



**2013 America East Men's & Women's Basketball Championship Presented SEFCU
Women's Quarterfinal #1: #2 Hartford 68, #7 Binghamton 53
Postgame Quotes**

Hartford Head Coach Jennifer Rizzotti opening statement

Well, we're really excited about the win today and we're really proud of the team. I've always felt like this is the hardest game to win. The quarterfinals, there's a lot of pressure in a high seed and I think the way that we lost last year was in the back of our kid's minds, but they pushed it down and after a great week of practice and I told them all along we're going to win with our depth and tempo and follow the game plan tonight so I am proud of them for pulling that out. I also want to say the other reason I get nervous about games like this is because there is no easy win in the American East. Binghamton is obviously a worthy opponent, they were hard, and they're scrappy and we're just proud to get the win over them today.

Hartford's Amber Bepko on the loss last year

Losing last year was definitely a big heart break we have our main focus this whole week has been last year our shots weren't falling, so we can't panic if that's happening, we have to go to the post and realize that there are more people on this team that can affect the game. There are so many people that can help our offense and that's what our focus is and what we talked about as a team, to just play this game and go onto the next one.

Hartford's Katie Roth on her shooting in the second half shots

You know you can't be negative. Coach always says if your shots aren't falling there's always another way to make it happen. So making the rebound, staying confident and playing defense at the other end translates into confidence and making more shots in the game. It's just a mental thing not knocking down shots in the beginning, you keep trying. Once you get the ball on the inside it works well for us people usually collapse, that works for us and that translates into helping us make those shots.

Coach Rizzotti on the overall performance

Today I thought Daphne [Elliot] was great I think she set the tone in the first half and I think Alex [Hall]'s ball game was phenomenal, she always does great on defense but I think she was taking care of the ball and getting some points today. I also thought Ruthanne [Doherty] was key for us in the first half. She

was aggressive with blocks and gave us some points to spread it out. Again I think it came down to our seniors performing especially on a night when the key was subpar.

Opening remarks by Binghamton head coach Nicole Scholl:

“First of all, congratulations to Hartford, very well-played game. Jennifer and her staff always do a great job and it’s always a tough battle for us. For us it’s kind of a tale of two halves for us again. In the first half I don’t think we were as aggressive as we needed to be and the second half I thought we battled, I thought we made some runs, Hartford did a great job of answering back. Just overall a tough season for our players but through the whole thing, I think that one thing I was most proud was just how our players have battled all year long and we just thank the seniors for the leadership that they showed this year and we have a young group and a young and inexperienced team who can now move on as a young team but an experienced team.”

Binghamton forward Kara Elofson on difference between first and second half:

“I think the difference between the first half and the second half was definitely detail things, we had a lot of miscommunications on defense which led to them scoring, I think that definitely hurt us a lot.”

Binghamton guard Jasbriell Swain on the prospects of next year:

“We definitely were a young team because three of the starters, they hadn’t seen a lot of time last year and you know, Kara had just come back from her injury so, you know, I think there were people that did come in like Morgan Murphy, Kim [Albrecht] came in, the freshman, and even Vaneeshia Paulk as a junior point guard. I think they came in and played some significant minutes, they played well, they played hard. We were expected to make mistakes, we were such a young team, but now we’re not such an inexperienced team, we’ve meshed together and we know each other, we know our strengths, we know our weaknesses and we’re going to use that next year.”

Elofson on keeping Hartford forward, Nikkia Smith at bay:

“That’s definitely what happened, they’re a good team, so if we take away one player, they have four good players out there who are more than capable to score. So I see how they were using that to their advantage if we were taking 44 away.”

Swain on the frustration and if they could’ve done something differently:

“It was definitely very frustrating, I think it was frustrating to everybody, from our team that was out there to everyone sitting on the bench. To get that close and to chip away at that lead and to not do it and to not get over that hump, is very frustrating for everybody. But I feel if we could have done something differently, it would’ve been to focus more on the detailed things as Kara mentioned before, especially in the first half. I thought we did a pretty good job in the second half though.”