

2019 Big West Men's Basketball Tournament

Game 8 - Quarterfinal Quotes

Final - No. 5 Long Beach State def. No. 4 Hawai'i, 68-66

No. 5 LONG BEACH STATE

Head Coach Dan Monson -

(Opening statement) "First of all you have to give Hawai'i a lot of credit. They were more prepared than us, they were the aggressor. Just dominated us for the first 10 minutes and we just put ourselves down 18... and just in a tremendous hole. We were struggling with eight days off, but you look at them and they've been over here for two weeks. Yeah they got to play on Saturday to keep their rhythm, but they have been in hotels for 2 weeks almost. I would be remised to not say they played really, well. With that being said, I couldn't be more proud of our guys. Because it wasn't a textbook win by any means it was a gut-check, we-don't-want-our-season-to-end win. It was one of those you see in March when you have some seniors and some guys that just aren't accepting the outcome to be anything but advancing. The press had them sped up, but I was concerned at half as to what kind of energy we would have. We were so pumped up to start, we were over-running everything: rebounds, running by their guys, just jumping in the air on shooters... Then we started pressing and we had expended a lot of energy at half just to be down eight. I was worried, but our guys showed a lot of character to just keep fighting and continue to press."

(On whether the final play was exactly what was drawn up) "We wanted the ball in [Deishuan Booker's] "Books" hands, and we spread the court and wanted room for him to operate. I told him don't settle, it was the same set we ran in the Riverside game in overtime and he settled for a jump-shot. And he tried to penetrate and they clogged and [Jordan Robert's] guy came over. That's what great point guards do they trust their teammates and he trusted his teammates and got off the ball and [Roberts] had a seam and made a great shot. It wasn't drawn up perfectly, but we tried to space the court and let these guys make a play and the two of them did."

(On the decision to press) "Desperation. It's the last game and I told them before the game, in these situations you have to be the aggressor. And that's not jacking shots, that's getting rebounds and getting deflections and disrupting the other team. Everybody thinks it's the team that gets in a flow and it's not, it's the defense of a team that lets you get into a flow."

Senior Guard Deishuan Booker -

(On the final play) "Like coach said, he wanted me to get to the rim or draw a foul or draw some attention and find a teammate, but coming out [Jordan Roberts] told me his man was going to hedge, and to find him he'll be open and he'll knock down the shot, and he did."

Sophomore Guard Jordan Roberts -

(On emotions of last play) "Emotions were everywhere. Hawai'i came out really fighting. Considering all the seniors we had, I just didn't want the season to end like this. So I just tried to come in and be a factor as best as I could."

No. 4 HAWAI'I

Head Coach Eran Ganot -

(Opening statement) "Tough. Tough. Life is tough. That was tough. It is hard to be in that locker room but it's also part of the deal. I have a lot of appreciation and love for our guys and the effort they played with all year. It didn't go our way tonight. You shift gears when you go through this and you think about everything these guys have been through, and so much they have given to us both off and on the floor. Tonight, we had a lead for about 36 minutes and it just got a little crazy for us. I was happy with how we settled down after they made it close in the first half, but then it reared its ugly head again with our turnovers and shot selection. They made their free throws, we didn't. It happens sometimes. It is not a lack of effort or care. Also, I want to give credit to Long Beach and the way they battled. Obviously their biggest thing was how they used the press. I don't think we have shot as poorly as we did tonight in a while."

(On Facing the Full-Court Press) "Our group is in pretty good shape, but it is hard to simulate anything like that in practice. Initially we could have handled it better. We created five 2-on-1 opportunities off rebounds but I think more than anything it just got us out of sorts. We have good depth so we threw some guys to go against it, but give Long beach credit, they got us with that press."

Senior Guard Brocke Stepteau -

(On Facing Full-Court Press) "We had a good plan in place to beat the press and when they first went to it we executed very well. But as the game went on, it got us out of rhythm even when we weren't turning the ball over we took some shots we didn't want to. We handled it better in the second half but we gave them confidence in the first half when we let them come back and because of that they felt they could win the game, so credit to them for stepping up and making those big shots."

Sophomore Guard Drew Buggs -

(On Having to Sit With Two Fouls Early) "It is a little frustrating because the emphasis coming into the game was to not foul and not getting into trouble, but I had all the confidence in my guys out there on the court. Of course, I wanted to be out there on the floor but I had all the faith in my guys. We had some guys step up today and I love my team."