

2012 Big West Women's Basketball Tournament

Game 13 Quotes

Final - No. 6 UC Santa Barbara d. No. 7 Long Beach State, 63-54

Long Beach State

Head Coach Jody Wynn

(On the season) "I just want to say that this team has been through quite a bit. We were picked to finish ninth out of nine teams. There was not one kid returning with any type of accolade, not even honorable mention. There were a lot of unknowns, a lot of uncertainty. A lot of adversity, a lot of injuries. One senior. As a coaching staff we are very proud of what we've accomplished. These young ladies have poured their hearts and souls into each and every day. To be here with a chance to get to the NCAA Tournament is amazing. No one thought we could ever do this. It's just great to be a part of their group and to fight with them and fight for them."

(On the foul trouble of Tipesa Moorer) "She picked-up two quick ones (fouls) and it was very unfortunate. For our team leader to not get into a rhythm and play just 13 minutes, she just never got into the game offensively. It was unfortunate that was how she had to finish her career, because she's been remarkable all season long for us. Such a great leader to all of us. We've learned from her as much as she's learned from us. We told her that it wasn't what she did here, but it was what she did to get us here. She will go down as a legend in my eyes for what she's done."

Freshman Guard Alex Sanchez

(On what team has overcome and how championship game experience will help in future) "Our coaches told us that we're freshmen, but that we've played enough games to not be called freshmen. We've been through many situations, through many games, in games and in practices, and we've learned that you have to take a step to get somewhere and this was a big step."

UC Santa Barbara

Head Coach Carlene Mitchell

(On the game) "The Gauchos are back. I am so proud of this group, I can't even tell you. I let a smile come out before the final buzzer and then there were some tears in the locker room because only these young ladies in our small group know what we've gone through this year, but at the end of the day this is why you play the game. For March Madness and for the opportunity to cut down nets."

(Obstacles you've overcome this season) "I was at a top-20 program (Rutgers) when we lost by 43 points and then played in the national championship game. I think it's hard for 18-21 year old kids to realize, that there was a foundation that had to be established for us to get to this point. So, even after losses, I would tell our team 'I believe in you and I promise that we'll be there when it counts.' Hopefully I said it enough times that they bought into it."

(Did you get any advice from Vivian Stringer) "She's a busy woman trying to beat Connecticut and Notre Dame, but we talk and text weekly. We don't talk so much about Xs and Os, but she understood that when you're taking over a program, you're dealing with expectations. She understood that, at the end of the day, if I was honest with these kids and kept it fair, that was all you could do and things would work out."

Junior Forward Kirsten Tilleman

(On guarding Hudson and winning the MVP) "I've always been a little undersized. My coaches kept telling me how to guard her (Hudson), she likes to pass over the top, so play behind her. People like her are fun to guard. The MVP? I wasn't expecting that, I don't even think about things like that. It's really more a reflection of my teammates and my coaches because they make it possible for anyone on this team to step-up on any given night. It's a great feeling right now."

(On her offensive performance) "We talked in the locker room and we knew we really needed to attack. That's what got us this far in the tournament, attacking. I was also told to go up with offensive boards, and that was part of attacking offensively."