



**2013 America East Men's & Women's Basketball Championship Presented by SEFCU  
Men's Semifinal #2: #4 Albany 61, #1 Stony Brook 59**

**Albany Coach Will Brown's Opening Statement:**

First I would like to congratulate Stony Brook they played a terrific game, best team in the regular season. I would also like to thank our crowd; the crowd was tremendous tonight and were thankful for all of the support. That was a gutsy win; I have tough, tough kids. I thought we could match their intensity, especially today. I thought if we turned the ball over we would be in trouble. They're good at transitions they would pick up at easy opportunities, but if we could defend them at half court we would have a tremendous game. We got ahead and we just held on at the end there. Resilient group, good win and we are not happy just to be playing on Saturday we are in it to win this thing. Vermont has been a model of consistency over the years in this league and we've played in that gym before and we've had success. I think we'll come to win. We'll be loose, have fun and we'll see what happens.

**Albany's Mike Black on doubt on that last play and the win:**

I trust coach to put the ball in my hands. He had a lot of trust in me and I'm thankful for that. It feels good. It's hard to explain to everybody that we've won 21 games. To finally beat that top team in the league it's good to get that stigma off our back. It's a good feeling right now.

**Albany's Jacob Iati on beating the top seed:**

If you're going to beat them it's going to be a tough game. It's not going to be an easy win; we're not going to beat them by 10 or 20 just because we're on our home court. They've been on top for the last three years, they are resilient and they are a good team.

**Albany's Sam Rowley on the win and his teammates:**

I was relieved. I have so much faith in these two guys next to me and the guys on the rest of the team. I know Mike [Black] can do it. If he needs to do it, he can go out and do it.

**Coach Brown on the an amazing crowd:**

I think it is really hard when you play home because guys put pressure on themselves. People expect us to win because we are hosts. We survived yesterday, at this point is all about surviving. Stony Brook had a great crowd – a lot of red out there. I know how committed they are to being successful in that program. I respect their coach [Steve Pikiell], he has done so much for their program. When he started Stony Brook wasn't this good, he built a great team, a great program and that's why I really respect him. This was the first time Vermont was cheering for us, and that was awesome.

**Coach Brown on Mike Black:**

Mike is a great player, a great young man and I trusted him throughout the entire season. He had a great career. We started strong early in the season beating Washington and Mike was a big part of that win. He is an amazing leader, and an amazing senior. He did what all seniors should do. Step up when we need him the most.

**Coach Brown's closing statement:**

I have a lot of respect for Stony Brook. They are a great team, but like I said this is why March Madness is crazy, anything can happen. Upsets happen all the time, we were a heavy underdog and we will be heavy underdogs next weekend, but we will focus on our game and hopefully come out with a win. One team is going, we have that opportunity, and this is our chance to dance.

**Stony Brook Head Coach Steve Pikiell's opening statement:**

Heck of a college basketball game. Tip your hat to Albany, they were real good. I thought this was one of the best games they've played all season. Unfortunately for us, we played good all season. This team is the best I've coached in 21 years. Unselfish kids, just came up two points short. Tough road game but Albany played two points better than us.

**Stony Brook Forward Tommy Brenton on the pressure to win:**

I don't think there was pressure. That's what we've done all year, is win on the road. They had a great atmosphere and I think they definitely fed off the crowd. This year they were two points better, last year we were two points better.

**Stony Brook on Mike Black's game-winning play**

**Brenton:** He just made a one-on-one play. He had the ball-screen and he just went the other way and made a good play.

**Dave Coley:** I was told not to help on the corner three so I think my teammate did a decent job on the ball-screen but I felt like if we just let him refuse it we would've been fine. I was told not to help off the corner three and I've been hitting three's all day.

**Brenton on his career:**

Ever since day one Coach Pikiell has been a huge help for me and a confidence booster. I just love playing here and I love the guys and the coaches, the fans, the band. Everything I've been through the past five years here has been unbelievable and I never would've thought it would happen like this.

**Coach Pikiell on the season:**

We had a great season. At this level you have to win, win, win win, win. 24 games wasn't enough and you need 26. I love this team, I think we're going to be good in the future. I think we're good. I think we're good. We have to get to 26-28 wins. That's what we have to do. That will get us into the NCAA tournament.