

2012 Big West Men's Basketball Tournament

Game 11 Quotes

Final - No. 1 Long Beach State d. No. 7 UC Irvine, 68-57

No. 1 Long Beach State

Head Coach Dan Monson -

(On the win): "It's like they say in golf, you don't take pictures after a good hole because you might have hit it all over the place but you'll roll in a 40-foot putt for par. You just move on to the next hole. If you're a golf guy, you understand that and my time is coming up soon. It might have been sooner if we didn't play better."

(On slow start): "It was frustrating early, but I'm proud we stayed together and we found different ways. Basketball is a very contagious game. You make a couple of free throws and everybody makes free throws. I had way too much deja vu from last year's Santa Barbara game when we were getting it inside and we were unable to finish and we missed a couple and then it's contagious."

(On missing Larry Anderson): "With Larry out we don't have the same margin of error. I thought Cas (Casper Ware) did a good job of keeping us around or else it's a 12-point game and we have a big hole to dig out of."

(On Edis): "With Larry out, Edis gives us another leader on the court. He's another guy who is kind of in charge out there. It's a matter of channeling his desires again. If he gets tired he can make mistakes or if he's overamped he could make a mistake."

(On Anderson's status): "They say he's doing better but we're not going to rush him and put his career ahead of tomorrow's game."

Player-Edis Dervisevic, senior forward -

(On his effort): "I saw my team struggling at the beginning and I was trying to get them going when I got in there."

Player-Casper Ware, senior guard -

(On the team's slow start): "I always think 'This can't be happening again' because it reminded me of Santa Barbara (last year's championship game). I didn't want that feeling again so I got my team motivated and got us back where we needed to be."

(On his legs): "It's cramp season for me right now. My legs got tight. Coach did a good job of getting me in and out before I cramped up."

(On making the title game): "Right now I can't tell you because I have mixed feelings about it. Last year we were overhyped and then we got a little stagnant. We're going to try to come in and treat it like another game."

No. 7 UC Irvine

Head Coach Russell Turner-

(Opening statement): "It was a good game and Long Beach is a really good team and I give them a lot of credit because I thought we put some pressure on them (and) they responded to that pressure really well. In the second half, they did the things they had to do to come out with a win tonight. I'm impressed with them for that. "

"They're an experienced and well-coached team. I was also really proud of my team tonight."

"I'm really proud of my guys. That's the main thing. I hope that some part of whatever you guys write will be about our guys."

Player - Michael Wilder, senior guard

(On playing hometown opponent): "You always get a little more amped to play against a hometown team. But we treated this game as the most important one because it was the next one. I really just tried to play my best, tried to play my hardest, season on the line. I'm proud of everybody. Credit to Long Beach State, they're a great team."

(On attitude coming off last night's win): "After such a good win for us last night, we had all the confidence in the world coming into this game. We all really didn't think we were going to lose. I think it showed in our start, I think it showed in our competitiveness throughout the game."

Player- Daman Starring, junior guard

(On team's confidence after 9-0 early lead): "Definitely, but the game's 40 minutes. It's just not the first four minutes of the game. We knew we had to sustain our energy throughout the full game and just keep that level hot and do everything we could possibly do to keep winning and keep making those plays and those stops."