

Nebraska Cornhuskers Post-Match Quotes – NCAA Second Round – Dec. 2, 2017 – Lincoln, Neb.

Head Coach John Cook opening statement

“[The] Huskers did a great job of building a game plan today and following it. We blocked really well, we dug really well. I think we really frustrated Washington State. They were swinging pretty good last night and our team took that challenge on and did an awesome job and they (Washington State) I don’t think ever felt comfortable tonight.”

Head Coach John Cook on tonight’s blocking and digging success

“That’s serving tough and getting them out of system and then making them pay. That’s a very big discrepancy between digs and blocks. We got a lot of opportunities because they were receiving serve a lot tonight and our whole thing is to try to suffocate them and make them pay when they give us an easy ball and we did a really good job tonight.”

Senior Middle Blocker Briana Holman on tonight’s blocking success

“It’s a great feeling. We work on blocking a lot in practice and it’s nice to see it come to play during the game.”

Senior Setter Kelly Hunter on the middle blockers

“Having a good middle attack just sets up everything else. We were passing great. We were handling those free balls like Coach [John Cook] said. It was really easy to get the middles going so it’s pretty easy because they (Washington State) kind of do a swing-blocking system so they don’t really help that much. So the middles were sort of one on one all night, so it was easy for them.”

Head Coach John Cook on Washington s Junior Middle Blocker Taylor Mims

“I thought we did really well. She’s a really crafty hitter. She has a lot of shots. I think we frustrated her. She was really pressing trying to get kills. She got a couple nice kills in game three, but we took away her shots and we were touching her on the block and then we were digging her. I’m not sure she’s felt that from many teams. It’s a combination of the block and our floor defense just not letting her get anything easy. It’s hard to get in a rhythm when that’s happening. She had 46 swings and only nine kills. That’s a great job by us. She’s a really nice player. I’m really impressed by her.”

Senior Middle Blocker Briana Holman on her final home match

“[Having a performance in my final home match] means a lot. It’s been a long journey to get to this point. I’m just super blessed to get the opportunity to play for such an amazing university. This means a lot to me and having a good game – my last game here – means everything to me. I’m really happy.”

Senior Setter Kelly Hunter on the Huskers’ start to the NCAA Tournament

“I think we started with a lot of energy. We came out strong and took control of the matches right away. That’s something we haven’t really done all season. We’ve kind of let the other team come out strong. I think it was really important for us to just have the energy and play together as a unit because it felt like we were a great team out there. That’s what set us apart from teams in the past and other teams in the past is our team chemistry. I think just the energy we brought allowed us to play at another level.”

Senior Setter Kelly Hunter on her last home game

"It hasn't really set in. Someone mentioned, 'Oh should we do a victory lap,' but it was already too late because we usually run around Devaney but this has been a really special couple of years. Just being from Nebraska and playing here, playing in the Devaney, which is the greatest facility in all of women's volleyball. It's been really awesome and just to end on a win and such a high note has been great."

Senior Setter Kelly Hunter on setting to Lauren Stivrins

"Lauren is just a player, she always wants the ball and she's always talking, 'Hey, set me here.' They also were kind of scheming too and reading so it's easy to find her in situations like that when the block isn't there. She's always just working hard to get a kill. If it's a tip or a kill or a swing or whatever, she's happy either way. She's fun to set."

Senior Setter Kelly Hunter on going undefeated at home

"We didn't really think about it. We didn't really know that's what we were looking towards this year, but we owe it to the fans and everyone who shows up every game, no matter what time we play or what day of the week it is. They were awesome this year. It's always awesome to play and go undefeated at home."

Head Coach John Cook on freshman libero/defensive specialist Hayley Densberger

"She had a really good week at practice and we just let those guys go at it every day. She had a hot serve. She ran a lot of points this week, and I mean a lot. We may have scored more points in her rotation than any other rotation, except maybe Sydney [Townsend]. She earned it in practice so we gave it a go. I loved how confident she was and she made some digs and made some good sets out of system."

Senior Middle Blocker Briana Holman on how far the team can go in the NCAA Tournament

"I think that we can go very far. We've been playing at such a high level so we know what we're capable of. We're just trying to take it one point at a time, one set at a time, one match at a time. I think we can go all the way."