



Postgame Quotes
No. 9 Cincinnati 34 vs. No. 1 UConn 93
Game 5 – Quarterfinals, March 7, 2015
Mohegan Sun Arena – Uncasville, Conn.

Cincinnati Head Coach Jamelle Elliott

Opening Statement

"The game is over, and I'm really happy. Playing as hard as we played yesterday against Central Florida, we wanted to come out and give UConn a better effort – just from an energy standpoint, a competitive standpoint. You always do, but UConn is the number one team in the country for a reason. I know Geno well, and I know this tournament is a prelude for the NCAA tournament. He's trying to get his guys ready for NCAA tournament time, going to the final four, trying to get another national championship so I knew he was going to come out here and I know he's going to do the same thing tomorrow – the same thing Sunday to set the tone to get his guys from a mental standpoint ready to go to compete for another national championship. They did what they always do: they make open shots, they're long, they block shots, they compete, and they make it hard for you to score. My team – we always want to have small victories when you're playing teams like Connecticut. Compete. Get to the free throw line a couple of times. Shorten the game to four minute stretches. It's unfortunate because we've been playing the best basketball we've probably played all season. It showed yesterday when we played Central Florida, but when you go up against a team like Connecticut where they just have so many weapons and are just so good on the defensive end of the floor, tonight it was really hard to show our improvement. I'm proud of our team. I'm proud of my freshman class – Ana here making all rookie team. She competed today. Obviously, we would've liked it to be a little different, but it wasn't. I'm just glad that we got a chance to play two games here."

On this year's improvements and plans for next season:

"It's no secret that our best players are our freshmen and sophomores. Ana Owens obviously made all-rookie team. Makenzie Cann, who in the last three games – I think she has 13, 14, 15 threes in a game. Marley Hill who been a double-double all season long. Bianca Quisenberry, who even though she's had a knee injury, she's given us everything she has from an energy standpoint. She's having surgery on Monday. So it's no secret that our best players are freshmen and sophomores. Now that they have a year under their belt, they know what it takes to compete on this level. I think she led the league in minutes for most of the year if not all season. Now they know. Now they know how to prepare. I think we're going to be a different team next year, you know, injuries withstanding. We're going to be okay. We'll get Alyesha Lovett back who was a key part of our season last year. Her rehab is going well with her Achilles, so I just truly believe our future is bright."

On UConn's impact on the league:

"It's a double-edged sword. It helps us in recruiting. Whenever you can go in a parent's home or talk to a kid and tell them about playing in a conference with the number one team in the country – the best team in women's basketball, arguably history – that definitely helps in recruiting. As far as the league, if you take

UConn out the league, I think it's a very competitive league from top to bottom. Obviously they beat teams by a lot, but there are some other really good teams in our league. You have USF, Tulane, East Carolina, Temple. There are some very competitive and good teams in our league and unfortunately when you play UConn, when you look at the score when you're not successful. Outside of that, I think this league is very competitive, and I think it will be for years to come."

On how impressive UConn's program is with winning:

"We're trying to do what he's done, and that is to establish a program. It's all about having a program. When kids walk in the door, they know what to expect, they know how to they're expected to work, how to carry themselves, how to dress, how to speak. I went to his practice gym for the first time. We practiced there on Wednesday when we got here. It's just so impressive what he was capable of doing with the mediocre facilities he's had up until this point. It's just about establishing a program, making that program stay consistent by recruiting the types of players that fit your system and what you like to. Obviously he has to have good people around him. Obviously, CD's been with him for a long time and Shea and Marisa – that consistency means a lot. When you have good leaders – guys that's on your team that understand that it's win national championships or bust, and when you're a senior you understand that. I was in that situation, and you make sure that the guys that's in the locker room they're going to play and practice a certain way because that's a part of your legacy. You just want to be that guy – when you're in that junior class – it's a bust if you don't leave there winning that national championship. That's become what it is. I think it's a great bar to set. It just makes you more competitive and work that much harder every day."

Freshman Guard Ana Owens Cincinnati

On what she's looking forward to next year:

"It has me excited for the next few years. We talked about it in the locker room how we're going to make some noise for sure next year. So just watch out."

On UConn's defense:

"I've never seen that type of pressure in my whole life. I had to stay calm and then they're huge – everybody knows that. They kind of rattled us, but we were used to it since we had played them two times before. I think we did a good job this time breaking the press."

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