



2018 Big West Men's Volleyball Tournament

Match 5 - Finals Quotes

Final - No. 1 Long Beach State def. No. 2 Hawai'i

25-23, 25-14, 25-19

No. 1 LONG BEACH STATE 49ERS

Head Coach ALAN KNIPE

(Opening statement) "Very typical playoff, championship match where it was real close in the first set. Hawai'i did an exceptional job of serving in the first set. We had to make some good adjustments to deal with the heat they were bringing and to stop overpassing the ball a little bit. We were passing the ball really well location wise, really great contact off our platform, but a little too tight for Josh (Tuaniga) to deal with sometimes, some were even over the top. Once we settled down in that area and I don't know if we overpassed another one or maybe we did, but not very many the rest of the set. That really got our offense going. And then once again, once we got our servers in stride we created separation in every set and because of our guys behind the end line and all six guys contributed and so did our guys off the bench."

(On the inaugural Big West Tournament) "What I want to take a moment to say is it's such a huge honor to host the first Big West. It's such an honor for our university and our volleyball community and validates all the special people we have in this athletic department, the trust that we can host it and host it well. And for our guys having the chance to play in this is so special. I've been around this game for a long time as a coach and a player. These athletes put in a lot of effort and to do it right like the Big West has done from top to bottom. The championship they put on, the effort they put into it, the experience. The NCAA talks about the experience of the student athlete and what an amazing experience they gave everyone in this tournament and of course we are incredibly honored and humbled to be the first ever champion."

Junior Outside Hitter TJ DeFALCO

(On serving against Hawai'i) "We knew from our experience over there, we knew they were going to come out swinging from the hip and they have a lot of service pressure. So, our mindset about that was, if they're going to do it then we are going to come out with the same mentality and we came out real strong hitting on the way up, making sure we had a good toss and hitting our serve as best as we can."

Junior Setter JOSH TUANIGA

(On being named first Big West Tournament MVP) "I was able to lean on my boys a lot for some of the mistakes I was making early and what they gave me was kind of that stability like 'Hey man, you're freed up to do what you can do, which allowed me to play the game like I did. So I was super stoked that, that trophy is not just for me, it's for my boys. They set me up in great spots, they passed well and put their ball away. We served tough, which obviously lightens the load for the offense. So, throughout the entire game I felt stress free because my guys were putting me in such great spots and doing the other stuff which allowed me some freedom."



2018 Big West Men's Volleyball Tournament

Match 5 - Finals Quotes

Final - No. 1 Long Beach State def. No. 2 Hawai'i

25-23, 25-14, 25-19

No. 2 HAWAI'I RAINBOW WARRIORS

Head Coach CHARLIE WADE

(Opening statement) "I was a little concerned in warmups tonight. I have been doing this a long time and with the travel sometimes we start to see some obvious signs of fatigue and in warmups today it looked like we had heavy legs. We were leaning with our arms and not moving our feet and not having quite the same bounce that I am used to seeing and it's not a huge difference, it's a relatively small one. The first set was played pretty close, statistically we were right there and we had a few unforced hitting errors in transition but we had a lot of nice touches and if we close out the first set maybe it is a little different. In that second set they went on a couple nice service runs early and once they get a lead Josh (Tuaniga) starts getting creative in doing whatever he wants and that same scenario happened in the third set."

(On possibility of getting into NCAA Tournament) "We have done what we've done. If you look straight at the RPI, coming into the week we were five, Irvine was four, BYU and UCLA were two and three and Long Beach was one. So five beats four, we are least four and two and three are playing each other – someone has to lose. I would think we have done enough. I saw Ohio State won so they are in and then if we don't make it you are talking about taking a team ranked seven and leapfrogging over us even though we beat four. They could do that, but there has not been precedent for that so I am confident but we will be somewhere over the middle of the Pacific Ocean when they decide so we will see once we land."

(On difference from first to second set) "Long Beach got off to a fast start and they are an experienced group and they are certainly talented, so when they start getting a little bit of a lead they steamroll it. That is what they've done to a lot of teams for a while now. They get a little bit of a lead and every guy going back is high on it and being aggressive and it snowballs."

Senior Libero LARRY TUILETA

(On fatigue) "I say a little bit but that's common with travel and practice and just with things you do in your daily schedule. We did have an intense match yesterday and I think part of the fatigue was for sure from that because we every match we play we go all out. We just have to, like coach said, take care of our bodies a little better."

Junior Setter JOE WORSLEY

(On playing Long Beach State tonight versus last week) "Last week there were more emotions because of senior night and that's a special thing that gives you extra motivation but we understood what we were going to get tonight. We understood they were going to be motivated because of what happened last week and you could just sense there was not that same type of energy on our side of the net."

(On what made LBSU effective) "First, hats off to Long Beach they were playing a real good match and they were going after it from the service line. And when they were playing like that, it was really tough to stop them. I think there were definitely scenarios where I could have made better decisions for our hitters but ultimately for the most part I never really felt like we were that far behind. They went on service runs and aces but in terms of just working in transition it felt like we were right in there so that is something I am going to take away from this match going forward."