

# Notre Dame Men's Lacrosse Quotes

## NCAA Quarterfinals vs. Syracuse

May 18, 2008 \* Schoellkopf Field (Ithaca, N.Y.)

### **NOTRE DAME HEAD COACH KEVIN CORRIGAN**

#### ***Opening Statement***

"I'm very proud of our guys, I'm disappointed we weren't able to pull it off, we dug ourselves a little bit of a hole, but I'm proud of how our guys came back and I think they played their hearts out. Give credit to SU, when we came back and got up on them they didn't fold they made plays at the end of the game and that's to their credit."

#### ***Did the team relax after the Colgate game***

"I didn't think we played bad, we just never had the ball. It's awfully hard to play against "make-it-take-it", and that's what it was the whole first half. We wanted so badly to do something when we did have the ball that we got away from our plan offensively, and that hurt us a little bit, but we really didn't have a lot of empty trips. They got some saves, we got some opportunities in the first half, we just didn't get a lot of them. I don't know what the possession stats were in the first half, but it wasn't good!"

#### ***What to do when the score is 11-9 in the fourth***

"Score three and win! I'm not that bright, but I figured that one out. We wanted the ball, wanted an opportunity. We wanted to double at the one end, and ride them at the other. But SU isn't a team you can do that against, but you do what you have to do at the end of the game to get the ball on the ground, but it's not what you want to have to do against a team as talented as they are."

#### ***On Joey Kemp***

"Joey's terrific. I don't think there's a better goalie in the country. Halfway through the year, I thought Joey was gonna be a first team keeper, but maybe he's a second/third/honorable mention...maybe that's just what he is. And no sooner do I think this, he's unbelievable the second half of the season. I think he's the best in the nation, I'm particularly biased, but I haven't seen anyone better."

#### ***On the face off differential***

I think they were hugely important. We talked about it going into the game. We said to Taylor, 'we don't want to dominate them, but we just don't want to GET dominated'. We'd like to break even. We thought that breaking even on them, and possessions, that and the clearing game, would be real important for us. It didn't work out that way. Taylor, he's been tremendous, as good as anyone out there...it just wasn't his day.

#### ***Surprised by the face off situation***

"I thought Taylor didn't jump a few times and they called him for it, I thought they didn't call Brennan a few times and he did, but what am I going to do about that? They had a number of good face offs together. There were a number of times I thought he was early and the officials didn't. But that's their call, not mine. Face offs are like Ju-jitsu...They're down there doing their thing, it's such a quirky little thing, and even when you have a great face off guy, there's a bad matchup for him out there somewhere. Taylor didn't have a great day, and maybe we didn't do enough on the wings to help him as well. We had some 50/50 balls on the wings that we didn't get, and it adds up to a bad day for us.

#### ***On outscoring SU 6-1 in the third despite losing face offs***

"I though in all honesty, it's going to sound kind of crazy, but we were at some point in the game hoping they would shoot the ball on cage, because we can't get the ball back if they miss. Joey was on and making saves, if he misses, they get the ball back. If they take that shot and put it on cage, Joey makes the save, we get the ball. There's only two ways to get the ball; you get it from the face off, or them screwing up or a save. They're not a team that is going to throw the ball all over the park and give you a lot of cheap turnovers, so you gotta get some saves. In the third quarter, that's what they did."

#### ***On the success of the GWLL***

"It's funny, because early in the year, we lost to UNC, Denver lost to Towson and someone else in one weekend, OSU lost a couple, and I was like.... I knew how good this conference was, I knew the teams and I was disappointed in us as a group. I thought this was the year we had a shot at three

teams in the tournament. From the midpoint of the year on, I thought all three of us played very well. At the end of the day, like everybody else, I had my abacus out trying to figure out the seedings and who was going to be in the tournament! As soon as we beat those guys, I'm rooting for them. It was a great year for our league, there were three good teams, and I think there'll be three good teams next year. The rest of the teams are getting better as well. The days of five or six teams separating themselves from the rest are past.

## **NOTRE DAME SENIOR ATTACK ALEX WHARTON**

### ***On the third quarter's burst of goals***

"I thought we got good looks in the first half, but we either weren't taking the right shots or just weren't capitalizing on them. We started canning some of those shots, and once you get two or three it becomes real easy to start rolling. I think we got in a groove and just kept going but didn't have enough."

### ***How tough was the first half with so few possessions***

"It was frustrating. That turns into trying to make more more happen when you do have the ball, and you almost start playing in panic mode...it was the same last weekend with Colgate. You feel like you have to make something happen each time you get the ball. Luckily in the second half we calmed down, but we just couldn't finish it off"

## **NOTRE DAME SENIOR MIDDIE MICHAEL PODGAJNY**

### ***On the third quarter's burst of goals***

"To echo what Alex said, a big key was putting pressure on a freshman keeper like Galloway. It's tough to come out after a stoppage and a half when you don't see a lot of shots. Once we got shots on cage, it was effective and we got, I think, six or so in a row and he (Galloway) was back on his heels a little bit."

## **NOTRE DAME SENIOR GOALKEEPER JOEY KEMP**

### ***On the SU offense in the fourth quarter***

"They're a very talented offense, both attack and mids, they've got two hard lines that can both bring it. They're awesome. Our defense stepped up and I was able to see shots from 12 yards, instead of 8-10 yards."

### ***On his approach throughout the game***

"The kind of game I prefer is one where I'm getting peppered in. Unlike the Colgate game, where they played slow-down ball. Syracuse and Ohio State, where it's coming one after another, I kind of get into a groove. Today I was seeing the ball."

### ***On how the SU offense is tougher than most others***

"I guess it's they're all very talented. You can't just shut down one guy. To compare them to last week, Colgate's main guy was Lalli. Today, we stop Brooks then Hardy would step up. They're a loaded team and there isn't a drop off from each guy."