

2017 Big West Women's Basketball Tournament

Game 13 - Finals Quotes

Final - No. 2 Long Beach State def. No. 4 UC Santa Barbara, 56-55

No. 2 Long Beach State

Head Coach Jody Wynn

(Opening statement)

"That was a tremendous effort by UCSB in the second half. Those kids didn't quit, they played so hard. I am proud to be a part of this conference because seeing a team with that talent, and them not quitting, that's a great testament to the leadership and that program. Man, we make things interesting don't we? Overcome with emotions. The two left of me [Raven Benton, Anna Kim] and our other three seniors, this has been the only goal. They didn't care about points, individual accolades, all they wanted to do was hold up a trophy at the end of the season and go dancing."

(On winning the championship)

"This is why I came to Long Beach State. I wanted to bring back a championship to the Beach and my coaching colleagues have all been champions and I just felt like we weren't holding up our end of the bargain for a little while. I thought about our first team, and how we had to overcome a lot, and how we built it and people doubted us because we didn't have height but you can't measure heart, can't measure toughness. I'm just really overcome with emotion because those five seniors wanted this more than anything individual. They are the most selfless group of people I've ever been around and they take all the coaching, the criticisms, the demand, and they've learned to coach themselves and I'm just really proud."

(On what this means for the program)

"Long Beach State's basketball tradition is so great and I think we are the 10th or 11th winningest all-time winningest women's basketball program in the nation and so many great players. To all the players that have come through and were here today, and here yesterday, they deserve a banner in the pyramid and that's been our goal since the day we set foot on this campus."

Senior Guard Anna Kim

(On how it feels to overcome adversity and win the championship)

"We've been thinking about this moment from day one and I know Raven and I would talk all night about hoisting that Big West trophy and for all our hard work to pay off we are grateful and excited to go dancing."

Senior Guard Raven Benton

(On being apart of this team)

"It means a lot because people have doubted us from the beginning saying we aren't that good and we couldn't pull it off. To me it just feels like showing everybody that we were a good basketball team and we were going to compete every night and we deserve to win this and we fought for it."

No. 4 UC Santa Barbara

Head Coach Bonnie Henrickson

(Opening statement)

"I'm proud of our group. We struggled at their place and were down 14 but we didn't quit. And, it was 14 again at the half today. Then, there was a media timeout and we were both scoring, so I told them if we get some stops we can give ourselves a chance, and we had the growth and toughness for us to be able to do that. I'm a firm believer when you lose, don't lose the lesson, and I think we've learned lessons. We've learned to get tougher, have a collective confidence and position ourselves to have a shot to win it."

(On the run to make it a one possession game)

"It had to start with our defense. Some nights you don't score and when it's ugly and shots aren't falling you implode, but we had calmness and just had to guard harder. We were active - I think we had more deflections in a five-minute stretch than we had the whole first half. That's who we need to be consistently. We made the run because we started to guard."

(On the final shot)

"I thought it would be a little bit short, but (Sarah Porter) got a good look at it. They collapsed because it was a one-point game and you have to protect the rim. So we said, stretch it and see if you get a good look and then maybe get the offensive rebound, but it was late with seven seconds from the sideline. I couldn't be more proud of this team. I'm disappointed in the outcome for them, but I am not disappointed in them."

Junior Guard Drea Toler

(On her performance in the last quarter)

"I saw lanes open and I drove. I knew if they were going to step up, I would have my shooters or Drew (Edelman) would be open for a drop pass. That's all I was trying to do."

Junior Center Drew Edelman

(On the outlook for next year)

"I think seeing how good we can be and seeing how well we can play together in just our first year back is going to make us work even harder during the offseason. There's no telling what we'll be able to do next year as a team."