



2009 NCAA Championship

Regional Final
Saturday, December 12, 2009
Stephen C. O'Connell Center

Penn State (3) vs. Cal (0)

Head Coach Russ Rose

On tonight's match:

"I thought it was another tough match against a great opponent. I feel bad we keep playing Cal every year, but I recognize that when you get near the end of a tournament, the best teams are going to play one another. We feel relieved to get a victory, because they are a great team. They are a great offensive team, play hard all the time and are well coached."

On Penn State's strengths:

"I think one of our strengths is the capability of our seniors, Megan Hodge and Alisha Glass. Those two people have been a part of great teams over the past few years and they are trying to carry this team in a lot of ways. Certainly, one of the strengths is those two people, but also Blair Brown and Arielle Wilson have been a part of those national championships as well. Every team is a different team and when you bring new players into the equation things change. The goals may remain the same and the efforts may remain the same, but different players have different strengths and I think that is what happens. One of the main things we work with is Megan is a great attacker and Alisha can get her the ball. Megan is capable of getting two of the three contacts, so I think we are in great shape every time."

Senior Megan Hodge

On tonight's match:

"We're always happy to win. We played pretty well in the first two games and things went back-and-forth in the third."

On the team's focus:

"Our team is very focused on our side of the net. When we control what we can control I think we are a powerful force for any team. Having that mentality of doing what we need to do allows us to feel like we beat anybody."

Junior Blair Brown

On tonight's match:

"I thought we played well. I think stopping them from having a middle attack made it easier for our blockers to adjust to what they were doing."

On advancing to the Final Four:

"I think we are playing really well as a team right now. Hopefully, we can overcome any of the challenges we see in the Final Four and win another national championship. I think it helps us to have that target on our backs, because it pushes us to be better and forces us to come out with the energy we need right away. We can't be casual because teams will jump on us."

Junior Arielle Wilson

On tonight's match:

"I thought at key times we were good as a team. When things got crazy we stuck together and had each others' back when it really counted."

Penn State Post-Match Notes:

- Tonight's win was Penn State's 100th straight win and the Nittany Lions improved to 36-0 on the 2009 season
- Junior Alyssa D'Errico had a match-high five aces, which equaled her career-high mark
- The Nittany Lions registered 10 blocks against Cal, marking the 20th match this season with 10 or more blocks

Cal Head Coach Rich Feller*On the match:*

"I'm very proud of the way my team fought and went toe-to-toe with a very good Penn State team. I thought that it was a pretty exciting match. I wish we could have executed a few plays differently, but I'm pretty pleased with the way we performed, fought and played the match tonight."

Senior Hana Cutura*On the match:*

"I think that we played well and gave Penn State a good fight. Penn State is really amazing. I congratulate them and wish them good luck in the Final Four."

On being more aggressive and having more kills in the second and third sets:

"Penn State is obviously really tall and their block is amazing. I was trying to hit around their block, but sometimes it's tough to know where they're going to pop up. They're really good diggers too. I don't think we got tired at all. We're used to playing tough five-set matches in the Pac-10. I just kept swinging – I didn't want to stop."

Junior Carli Lloyd*On tonight's match:*

"It's hard to be really happy after a loss like that, but Penn State is an amazing team. We knew going into it that it would be a really hard match. We put up a good fight and I'm proud of our season. I wish them good luck – it's going to be a tough road against the other three remaining teams. It's going to be a battle every match for the four the four remaining teams."

On being eliminated by Penn State the last three years:

"It's exciting every time. The excitement increases every year. The Final Four last year was probably the most exciting because we made it that far. We were maybe a little more pumped and excited this year. I'm definitely not sick of playing them and if we meet them again next year, I'm down to battle again."

Cal Post-Match Notes:

- Cal finished the 2009 volleyball season 21-11 overall (11-7 Pac-10)
- Senior Hana Cutura became just the fifth player in Pac-10 history to record 2,000 career kills with her 16 versus Penn State, now holding 2,004, while also becoming the first Cal player to break the 2,000-kill plateau
- Junior Carli Lloyd led Cal against Penn State with a team-high 32 assists, and finishes her junior season with 1,371 assists

