



# 2018 Big West Women's Basketball Tournament

Presented by MemorialCare



## Game 13 - Finals Quotes

Final - No. 5 CSUN def. No. 1 UC Davis, 63-55

### No. 5 CSUN

#### **Head Coach Jason Flowers -**

*(Opening statement)* "I'd like to start off by saying something that our kids will never hear. I was completely wrong. I stood in the locker room at Cal Poly told them that there was no way we could win the conference tournament playing zone defense. Obviously, I was wrong. With that being said, hats off to Jenn[ifer Gross]. Jenn does an outstanding job, she's the back-to-back coach of the year of this conference for a reason. She runs a great program. Their kids played extremely well, had a great season. We were looking forward to the battle, we knew it was going to be a tough challenge. I'm extremely proud of our young women. We talked about, before we left, it wasn't about what you win at the end of this. It's about who you become at the end of this. It's going to sound crazy but they've grown a lot in the last week and a half. I'm extremely proud of who they've become throughout this tournament, and hopefully that will propel us forward as we play next week and up until the offseason whenever that comes."

*(On how they won 4 games in 5 days)* "Yesterday, one of the parents brought up today's game as we were getting off the bus. I told her that I told the team before we came that we're going to win the tournament. She said, 'how do you know that?' I said I prayed about it and I walked off. If you were in our locker room two weeks ago, if you followed this team all year and you said this was going to be the run, I don't know how many people would've signed up for that. It's only fitting that Drake's song ("God's Plan") was playing when we were cutting down the net."

#### **Senior Forward Tessa Boagni -**

*(On playing UC Davis a third time this season)* "I don't think they did anything different. They're an amazing team. They have great shooters. They've got a great inside presence. We knew coming into the game that we had to dominate inside. That's our main strength. It's a chess match. We had won one lost one, so going in it was very even. They played their game, we played our game. At the end of the day I think we just wanted it more."

*(On what it's like playing off teammate Channon Fluker)* "It's a pretty good feeling. We complement each other so well. It makes a lot easier to know that if one of us is getting doubled, the other one is going to be free. It sucks for the other team because either one of us in there is a force to be reckoned with."

#### **Junior Center Channon Fluker -**

*(On CSUN turning the corner at halftime)* "New half. That's what we say every time during halftime. It's 0-0 once we get out of that locker room and get ready to step back on the floor. We just had to come together as a team and build each other up, stay together, work together."

### No. 1 UC Davis

#### **Head Coach Jennifer Gross -**

*(Opening statement)* "It's obviously tough to be sitting up here in the position we're in. We're pretty heart broken. We've been telling our team all year long its about the process and the journey and one game won't define us. I couldn't be more proud of my student-athletes and I've really just enjoyed this incredible season that we have had."

*(On maturity of her players)* "I don't know if I can hold it together if I start to talk about our team and especially our senior class. They're amazing. They're phenomenal human beings. They're great teammates. Just to hear her say, 'hey I'd rather go down with this team than to be on any other team winning a championship,' it speaks to the chemistry they have developed and the relationships they have built. They love each other, they care about each other, they would do anything for each other and they know that our staff would do the same for them. I think you put everything you have into something and you play your heart out and it was an emotional locker room for sure. And I told them its going to take a long time because its going to burn for awhile and its going to hurt for awhile but eventually they are going to see the magnitude of what they achieved this year and what they accomplished. To win 25 games in the regular season... it's unbelievable to do what they did day in and day out and of course that's why its so hard to be here right now. I wanted it for this senior class so badly."

*(On Morgan Bertsch/Channon Fluker match up)* "Those are two elite, elite players in this conference. And it seems like although they are both excellent defensive players, they showcase their skills offensively when they go against each other. Obviously Channon [Channon Fluker] has the advantage in the strength category and she does a great job holding for seals and lobs and trying to get catches in there and that's why quite frankly we tried to play Marley [Marley Anderson] a lot more. We tried to keep Morgan [Morgan Bertsch] fresh and let Marley [Marley Anderson] take a beating in there a little bit and try to D her up. And then I think Morgan [Morgan Bertsch] with her speed and finesse and finishing is a tough match up for Fluker [Channon Fluker] as well. You know Northridge with their zone they try to load up the paint and try to keep the ball out of there a little bit. And with us we play man but we try to lurk a little bit and help. They both have tremendous games, both scoring over 20 points and finishing extremely well at a high percentage. Unfortunately we just didn't have enough punch to keep up with them today."

*(On job of Coach Flowers and his program)* "He's an incredible coach and I have so much respect for him and his staff and what they have done there. They have proven that they are consistently one of the top teams in the conference. It's a conference where everybody day in and day out is battling. Its incredible and it's a tribute to their players and coaches that they were able to start on Tuesday and facing a different opponent every day just get themselves ready. I think you gain confidence as the week goes along but to their credit they played extremely focused and very, very hard. As I mentioned, we congratulate them and wish them the very best. Coach Flowers and I have been friends for a long time and we respect them a lot and we know they are going to do a tremendous job in the tournament."

#### **Senior Forward Pele Gianotti -**

*(On losing lead)* "They changed up their zone and it threw us off a little bit. We quit dragging the gaps and hitting our shooters on the outside. I think it was just a mentality. I think we played really well but there was definitely a change but we were hoping our defense could hold us."

*(On managing expectations and the disappointment)* "Its kind of what I told my team in the locker room. I would rather a part of Davis losing than any other team. It's a family. I obviously was disappointed but we worked really hard. Every day in practice we worked really hard on and off the court to salvage relationships and im just really proud to be a part of UC Davis."