

NBC's *Today*

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7:44:15 a.m.

1 minute and 43 seconds

HODA KOTB: Let me ask you about something that's getting a little traction, a video that came out afterwards. It shows the men's team talking to the President of the United States, and the — and he was inviting them to the State of the Union and all that. And then he said a comment that gained attention. He said, "I must tell you, we're going to have to bring the women's team. You know, that" — and the room kind of laughs, and he added — "I do believe I probably would be impeached." He was sort of joking through this, but you're cheering on both teams. How did that comment land for you?

ELLEN HUGHES: Well, I think at the end of the day, it's just about the country and the moment that these players, both the men and women, can bring so much unity to a group and to a country. People that cheered on that don't watch hockey, people that have politics on one side or on the other side, and that's all both the men's team and the men's team care about. If you could see what we see from the inside and the men and women sharing, you know, dorms — dorm rooms and halls and flex floors and the camaraderie and the synergy and the way the women cheered on the men and the way the men cheered on the women. That's what it's all about. And the other things they cannot control. They care about humanity. They care about unity, and they care about the country I love.

KOTB: Totally.

CRAIG MELVIN: Well said.

KOTB: Don't you love that Ellen's hoarse from all that screaming?

MELVIN: All the screaming!

CARSON DALY: Yeah.

MELVIN: Been screaming for two weeks.

HUGHES: And too many late nights.

MELVIN: I love it.

HUGHES: We had so many nine, ten nights. The women, the men, the women, the men. But it couldn't have gone better. Both teams going undefeated. We couldn't have write — written a better story. And I hope everybody just understands what we did in the moment, both the men and the women, to bring this country together and let everybody cheer in the same direction.

KOTB: Yes!