

2019 Big West Men's Basketball Tournament

Game 6 - Quarterfinal Quotes

Final - No. 3 Cal State Fullerton def. No. 6 UC Davis, 75-71 (OT)

No. 3 CAL STATE FULLERTON

Head Coach Dedrique Taylor -

(Opening statement) "Big West basketball at its finest. That was a highly competitive game. Have to tip your cap to UC Davis and their competitive spirit. Obviously, TJ [Shorts II] had his way with us, but we were fortunate to scrap and claw and come out on top. Made some crucial plays down the stretch on both ends of the floor and we were able to come out victorious. As you guys know at this time of the year, it's all about survive and advance and that was the epitome of survive and advance right there."

(On rest of the team sensing urgency from returning players) "I think the experience helps. Most importantly, I think it probably adds to the expectations because we have so many guys who were here and in uniform last year and went to the NCAA tournament. But this is a completely different year, completely different team. This group can pull from that experience, but at the end of the day, you got to come out and you got to execute for this year's group, this year's team and this year's effort."

(On winning with one FGM in overtime) "Well, I think it's the calling card of our team. I'd like it to be the calling card of our program, but at this point in the juncture, everybody knows what everybody's doing. There's no secrets, there's no hidden plays. Every once in a while you might be able to get something, but at the end of the day you have to defend. You have to defend, you have to rebound. For this group, if we can do those two things, it allows us to get out in transition and try to push the pace and push the tempo. Even though we only had one bucket, I thought we had some crucial plays where we got to the free throw line and were able to score at the free throw line and then allow our defense to get set."

Senior Guard Kyle Allman, Jr. -

(On mindset playing in overtime) "We've just got to get stops. Start with stopping them, score on whoever we can, but basically focus on stops and rebounding."

Senior Guard Khalil Ahmad -

(On finishing with 32 points after a slow first half) "Not necessarily [being] more assertive, just letting it come to me. Grind the whole game, get to the basket and get a couple easy ones."

No. 6 UC DAVIS

Head Coach Jim Les -

(Opening statement) "I appreciated not only their effort today, which I thought was exemplary, but the effort they gave us all season. None of us had the year that we wanted to have, but it wasn't for a lack of effort and for trying. Sometimes life doesn't bounce your way but they kept battling and playing, especially that senior group. I'm really proud of them and I'll be forever indebted to that group for the championships they brought to this program, for the wonderful ambassadors they've been for this program and for the quality student-athletes that are going to be, in whatever they choose to do. Also want to give credit to Fullerton, that's a good basketball team that played really well tonight and they needed to play well to beat us."

(On foul situations) "It was partly a foul situation and partly a little bit of offense and defense because they were playing mostly small. That was the advantage on the offensive end but we didn't want Matt [Neufeld] chasing smaller guys on the floor so when we could, we were trying to sub."

(On TJ Shorts II) "So much respect for him. It's easy to respect him as a player for what he does and what he's done for this program. Since the day he came in here, he put this team on his back on both ends of the floor. [He's an] excellent student and excellent ambassador for our program, and I couldn't be more proud of him. This is my eighth season and he'll go down as one of the best Aggies I've ever coached and that's credit to him, his parents and how he was raised and how he carries himself. He's a warrior, he works hard. Whatever the future holds for him ... I know he's going to be successful."

Senior guard TJ Shorts II -

(On what's going through his mind) "I'm thankful. I'm thankful for my coaches and my players who kept me going. I appreciate what they've done for me, bringing me in as a JuCo guy and letting me showcase what I was able to do in the two years that I had here."

(On finishing close to home) "It's huge. I got a huge support system that came out and they support me every time ... I definitely savor every moment I have down here and I'm just thankful for the opportunity that I had to play."