

QUOTATIONS

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Cincinnati Head Coach Jamelle Elliott

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Opening Statement

"First of all I would just like to say that I thought that was a heck of a game for the first inaugural American championship. I thought those were two [teams] that battled all the way down to the last second, and I just think that's a great way to kick off this inaugural tournament. It came down to a last second shot that looked extremely good from my view. I'm lucky it didn't go in. Two evenly matched teams—I'm just happy and fortunate that we were able to advance this time of year in March, and we get to live to see another day even though it's against the number one team in the country. We're just fortunate to be on the floor with them and we look forward to going out there and hopefully giving them as good of a game as possible tomorrow night."

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On tomorrow's game:

"For us, it's going to be about going out there and competing for long stretches, as long as we can. I want us to be able to look them in the eyes and really try to guard them—really try to make it hard for them to do some things."

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On team's marching orders:

"We talked about heart and effort and wanting to go out there and win—especially with their rebounding. We know when we rebound the basketball, it's all about effort and heart. We did that in the second half, and I thought that was the key. In addition to that, I thought Kayla Cook did an extremely good job denying Lewis."

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Cincinnati junior, Alysha Lovett

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Her thoughts on her final drive of game:

"I thought to pull it out at the last second but I was already in my momentum to go to the basket and I thought it was a clear view to go to the basket and score, but it didn't go in."

UCF Head Coach Joi Williams

Opening Statement

"Obviously, we're not happy with the result but just happy with how our team battled. Our basketball team has been through a whole lot this year and losing a senior starter as late as Tuesday morning was a big blow but, you know, I really felt that we battled hard at the end. We had a quick turnaround to get a game plan together with a whole new lineup so I'm just really proud of how well they fought tonight."

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Where did you go wrong?

"I really felt that we had a dry spell between [the 16 and 12 media timeouts] where we just couldn't score. The shots just weren't falling and I thought we had some pretty good looks but at the end of the day we have to hit shots and get some points on the board. Defensively, I thought we followed the game plan and did some decent things but we just had that dry spell offensively that hurt us at the middle of the half."