

# 2015 Big West Men's Basketball Tournament

## Game 12 - Semifinals Quotes

### Final - No. 3 UC Irvine def. No. 2 UC Santa Barbara, 72-63

#### **No. 3 UC Irvine**

##### **Head Coach Russell Turner -**

*(Opening statement)*

"I am really proud of my team for that win. I think we showed great character, that is what we should show, because that is what we have. I want to congratulate Santa Barbara on a terrific season. We feel really good about competing against them and pulling out a tough win."

*(On Mamadou's Ndiaye performance and talk before the game)*

"I didn't have to. I talk with him because I know he is a competitor, but I knew he would play today. I knew he would play well today and compete. Today's performance for him was a reflection of his talent and his character."

*(On containing Williams)*

"He is a difficult guy to cover, but we didn't want to leave room for Santa Barbara to hit 3-point shots either. I believe that with our bigs we can cause their guys big problems. I give him credit, he had an outstanding game, but we made him work hard to get the points he got."

*(On match up with Hawai'i)*

"We are excited to play Hawai'i, I thought one of our best games of the year was on the road against them. We are going to have to do a good job at taking care of the ball. The nice thing is Will has been in a championship, along with other guys on the team. We have a great opportunity in front of us, I have great respect for Hawai'i and respect Benjy for creating chemistry for that team. Our guys will prepare and be ready."

##### **Forward Will Davis II -**

*(On support of Mamadu Ndiaye on the court)*

"It was great to have him behind me, especially when we are playing in the zone. He brought a great attitude to the game, and very intense. We had that trust in him today."

*(On match up with Hawai'i)*

"We are going to have to play our A game. It is a whole new season when playing in the Big West Tournament."

##### **Center Mamadou Ndiaye-**

*(On mindset after yesterday and playing against Williams)*

"I was upset yesterday because I didn't play my best. I had to get ready, go to the gym and work out to prepare for today."

#### **No. 2 UC Santa Barbara**

##### **Head Coach Bob Williams -**

*(Opening statement)*

"Very proud of the group that I've had the opportunity to coach. Congratulations to a good UC Irvine team. You saw three of the better big men of the west playing tonight in this game. A hundred percent I took a gamble at the 8-minute mark, and it didn't work out very well. These kids did everything they could. We had an opportunity and by the time we got to over-time we were walking wounded and they jumped all over us."

*(On last three minutes)*

"We uncharacteristically missed several free-throws. I thought most of our shots were pretty good shots. We did everything we could to get the ball off the rim... we couldn't get the ball over [Mamadou Ndiaye]."

"We didn't have a very good shooting night from the three. When you play against their zone you're going to get looks from three and you're going to have to be able to knock some down."

*(On Alan Williams' legacy)*

"You had to be there on senior night to hear the list that was read off to hear all the accomplishments that he's accumulated. He came in as a freshman and before we were halfway through December, he was a fan favorite. Al was the favorite... the reason is he plays the game with great charisma, great energy. He's a double-double machine. He did everything he could do. Our guys did everything they could do. I'm the one that didn't do what I needed to do."

##### **Forward Alan Williams -**

*(On not going to the NCAA Tournament)*

"This was something that was really important to me and my teammates, it's a shame that you can't win them all, in my case I didn't win one. But I can't sulk. I have no doubt in my mind these guys will be right back in the thick of things next year. Nothing would make me happier to see the guys I've fought with for so long make it to the tournament."

*(On shot at the end)*

"I make that shot 9 out of 10 times, that's the one time I miss it. I work on it all the time, it just didn't fall."

##### **Guard John Green -**

*(On UC Irvine)*

"They really extended in the zone. They're long and athletic. It was just trying to be patient and getting the right looks. They just weren't falling for us tonight."