



Postgame Quotes
No. 9 Cincinnati 76, No. 8 UCF 66
Game 1 – First Round, March 6, 2015
Mohegan Sun Arena – Uncasville, Conn.

Head Coach Jamelle Elliott
Cincinnati

Opening Statement

"First of all, I'm sitting next to the reason that we won the game tonight. I think she had a career-high 23 points, obviously she put a dent in their zone. When they went zone, towards the end of the first half and starting the second half when they pressed, the first horn you heard was my sniper, as we call her, off the bench and she came in and knocked down some shots. You know, I thought today was an overall team effort. Everybody that stepped out on the floor was locked in defensively, if nothing else. We knew everything they were going to run, we had a week to prepare for it, and it was a situation where these guys didn't want to go home yet. I know we're facing the number one team in the country tomorrow, but today we're going to enjoy beating a very good UCF team that we split with this season. This game could have went either way today."

On offensive performance in first half

"Well, we had a week off and if you've been following our team this year, you would know that we have guys that play a whole lot of minutes. Outside of our two bye weeks, this was a week that we really gave our players a chance to rest their bodies, rest their minds, so that we could come down here and play as good of a basketball game as we can. It showed in the first half with how fresh we were physically, how alert we were mentally, how we were able to guard them and keep them to 24 points in the first half. I attribute it to rest, I think I attribute it to our senior in that locker room who is not ready to end her career, and the players that surround her that are playing for her and are playing as hard as they can. Today, like you said, we had our best scoring output, probably all season, and in the second half, they made it a little harder. UCF really picked up their pressure with some zone on us and that kind of stalled us a bit, but once she started knocking those shots down, I started to relax a little bit. It was just a matter of these guys not wanting to go home and wanting to play again tomorrow."

On second half runs by UCF (How did you respond to the spurts in the second half?)

"Well, I Makenzie in the game. Basketball is a game of runs, and going into halftime, we talked to them about the fact that they're going to go on a run, and how we respond to that run is going to be up to us. Are we going to continue to be on our heels, or are we going to come down and get a big stop or make a big shot? And when they went on their run, we came down and we had some guys taking the ball to the basket, making some outside shots, and we were able to withstand that. But, much credit to UCF, they did not give up and they played to the very end. I wouldn't have expected anything else from Joy and the way she coaches her team. They've got some young guys, we've got some young guys and we've been competing all year long against each other. We split during the season and we knew this was going to be a battle and I'm proud of the way we played. I knew they weren't going to give up and they didn't, and I'm glad we came out on top."

On facing UConn tomorrow after two head-to-head losses this season

We want to keep it as close as possible for as long as possible. Similar to UCF tonight, I want us to play hard for 40 minutes. Tomorrow is not going to be about looking at the scoreboard, trying to comeback, trying to make a run. Tomorrow is going to be about playing our hearts out. Potentially, this will be my only senior's last game. I want my freshmen, Ana and Makenzie to continue to end this season on a positive note so that they have confidence going into postseason, the summer and next year. I want to do the same thing I've been wanting to do every game, and that's for us to step off of that floor, come in the locker room, and to have something to hold on to to build off of. We're playing the best team in the country, there's no secret, we knew this was going to happen, and as a college athlete, what better way to potentially end your season than playing the number one team in the country? It doesn't get any better than that and that's the same way I feel about coaching against the number one team in the country. It just doesn't get any better than that. I'm going to learn a lot, I'm going to sit back and be in awe just like everybody else, but I'm going to coach my team like I always coach my team. And that's for us to get better and execute the best way that we can."

Makenzie Cann
Cincinnati

On her individual success in recent games

"I'm putting up extra shots and at the beginning of the year, they didn't know that I was a shooter as much, but they let me shoot and then they knew. I had to adjust to make the better shots and get my feet set, so it's the end of the year and I'm finally figuring out how to do that."

On facing UConn tomorrow

Just from being a freshman, I think it's an amazing opportunity to get to play them. It's very neat to get to play them. So, I don't think any of us are scared, we're just going to go out there and do what we do."

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