

# 2017 Big West Men's Basketball Tournament

## Game 5 - Quarterfinal Quotes

Final - No. 2 UC Davis def. No. 7 Cal Poly, 66-56

### No. 2 UC Davis

#### **Head Coach Jim Les**

*(Opening statement)*

"Their (UC Davis) execution defensively was outstanding. Their multiple efforts on the defensive end were good and their ability to come away with rebounds was key until we could get some separation and get the ball in the basket. We've been preaching defense for a long time and when these guys are locked in like that they are awfully hard to score on."

*(On J.T. Adenrele's performance)*

"I single J.T. out for the guy with the multiple efforts. J.T. is the guy in the ball strains so he has to help and support the ball handler and has to physically block some shots. His activity and his athleticism when he plays like that, he makes everyone on our team a better defender. He doesn't look like a guy who has two A.C.L. surgeries. There was a lot of long hours and hard work in the training room. At the end of the day, it comes down to how much he wanted it and he wanted to be back with his guys. He has a great relationship with the rest of his seniors and his team and he wanted to be a part of this."

*(On the game's physicality)*

Physically they took it to us on the boards. We just continued to remind our guys about the game and remind them about the challenge physically. I thought Chima's pursuit of the ball was great. He went and got balls out of his space. The guards came back and did a nice job of helping and supporting our bigs. He knew we needed a monster effort on the boards and we challenged him. Generally, when we challenge him he rises to the occasion. We're really proud of all of our guys, but particularly him."

#### **Senior Guard Brynton Lemar**

*(On his slow start)*

"I picked up two of the fouls and I broke my rhythm being on the floor. As the game went on, I just told myself 'be aggressive and I knew my teammates had my back and I had their backs.' From there it all just started to pick up."

*(On having to win three games in three days)*

"We know that three games in three days is a tough task. Our only focus is to take it one game at a time. We're not going to look ahead, but were going to stay focused. Our coach just keeps saying to stay focus, and to take it one possession at a time and one game at a time."

### No. 7 Cal Poly

#### **Head Coach Joe Callero**

*(Opening statement)*

"I want to congratulate Coach Jim Les and the UC Davis program for their preseason and regular season success. The victory puts them in the 20-win mark, which is great for any program, let alone a Big West program that often has to go on the road and play a lot of guarantee games. On the game, they have (Brynton) Lemar and Darius Graham, two senior guards who really run the show. Of course, Chima Moneke is newcomer of the year and a double-double machine. Of course on our offensive side, it would be very hard for us to win a game by going 1-of-7 from the 3-point line (in the first half). Obviously we made six in the second half and got back into the game. We have been that way all year, we're capable of beating anybody but we have to make about 10 3-pointers and have a high shooting percentage – 34 percent is not going to get you in the tournament."

*(On the second half runs)*

"The second half UC Davis caught that rhythm and pushed ahead and then we made a run. We looked like a team who had won three of the last four games, a team that is capable of beating anybody on any night. We tied it back up and then we missed an 18-footer and they made one, they went on a run to pull ahead by seven or eight points. We called a timeout and thought we could really stop that bleeding. We just didn't have the energy then the team was really living off dental floss at that point. I think there was some physical body fatigue."

*(On senior guard Ridge Shipley)*

I think what Ridge showed is that he has confidence. Three years ago as a freshman, he had the guts and confidence to knock down a shot at the top of the key to give us the lead to go to the NCAA Tournament. Through the next three years, he had to battle. I thought this senior year he did a wonderful job of not worrying about what have you done, but what can you do. It was his best as a leader, as a player, as a defender and emotionally. Then he used his confidence to step up and make big shots and big plays.