

Syracuse Men's Lacrosse Quotes

NCAA Quarterfinals vs. Syracuse

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

SYRACUSE HEAD COACH JOHN DESKI

Opening Statement

"I thought we had gotten off to a very good start. You look up in the second quarter and we had put up 30 shots against their goaltender. I thought we possibly could have put a couple more in but I think Notre Dame showed why they're in the second round of the tournament. They had a great third quarter. They came out and they knew they were behind and had to catch up and they did. Some of their better players stepped up and their goalie was huge once again. I think we regained our composure in the fourth quarter. We were a little more patient with things and put a couple goals on the scoreboard to put us up by two and we fortunately were able to hold the ball for most of the rest of the game. We had a big stop at the end but then held the ball at the end to seal the win.

Impressions of game and scoring early

"The kinds of shots we were getting and as Mike said we had 19 shots in the first and just 11 in the second quarter. You gotta think if you keep taking those shots that they're eventually going to drop because that's an awful lot of pressure for any goaltender. I think he had 20 saves on the day and he's terrific and he showed it. For them they had some key ingredients coming in for a playoff run, a hot goaltender, a faceoff guy and a high scoring midfield and attack. I thought we were doing what we needed to do in the first quarter. We played very solid defensively and were putting a lot of pressure on the goaltender.

On facing a hot goaltender and preparation

"I think the whole game today may help us a little bit because we're in a situation where we followed the game plan first and second quarter. WE got Danny Brennan out there and he was doing his job. We were getting the shots off and we held them to two goals in the first half and then they came back and got ahead of us. We had to fight to come back in the fourth quarter and then hold on to it in the end which we did. It's a great preparation going into the final four.

On John Galloway

"He's a very composed freshman. I think that the schedule we play is kind of a playoff schedule with a lot of great teams on that schedule throughout the year. So he started out the season with going to Army and Virginia in the faceoff classic and just playing the schedule that we do in the Dome and coming down here to play a terrific team in Cornell and the local rivalries with Hobart and Colgate at the end. It helps with anyone but especially with John to face those players and those kinds of shots and here we are after two rounds of the playoffs and moving on."

"I think the team in general. We fell out of our composure in the third quarter and he and the rest of the team regained it in the fourth quarter. Some of those big saves were crucial for us going down the stretch.

JUNIOR MIDFIELDER DAN HARDY

On his play today

"What I've been doing for the past couple of weeks is shooting a lot better and taking some better shots. Just at the end of the game I saw that we had an unsettled situation and we like to take advantage of when they have fewer guys up there. Even if we have the same amount it's easier to go to the cage, a lot more open space. I just saw it and we tried to shoot low corners on this guy. He's good stick side, so I tried to get low on him and it went in.

On the third quarter

"Midway through the third quarter we noticed they were coming back obviously. We just started getting a little out of control on offense. We weren't running what we were supposed to be doing. People started doing their own thing. I think the start of the fourth quarter we settled down and regained our composure and started doing the little things right. We pick up ground balls and Mike had a goal in an unsettled situation and when we started doing those type of things good things happen for us and we started putting balls away.

On turning point of this season

"The Virginia game really turned it around for us a little bit in knowing that we could actually play with these teams. We weren't really sure at the beginning of the season how it would go. Losing to Virginia by a goal in overtime. It really took off from there. Then we get to Colgate and lose, it was kind of a punch in the face for us and really took a step back and buckled down and the past few games came out hot and we're headed to the final four right now feeling pretty good. I think last year is pretty much over. We have a new year and a new season heading into next weekend."

On semifinal matchups

"I think anyone can really win it. We saw last year Duke was a huge favorite and they lose by a goal to Johns Hopkins so it's really anyone's championship. Four great teams who have worked really hard to get there."

SYRACUSE FRESHMAN GOALTENDER JOHN GALLOWAY

On playing against Notre Dame goalie and his own overall play

"My friends are kind of right. He outplayed me. He's a great goalie and I just want to give a lot of his team's success is because of him. He played unbelievable. The third quarter I really let down and to be able to make a couple saves at the end of the game. My offense like all season long came through and scored the go-ahead goal and game-winner. I'm just excited to play with those guys and have those guys around me."

On his play down the stretch

After the third quarter and the first goal in the fourth quarter I knew there were two ways it could go. You can keep getting scored or you can change it around. Fortunately I was able to make a couple saves. It was definitely a frustrating game for me. I didn't think I played one of my better games and I'm just glad my offense is there for me again and my defense really stuck down at the end."

On his play in the third quarter

I think Danny played great in the first half especially. We were getting the ball a lot on the offensive side. I just got away from my basics, not staying on the pipe, staying strong and keeping my stick up. I let in a couple I shouldn't have. I threw a bad clearing pass and got knocked down, just things you can't let happen in a game like this against a team at the caliber of Notre Dame and I'm definitely gonna go look at film tomorrow and see what we did wrong. It was frustrating in the third quarter but I'm just glad my defense in the last couple of minutes came through."

SYRACUSE SENIOR ATTACKER MIKE LEVEILLE

On team's depth

"I think all year we've said we want to play a full 60 minutes. A couple times we got away from that today, we had a tough third quarter. But we never stopped playing and we do have tremendous depth and a lot of guys who can step up and make plays offensively. It was good to see Patty with the big goal. I thought both our midfield lines played great today."

On facing a hot goaltender

"It's frustrating. He's a great goalie and we knew that coming in. We wanted to try and get to him early and I think we had 19 shots in the first quarter which is a lot. It would have been nice to have gotten a little bit of a bigger lead early, but we took it as it was and played through to the end."

On Danny Brennan and faceoffs

"Having him back is huge. He's a competitor and he fought through his injury today and did a great job. I didn't see the stats, but I know he dominated pretty well. It just gives us so many more possessions offensively and vice versa takes the pressure of our defense as well. So it's great to have him back out there. He looked great to me."

On 4th quarter comeback

"It was huge. WE needed to to win the game. We never quit on each other and I think we all knew that if we kept battling it was going to start falling our way. We didn't give up on one another and I think that's what helped us come out on top."

On turnaround this year

"Last year was a really hard year. We've said that many times. We came back early this fall ready to go right from the start. Put in the hard work saying it will pay off and now that it finally has it feels great, but we aren't satisfied yet. We are going to get back to work this week and shoot for two more."