



SAN FRANCISCO

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Jennifer Azzi Press Conference Quotes

Quotes from the press conference announcing the new women's basketball head coach

- JENNIFER AZZI -

General Comments

"I'm really, really excited to be here. Debi, thank you so much for your belief in me, I am proud to join the USF family."

"The three most important things to me are trust, work ethic, and caring about each other, and we're going to do that every single day."

"I loved basketball from the minute I picked up a ball when I was four years old. I ended up having a great career and was able to play professionally. But after my 13 year career, the day that I put the ball down was one of the most painful days of my life. It was a difficult decision for me to leave the game, I was still leading my team in minutes, but it was time for me to close that chapter and move on. Every year since I left the game, I've been asked to coach. It never felt right to me. I've had a lot of opportunities, but this opportunity just felt right."

"I've been a coach my whole life. I was a point guard, and especially in the later part of my career, I was a coach out on the floor. I know the game. I've been in the game my whole life."

"I wanted to get back into the game at this level. I miss being a team, working in the gym. We're going to work, but we're going to have a lot of fun too."

- DEBI GORE-MANN -

General Comments

"Jennifer represents in many unique ways, what our program needs. I believe she can teach our student-athletes how to learn the game. From there, Jennifer's passion for the game and her tremendous work ethic would allow her to go into any gym and into any home and out recruit against the best. Lastly, Jennifer's personal philosophy of nurturing the "whole person" to Educate Minds and Hearts mirrored what USF has long since been about."

"It was a comprehensive process with input from most areas of the University and in the end Jennifer Azzi distinguished herself from the others."

"I also have a clear vision about building a women's basketball program that will to excel in the WCC and on the entire west coast. The women's college basketball game is still a growing endeavor that needs a continued second effort to keep building it. The women's game is not just about the wins - its about the whole person. Jennifer has a demonstrated a record of building women's basketball at all levels and now she has the chance to do it again with USF."

"Hiring Jennifer Azzi gives USF women's basketball the best chance of having a positive impact on young women through a wonderful personal journey of academics and athletics excellence."

"This is a different step for me. I've sought out all of my friends that are in coaching, namely Dawn Staley, and I'm ready for this challenge."

"It's just as important to me what you guys do with the rest of your life as it is what you do here at USF, because the skill set you learn as student-athletes is going to carry you far in life."

Speaking about meeting with the team

"When I came into the locker room for the first time on Friday, I said 'don't get lost in this process.' You guys have the ability to turn this thing around and together we are going to build something really great here at USF."

"In the locker room today, one of the players said something to me that meant the world. She said 'Welcome home,' and that's what this feels like."

