

2017 Big West Men's Basketball Tournament

Game 8 - Quarterfinal Quotes

Final - No. 4 Long Beach State def. No. 5 Hawai'i, 73-62

No. 4 Long Beach State

Head Coach Dan Monson

(Opening statement)

"It's a good team win and this time of year we are just trying to survive the advance. We didn't play perfect by any means. Justin [Bibbins] really set the tone for us mentally and he came out and was so aggressive offensively and really carried us until we got some other guys comfortable with the flow. I thought our defense carried us. I thought our guys did a better job of implementing the game plan in the second half. I'm proud of our guys, it wasn't easy. It wasn't easy for Irvine tonight, it wasn't easy for Davis tonight and you just have to grind through and move on. We live again for another day and hopefully tomorrow things will come a little easier."

(On defense)

"I think Barry [Ogalue] helped, we have a bit more size and length out there. He got lost a couple times and had some deflections, but his emergence has helped a bit. I think Quentin [Shropshire] has given us energy on that side of the floor, as well as Mason Rig-gins. Our bench is scoring a lot, but defensively it is also resting our offense guys that are in there. It's guys buying in and knowing that it's something that we concentrate on every possession. It's not something that comes easy to us. If we would have rebounded the ball better it could have been one of our best defensive games of the year."

(On quick Tournament turnaround)

"I don't buy that. I don't have to play, but this is an exciting time. I would rather play at 6:30 to 8:30 than have to wait around all day to get going. They will probably sleep in longer tomorrow than most days because we practice at 8:30 in the morning. These guys today have been going over Hawai'i all week. We are very familiar with Irvine and they are very familiar with us. It is the same match up as last year in the semis and a lot of the same players. It is a quick turnaround, but our preseason is very demanding that way. We have had a lot of back to back days in the preseason to get us ready for this week."

(On facing UC Irvine)

"They won this league. They've proved that they are the best in this league. They are playing really well right now. Someone is going to have to go out there and make some adjustments or they will win this tournament. We've got 40 minutes and we're the team that has the opportunity tomorrow. We're going to prepare the best we can and play the best we can."

Junior Guard Justin Bibbins

(On mentality tonight)

"I just tried to get it on the offense and it opened up early for me. I hit two quick jumpers. I didn't have to hunt for it, it just came to me on the offense. That is what's great about this team. It can be me one night and last Hawai'i game it was Tim with the hot hand. On this team it doesn't matter who is scoring, if someone has a hot hand that night we go to him."

No. 5 Hawai'i

Head Coach Eran Ganot

(Opening statement)

"These are tough. The finale hits you pretty hard. I was telling the guys it'd be nice to go back to a routine and watch some film and get our guys ready for tomorrow's game but it doesn't work out that way sometimes. It's tough but that's why we do what we do, we love the emotion involved, the ups and downs. I give credit, obviously, to Long Beach State for a hard fought win. A lot of respect there. They did what they needed to do and made big plays down the stretch, we didn't, they did and they deserve a lot of credit for that. I'm incredibly proud of our entire program. You try to get perspective after, its tough when you'd like to keep playing but the important thing right now as the season concludes is to show great appreciation and, rightfully so, for a group of guys that have been through some tough times and handled it incredibly well, professionally and, this group, its tough because they want to keep playing, that's the beauty of their game sometimes, the heartache and the great moments. And we fought hard today, we had some adversity we had to go through, but the fight was always there, 100 percent, and it has been all year with our limited depth, and things we were going through. Through all that we went into the final week of the year confident in third place with a chance to, final weekend of the year, be back-to-back top three finishes which never happened in conference affiliation for our program. That's incredible for a group that had one-point per game returning. What I like about the group is that we talk about those things but we felt we could do it and we did a lot of great things. We didn't get it done tonight but that's life. I think we'll handle it well as we have all year."

(On whether he believed UH could make it this far despite all the NCAA sanctions and lack of depth returning)

"You've got to have great faith. These guys know from day one we didn't know our fate but we certainly had control over our belief and continuing to do things right and that's all I ever talked about. Last year's group we had the one talk where we heard on December 22nd and that's it, we never talked about it again. We talk about the elephant in the room in our program, we are very direct and honest. You know, you go into this year and you don't know. We talked about it with our team but there was 100 percent faith and if it didn't work out our way I knew we would continue to handle things the right way and that's all you can and should be judged by. Your ability to live right and I'm really proud of the people in our program at UH."

Senior Guard Noah Allen

(On what was going through his mind when he stepped of floor for final time)

"How thankful and blessed I am to have been given this opportunity to be coached by this staff and to be embraced by my teammates. The fan base and the colors have been really special to me."

(On trying to stop LBSU's big men)

"It was a focus for us coming in, and they are very talented players. You know, Yussuf and Prince, and we didn't do a good job of containing them."