

2019 Big West Men's Basketball Tournament

Game 7 - Quarterfinal Quotes

Final - No. 1 UC Irvine def. No. 8 UC Riverside, 63-44

No. 1 UC IRVINE

Head Coach Russell Turner-

(Opening statement) "Proud of my teams performance. It wasn't pretty, but it's what we pride ourselves on. Defensively we shut them down for multiple periods of that game and wore them out. I was pleased with the way we were able to do that. Our scoring was balanced and we took good care of the ball. Even without shooting the ball, I thought we had a good enough offensive night. I was pleased I could rest so many guys in the amount that I did because we know the games will get progressively more difficult."

(On whether defense was the difference) "Sure looked like it to me it was. We have the ability to frustrate teams and make it hard for their best players. Our team did a great job of that tonight with their best player [Dikymbe] Martin, he scored as many points tonight as I did and that's a credit to our team. Not just the individuals on our team but to our team. We do our defensive thing as a team. We gave up three 3s in a short period in the first half which allowed them to gain a little confidence and get the score back close."

(On seeing [Dikymbe] Martin 3 years now and how to stop him) "He's got another year left. We do what we do. We focus on the best players and we do what we do. If you look at his performance against us, we've gotten better and better against him. When you play a team for the third time they make adjustments, but we pride ourselves on our ability to utilize the intelligence of our players and I thought that was evident tonight with how we guarded Martin."

(On shooting droughts) "You're not going to shoot the ball well every night. We had times where we shot the ball well in this game. I thought the game was really physical. That favors our defense, so im not complaining. We made a lot more than they did. In tournament basketball it's not easy to make shots over and over again."

(on status of Eyassu Worku and John Edgar Jr.) "I made the decision to keep them out. That's a daily decision that I'm faced with and communicate with them."

Junior Guard Max Hazzard-

(On facing a team you beat twice and staying focused) "Not necessarily. Like coach said, we had an opportunity to play college basketball tonight, and that's enough for us. The goal is to win three games in three days, and regardless of who's in the way, we're gonna focus on the game tonight."

(On playing with new guys and two starters out) "That's the strength of this team, that we are a team, and any given night anyone will be ready to play and they can all play well and they got us here to this point and they are always ready and prepared to play. Regardless of who's out there, we like our chances."

No. 8 UC RIVERSIDE

Head Coach David Patrick -

(Opening statement) "I am obviously disappointed... we lost to a very, very good Irvine team and I told our guys the one thing I am impressed with, is we didn't quit and we kept competing. We were down by 25 or 26 at one point and I have seen how those games get to 30 or 40 and it is a testament to our guys that they kept fighting and they've approached this whole year with me. I can't be any prouder of them especially [Menno] Dijkstra, he has been a rock for me all year and also for my team and staff. It is hard to get a new coach coming into your senior year and he hasn't balked at anything I threw at him. I played him as a starter, I brought him off the bench, I played him at the 5, I played him at the 4 and he never questioned me or my staff. He is a testament to what we are building here and he gave us something great to build on. I am thankful to be a part of the Big West Conference and I think there are great things on the horizon for us."

(On how far this team is from competing) "With the pieces we have right now and what we have coming in and the experience our freshman had, we have a bright future. I think we can be in the middle of the pack next year and hopefully move our way towards the top. Obviously, the other teams are going to improve as well, but if we add the pieces we had sitting out to the nucleus we have in place, some good things are in store for our team and this program."

Senior Center Menno Dijkstra -

(On his career) "I love it here [UCR]. Every second has been a culture shock since my freshman year. I had no idea what I was getting myself into, but welcomed it with open arms. Especially this last year, it is great to see how good this program is going to be in the next couple of years. They have a great foundation, a great head coach, a great staff who cares about their guys and put in the work. The guys stay the course and believe what Coach Patrick tells them and it is exciting for me to see wherever I am going to be, I am going to keep following them and what they are doing next year and two years from now because they are coming."