so good, against what we thought, was the best serving team we have faced. Our passing won us the match tonight."

"The important thing about tonight is that our season gets to continue. We thought that they were the toughest opponent in the tournament to face in the regional semi-final. They had won 21 matches in a row coming in and we knew they would show us some things that we had not seen yet this year."

"I think in many ways our team was energized by Aury's (Cruz) serving and the way the crowd responded to Aury's serving. Penn State is used to big matches. I don't think the crowd will affect Penn State negatively tomorrow more than it will affect us positively."

"This is a very quick and athletic team (Florida). Sometimes it looks like we have more than six players out there. Jane (Collymore) and Aury (Cruz) take up a lot of the court and that's why they are really fun to play with."

Florida Middle Blocker Sherri Williams

"We knew we had the match when we hit 30 in the third game. That is a very good team (Colorado State) and they could have come back on us at any time."

Florida Outside Hitter Aury Cruz

"The players keep motivating me out there. (On my serve) I just want to get some over passes and set up some kills for other players."

Colorado State Head Coach Tom Hilbert

"Well, Florida having a 10-0 run to begin the match was an obstacle we had to overcome. We've been a team that has been pretty good on the road and we've been a team that's passed jump serves pretty well. We didn't do it in that little run and that kind of set a bad tone. From that point on, I was proud of my players. I thought that we came back and fought."

"After the first game, we played a couple of pretty decent games. We were able to execute some of the things that we had practiced. I felt like we missed some point opportunities late in the third game, that had we converted on them, the game would have been closer and possibly a win for us. Obviously, Florida is a very good team and much more physically talented player for player than we are."

"Our players hung in there. We have no seniors on this team, so I'm pretty excited for the future. What I told them after the game was that this was a measuring stick for us. Can we see ourselves winning matches like this? I think the answer is yes. We just have to get better in a number of areas and we'll do that with another year."

"I was impressed by two things. We had three films on (Florida), two from early in the season and the Central Florida match. We felt like their left-side blockers would be vulnerable and they weren't, or else we're just not very good at hitting over there. Normally we are, so that was

something that impressed me. And then they did play very, very good defense. If you get in a cross-court hitting battle with a team like Florida and they have people like [Aury] Cruz and [Jane] Collymore, you're going to lose. We need to be able to put balls away. It's not that our kids weren't taking healthy swings, they were. The ball was just coming back."

Colorado State Outside Hitter Becky Sarauer

"I think that this was a huge game for us, the biggest yet. I think that we had nerves that kind of affected us in the beginning. We knew that might be the case and we knew that we had to calm down and try to control the little things a little bit more. I think we did that by the end of that game and the next two games."

"They played fabulous defense and you have to give them a lot of credit for that. As a hitter, you just have to put away that they dig you and go up the next time and maybe go a little bit harder or higher. You have to give a lot of credit to them. They played wonderful defense."

Colorado State Setter Melissa Courtney

"I just keep trying to have confidence in my hitters and I did even when they were digging. They [Florida] played awesome defense and my hat goes off to them in their defense especially. I just had to let my hitters know I was confident enough in them. I continued to give them the ball . We couldn't win without me distributing the ball equally because that is how we have played all season. I didn't want to change. They were just playing very good defense. I was just trying to keep going at it."