

2017 Big West Women's Basketball Tournament

Game 9 - Semifinals Quotes

Final - No. 4 UC Santa Barbara def. No. 1 UC Davis, 73-59

No. 4 UC Santa Barbara

Head Coach Bonnie Henrickson

(Opening statement)

"At the end of the day it's about effort, focus and intensity. Can we be the best version of ourselves and do a little bit better than before. Both teams know each other and are trying to take away what the other one does. I thought our defense gave us a chance because we were really playing sideline to sideline at first. We started the game with three turnovers and we would get the ball in the paint but wouldn't get a touch. We weren't aggressive and then we guarded and got some layups in transition and everyone feels good – all of a sudden we're only down 9-7. It was a product of our defense, and from there we built some confidence"

(On the game plan against UC Davis)

"We just felt like we needed to defend in transition, because (Morgan) Bertsch rim runs as well as anybody. Even though we lost to them earlier, we felt confident if we could get another shot and defend them in transition we would at least give ourselves a shot to be successful. That was much better for us tonight."

(On the impact of Onome Jemerigbe and Drea Toler)

"The energy Drea and Onome provided us on the defensive end and how much they attacked and got to the rim was the difference offensively. We made plays. I've been around some really successful coaches who say if you recruit players who make plays, you won't have to make so many plays, and these two make a lot of plays for us."

Senior Guard Onome Jemerigbe

(On the team's confidence)

Our confidence has been there since the beginning of season, when Coach Bonnie asked us what our goals are. We wanted to win it all and so I think it started at the beginning of the year.

(On advancing to the championship game)

I'm just happy to be here. It's been a long road so just to have the opportunity to play in the championship is mind blowing. I never pictured we would be here but here we are.

No. 1 UC Davis

Head Coach Jennifer Gross

(Opening statement)

"First of all, I just want to congratulate UC Santa Barbara. They played a really great game. Their kids made plays consistently throughout the game. I thought whenever we made big plays, they answered with a big shot, and they consistently did and I just want to congratulate them on the win. It's a tough one to swallow, obviously, our kids have their sights set on a tournament championship and whenever you fall short of your goals it's hard. But we're going to try to, as I told them, try to just still appreciate everything that our team was able to accomplish this season and know our season is not over and we and hopefully we still have a lot of basketball left to play."

(On UCSB's third period run)

"We tried to change the match-ups a little bit. Obviously, Toler and Jemerigbe are just so quick and we felt like by sagging off of them they were just getting too much head of steam attacking the basket. I felt like we would play 27 seconds of really good defense and then they seemed to knock every single shot down at the end of the clock. We had a hard time, Edelman was more physical than us today and she got some easy catches in there and really at that point the message was to just relax, we have plenty of time left to play."

(On double bye week possibly being a factor in loss)

"I don't think so. We've been in both situations obviously the last couple of years having to win some games to get here. I thought we started out the game really well and we came out loose and we talked all week about no pressure, have fun, play loose. We set some high goals for ourselves this year and we were able to win the Big West regular season championship and we were just trying to come in with confidence. I'm really proud for accomplishing the goal and getting here."