**Head coach Heather Olmstead**

*Opening Statement:*

I’m really proud of our team effort tonight. I thought they played a great match. I want to congratulate the University of Utah for a great season. They played really well tonight. I have a lot of respect for Beth and her program. We’re excited to advance in the tournament and thought the crowd’s energy was fantastic. Our girls were composed the whole time.

*On the play of the middles*

Our middles were phenomenal. Heather and Kennedy did a really good job. Lyndie was able to find them and transition in first ball, then she just kept feeding them. Our pins were scoring well so that opened up our middles and our passing was good enough to distribute the ball.

*On digs*

Defense was phenomenal, headed by Mary communicating with everyone back there. We were in the zone defensively. We had a good game plan knowing where they like to go and we executed it well. After the second set, I could tell we were in a good defensive rhythm which continued into the third set.

*On continuing in the NCAA Tournament*

I’m really proud of this team and their hard work. They’ve put in the work all season and the offseason as well. I’m proud that they get to be one of 16 teams practicing on Monday. It’s a special feeling to know that we can get in the gym and keep getting better.

*On Roni Jones-Perry*

Roni was phenomenal tonight. She knew that they were going after and she was still fearless. Twenty kills on 34 swings is unbelievable.

**Senior outside hitter Roni Jones-Perry**

*On energy during the match*

When you see teammates literally sacrificing their bodies for this team and what we’re trying to do, it brings our energy up. It makes us want to play better for each other. The crowd was awesome which was giving us energy too.

*On hitting*

Overall we had really good communication in serve receive so we were able to pass well. Lyndie did a great job getting balls to the hitters and they were hitting well. There was a lot of confidence in each other on the court and it felt good.

*On the team’s bond*

There’s been a lot of moments this season when we’ve been sitting in the room together as a team and we feel the magic. We step out on the court and we feel that same magic and see that in the crowd. I feel closer than ever before to the girls this year. It’s been an incredible season.

**Junior libero Mary Lake**

*On key to defensive game plan*

When the whole team can be composed and instill confidence in each other, that really helps. The coaches do a great job letting us know what’s going to happen when we step on the course. Having that confidence coming into the game really helps me with knowing where I should be and what to expect.

**Senior setter Lyndie Haddock-Eppich**

*On efficiency of the offense*

You always want to feed the hot hitter where they’re scoring but lucky for us tonight we had hot hitters on every pin and in the middle as well. That’s what made us so efficient.