

2012 Big West Men's Basketball Tournament

Game 13 Quotes

Final - No. 1 Long Beach State def. No. 3 UC Santa Barbara, 77-64

No. 3 UC Santa Barbara

Head Coach Bob Williams -

(On the game): "I told the team it was just too much Casper. He played extremely well. I thought he helped them and the two three's that (Peter) Pappageorge hit took the pressure off of them. They are a very good basketball team that we had no answer for three times and we threw three different things at them all three times. You talk about trying to beat a team three times in a season, well it's hard to beat someone in the finals of the championship three times."

(On their defense): "Their transition offense off of steals is so quick, it's blinding. Even though we had 15 turnovers, it's not a death wish. But it was the type of turnovers. We just can't turn the ball over and beat Long Beach in our league."

(On postseason play): "We've been invited to two. I think this team has enough juice in the tank. It gives our kids an opportunity to get the opportunity to play in the postseason. We look forward to representing the university in the postseason."

Orlando Johnson, senior guard -

(On his career): "My career has been ... we had a great run. We went to the tournament twice. I got a whole bunch of accolades around my name. I definitely think I helped raise the level of the program to new heights. I had never lost a championship game before. It's hard right now."

(On the rivalry with LBSU): "I knew during my redshirt year, just seeing how competitive the guys were. I knew then if I was able to come in and step in, I could help our team out. It's been one of the best rivalries, I think, in all of college basketball. They've just had our number the past few games, but I'm leaving here and I'm pretty happy about winning two Big West championships."

Alan Williams, freshman forward -

(On being a freshman with a great senior class): "All of the underclassmen are blessed to have this great group of seniors and the opportunity to lose this game and see how it feels and tastes. We are going to try to get back here next year. We will do whatever it takes to get back to this place and be as successful as these guys were."

No. 1 Long Beach State

Head Coach Dan Monson -

(On the game): "It's been a four-year process to get here and any road you travel you always want it to be shorter than it actually is, but it feels good to get there. I told Cas [Casper Ware] earlier in the week 'you know, I've got good feelings. Anytime I've gone to the NCAA Tournament, my best player has taken me there. And I can't get it out of my mind that you're going to do that this week' and he had this look and it was contagious. It was a look that said we're going to do this. It was tough. It was a shootout, which is dangerous to get in. Defensively we struggled, matching up with them [UCSB] without Larry. Offensively and leadership-wise, Cas was just special. And when you got a special guy, you go to the NCAA Tournament."

(On whether three-pointers would be the difference): "It wasn't in the game plan. We just wanted to be aggressive. We took a couple in the first half that were a little two aggressive. But I said to them 'we're going to be aggressive offensively. We're not going to worry about that end of the floor. We're going to win this thing defensively. Everybody points to those championship games but in the last two years, we played the six times now and five of them have been 13 [points] or more. I felt as a coach I had to make sure that these guys understood that last year was last year and they had to be confident and I think we played very confident today. It would be very easy to worry about last year, worry about Larry not playing and they just worried about playing well themselves. And they did a great job of that and that comes from leadership...Casper and James did a great job in this tournament with a captain down."

(On Larry Anderson not playing): "I told them that no one needs to be Larry Anderson. Everyone just has to be themselves, more consistent for a longer period of time because you're all going to play a bit more. The difference in this game was the bench. James and guys stepped up like Mike Caffey, Peter Pappageorge...they all stayed within the game and helped. Casper was phenomenal but you can't do it alone. You're not going to win with 33 points. He had some guys step up and I really thought all of them stepped up. James had a phenomenal weekend of rebounding. That's why we were the better team today."

James Ennis, junior forward

(On Casper Ware): "Before the game started, before we got on the bus, Casper had this look on his face that he wanted to get it done because we came here two years in a row and didn't finish. So he really motivated me to play hard and step for L.A. Larry Anderson]."

Casper Ware, senior guard

(On his focus and determination): "I knew I had to be more of a leader with Larry out. So knowing that, I took it upon myself not to let my team lose. If I have to take a charge, take a charge. If I have to talk to them, yell at them, make sure I do that. Whatever my team needed I was ready to do it."

(On making it to the NCAA Tournament): "I've been trying to make it for three years now. Lucky James, one year and he's in. He's the lucky one. I've been trying for three years and make it the fourth time and it's great knowing that I'm going to the tournament."

(On the crowd): "I have to give it to our president and our athletic department. They had to buy tickets for the students to get in and that gave us an advantage right there. Our school deserves this win too, not just us. They played a big part in that."