

# POST-MATCH QUOTES

North Texas vs. Florida Atlantic | C-USA Semifinals

W 3-1 (23-25, 25-17, 25-20, 25-20)



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## ANDREW PALILEO - HEAD COACH

### On how the team played tonight as opposed to the FAU match two weeks ago...

"I thought offensively we were a lot better than the last time we played them. I think the difference tonight was that defensively we were able to make a couple of adjustments. They're a very good defensive team. They battle and keep the ball alive and they've had a great year. A lot of that has been driven by their defense and their middles. I knew that we needed to try to get them out of system, and we needed to take away their middles as much as we could. The girls did a great job tonight of making some of those adjustments and transitioning out of those digs."

### On the contributions from several players on offense...

"If you look at the last several matches for us, we've been trying to be a lot more balanced. In our win over UTSA on Saturday, we definitely were balanced and we were only two kills away from having five players in double-digit kills. That's really good and it's what we've been trying to do all year long."

### On what areas the team excelled at in Friday's win...

"I thought it was an offensive game. We hit a pretty high average. There was balance on the court. For example, Alexis got the kill on match point instead of Carnae, and that was key. Defensively, I thought we were a little better than they were at times. Anytime you're going into an offensive battle between two teams, it comes down to the key defensive digs in key moments, and I thought we had a few of those tonight. Then I thought our serving was pretty consistent tonight. We were aggressive, then we backed it off, then became aggressive again. I thought those three things were pretty important for tonight's win."

### On what the gameplan was today...

"The biggest thing is that we needed to serve tough. Their middles are pretty good and they do a lot of good things. For us, we just needed to try to keep the ball away from them. They did a good job in the beginning to really slice and dice around our blocks, so we had to make those types of adjustments with that. Because we've just seen them, we were kinda familiar with what they do and we went back with the same gameplan that we did in the later sets of that last match, and this time we came out on top."

### On the possibility of this match going to five sets...

"We always say to our team that we have to play as long as we need to. If it took five sets then that's what we were going to do. Anytime you're playing a defensive team, you always have that opportunity to go to a fifth game. I was expecting to go to a fifth game."

### On whether offense or defense did better this evening...

"The balance of our offense was definitely something that helped us get past FAU tonight."

### On what changes will be made from last year's semifinals to attain a win against WKU...

"Well there's a lot of things that we have to do well. I don't know if we have to necessarily play perfect, but we need to improve every round that we're playing. If we can improve on some of the little things that we did tonight, I think that will continue to help us get better as the rounds go on. Western's a great team. They have great players, smooth players and high-volleyball-IQ players, so it's not so much that we have to change our gameplan from what we did before, but I know that they'll be looking at the same tape as us. I'm sure there will be some little adjustments on both sides. It'll probably have a lot to do with gametime adjustments midgame for both of us coaches."

### **On the play of the team's younger players throughout the year...**

"That's what I think has attributed to some of our balance. Alexis has really come on and gotten some kills for us in big moments and she's also gotten some blocks for us. Holly, just being recognized as second team all-conference, she's really stepped up on the blocking end and offensively. People have to worry about her now, and if the lineup is Carnae and Holly together that really opens up some things for us. I think those two players have really come on strong for us towards the end of the season."

## **CARNAE DILLARD - SENIOR OUTSIDE HITTER**

### **On the team's confidence going into a rematch with Western Kentucky...**

"I would say we're very confident. We weren't looking past FAU, but we knew that Western was probably going to beat Marshall. Now it's just doing what we've been doing - spreading the ball around and just playing our game of volleyball, not necessarily worrying about their side. We're really excited for the matchup tomorrow."

### **On what changes allowed the offense to get rolling in the second set...**

"I think in the first set we weren't really doing what we normally do, which is try to get the ball to the middles which opens the floor up for the outsides. I think it opened up whenever we started setting the middles and things started coming a lot easier. There were splits open. It wasn't just two blocks with us having to find a way around it. So the court just became wide open when our middles started putting balls down. After that it was a field day for me and Alexis."

## **AMY HENARD - JUNIOR SETTER**

### **On the trust that she has across the offense...**

"Whenever you can have [Alexis Wright] putting the ball down in situations that aren't perfect, you know our offense is working well. When she starts getting kills we can start spreading it around, allowing us to get some of the attention off of Carnae. Everybody likes to double team her, but if we get her some relief she doesn't have to have as many attempts and she can put the ball down because there will be openings."

### **On what has led to such a balanced attack of late...**

"I think our middles have been running really well. Whenever our middles can be up and the other blockers have to commit to our middles, you know the other team is going to be in trouble. That's what makes us so successful, just our fast offense. If their not committing to our middles then we'll give it to them and once they start committing, we'll give it to Carnae and she'll have a split block. It makes it balanced and it's easy for the hitters to see the court."