

2012 Big West Men's Basketball Tournament

Game 7 Quotes

Final - No. 1 Long Beach State d. No. 8 UC Davis, 80-46

No. 1 Long Beach State

Head Coach Dan Monson

(Opening statement): "Well, I think when you're in a tournament like this, especially when you're a No. 1 seed, the first game is always a lot of apprehension. Just to get the first one over with is huge, especially when you started the same lineup for 30-something games and all of sudden you're starting the tournament with a new lineup for the first time all year and you don't know how they're going to respond. Obviously, I was very pleased with their focus and how we came out and how they approached the game where we knew that we had to win the game and should win. We got it done, whether it's by 20, 30 or one, it's just on to the next one. That's where our mindset is right now."

(On Eugene's performance in tonight's game): "Like I said all along. I'm very excited for Eugene, to be second team All-League and to be part of the 1,000-point club where there's only 22 guys who've done that in school history. Because Eugene has sacrificed more than any of these seniors as far as what's better for the team or for him to be the center where we didn't have anyone else. He's got confidence where he can attack the rim with anyone in front of him."

(On playing Irvine on Friday): "They all (teams) scare me, that's my job. They're one of those teams, a rhythm team. I didn't see them (Irvine) today, but one of my assistants said that they got into an offensive rhythm today and controlled the game against Fullerton. They made shots and when they do that, they are very effective. They understand what's at stake to win two more games. So, we'll be ready for them."

Player - Mike Caffey, freshman guard

(On your mindset coming into the game): "Mainly just defense. Larry is the scorer, so I just try to come in and look on the offensive side. But, it's mainly we focus on our defense plus our offense. We got out on breaks and finished. We did pretty good on defense tonight."

Player - Eugene Phelps, senior forward

(On scoring 1,000-points and playing Davis): "It feels great. Out of the Fab 4, I finally got 1,000, so it feels good. Against Davis, my teammates are just good for me. And, thank God I just finished."

No. 8 UC Davis

Head Coach Jim Les - UC Davis

(On tonight's game): "I think we saw tonight why Long Beach won our league championship and why they're a very good basketball team. They have a number of weapons. We tried to take Casper Ware out of production, and other guys stepped up. They're sound offensively, they rebound the ball very well and they are a very underrated defensive team with their length and athleticism. So my hat's off to them."

(On if it was an advantage playing Long Beach after a loss): "I actually thought that a loss would probably be a good motivator. Coach Monson probably had some good fuel for the fire the last few days in practice. Not only the loss to Fullerton, but with Larry (Anderson) going down with the injury, they would be ready. I thought firght from the get go that they had good engergy and good bounce to their step."

"I really appreciate Coach Monson. He's really taken his time to speak to me about his first year at Long Beach when they won six games and then how to go about building a program the right way. I'm very encouraged by that. That's certainly one of the models we want to look at when we think about where we want UC Davis to be at in four and five years from now."

(How did their length and athleticism make it tough for you?) "They do a good job and they've got so many like-size guys who they switch. We talked about it before the game, not handing them offense. The turnovers are killers. They get out and run and we can't set our defense and make them play five-on-five. It's kind of a dual sword when we don't protect the ball."

Player - Eddie Miller, senior guard

"You have to give them credit, they're a great defensive team. A lot of those looks (his shots) were contested. Hats off to them, but I missed a lot of easy ones as well."