



**2014 America East Men's & Women's Basketball Championship Presented by SEFCU
Women's Semifinal No. 1: #1 Albany 65, #5 Hartford 51
Postgame Quotes**

Albany Coach Katie Abrahamson-Henderson's opening statement:

The word is poise. Hartford sets a great 3-point shooting team. We made great adjustments at halftime. It's hard when you're young to trust but it is ok if somebody makes layups or twos. I just didn't want them making threes, because they were hot. We did a good job adjusting, and just having really good poise offensively and defensively, and listening to the halftime adjustments that we did in terms of our defense. Our defense really looked like a man-to-man with Megan back there guarding two people in short corners. I think our team did a really good job adjusting and having great poise.

Albany's Megan Craig on how others guard her:

Obviously you've seen people double team me, triple team me, quadruple team me so they find it very hard to guard me. Obviously being 6ft 9 is a rarity, but I love it. They do whatever they can do to try and guard me and try and stop me, but obviously for Hartford it did not work.

Albany's Shereesha Richards on this being the third straight year to the championship game:

It is a great feeling that we are into the championship. One more game to go and we are going to go out strong, give it everything we have, we have nothing to lose. It is a championship game; we should be excited that we are there because a lot of teams are not there right now. We happen to be one of the teams that will be in the championship game, and we are very excited. It is going to be a fun day tomorrow, and we are ready to go.

Albany's Megan Craig on their run in the first half:

It set a pace, and tone for the game. We were able to set everything up, get our team going and give ourselves a little bit of extra energy. Everyone was excited, we were very happy and we were doing what we needed to do. We were not taking silly shots, we were not playing stupid defense and we were playing our game. When we play our game we get what we need to do.

Albany's Coach Katie Abrahamson-Henderson on Shereesha Richards:

You can see it in Shereesha Richards' eyes. She is kind of taking on that Ebone Henry rule where she is serious. I don't know if you watch her on the floor but she is like, "You better get me the ball." That is kind of what Ebone did.



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Hartford Coach Jennifer Rizzotti's opening statement:

We are disappointed. We came up here to win a championship and it is tough to fall short of that goal. Our kids played tough today and we really thought they could win. We have set some really high standards for our women's basketball program here at Hartford, so there is never a year where we think we cannot win the conference. There is nothing more than disappointment in the locker room right now.

Hartford's Amber Bepko on her thoughts going in to today's game:

I thought we were executing our game plan well. I told the team right before the game: "We have to fight for 40 minutes and we can win." We had someone tell us to leave it all on the court and I think we did.

Hartford's Alyssa Englert on her thoughts on Hartford's season:

It was a disappointment. I had hoped and wanted it to be more than it was. As a senior, you know you had something to do with it. I cannot point fingers at anyone on my team with the outcome of the season. Our young guys stepped up when they had to. I hope that they learn from us and from this year, and they will be ready to go for the upcoming years.

Hartford's Coach Jennifer Rizzotti on her team's season:

As I said in the locker room, we left a lot on the table this year. We did have a lot of transitions with the four seniors from last year graduating and when Katie Roth didn't come back, a lot of things that we originally had in store had to change. A lot of our young guys did step up which made an impact. However, there were a lot of inconsistencies and that comes from your upper classman. I can say confidently that Alyssa Englert was the only one on my team that left it on the table every single day. Not every game, but every day. She came to practice wanting to get better and wanting us, as a team, to be better. Hopefully our underclassman will learn from her, remember how much this hurts and work harder so we can win big games.