

# 2009 Big West Women's Basketball Tournament

## Game 1 Quotes

Final - No. 8 Cal State Northridge def. No. 5 UC Davis, 64-56

### No. 8 Cal State Northridge

#### **Head Coach Staci Schulz -**

**OPENING STATEMENT** - A lot of pride goes out to my group right now. It can be a long haul during the season, and they've been tenacious and they've really prevailed in the last couple of games. They're playing hard and if there's a time to peek I'll take it right now.

**On what the coaching staff and team saw in the game film from their most recent meeting with UC Davis that allowed CSN to be more successful in the paint.**

I think it is what (UC Davis) saw from the tape. In the first half with our game with them last week we didn't shoot very well in the first half. In the second half we shot the ball really well and I think they felt like they needed to get out. You can ask them that. But it just appeared by itself. And then when Katrina Thompson (we call her "train") was successful at the high post it would suck back in for us and then open things up on the outside.

**On the success of the CSN full court press.**

The play by design is a slower offense and we went with a smaller lineup even against some of their taller lineups. Our goal was to spend 20 seconds on that side of the court and only 10 seconds playing against their fabulous, fabulous Princeton offense. (Playing against that kind of offense) can really get a team, especially because they play it so well. We also wanted to move the ball quickly get their defense to jump from one side to the other as many times as possible. Obviously there were times when we rushed it, and there were times when we passed up shots that were there. But the goal was to make the games "ours." Play 30 seconds on our end and then another 20 seconds before we let them get back to their end.

**On keeping Paige Mintun scoreless in the second half.**

We made an adjustment. In the first half she got her 13 points relatively easy because we were fronting her, which is something we'd been doing, but we missed out on our helpside assignments. In the second half we had some great individual performances on players stepping up and helping out.

On the fact that CSN only had three players score for most of the game

The coaching staff made me aware of it at some point and you know we have another senior in Ashley Blake who was struggling in the first half, but she sure hit a nice strong three-pointer down the stretch the group calls it the backbreaker. She couldn't have hit that at a better time. And that fueled her to start being very effective in the press and I know she grabbed a couple of steals off of it.

#### **Junior Katrina Thompson -**

On how the team rebounded so well against a taller lineup

We have a tie drill in practice called AOL, and we have practice players who are male and we know that we have to box out and put a body on them because we can't outjump guys. And that's been our bugaboo lately. And we're starting to understand that we need to rebound to win games. We were out there today putting a body on everybody and "big ups" to our practice players."

### No. 5 UC Davis

#### **Head Coach Sandy Simpson -**

**OPENING STATEMENT** - "It seems like a formality in these situations to congratulate a team for a victory but I sincerely mean it with Cal State Northridge. With the adversity they faced last year, they've played well down the stretch this year. We prepared for their pressure, but they made their shots when they needed. We had numerous opportunities, but Cal State Northridge took advantage of the ones they had.

**On Cal State Northridge's Pressure**

We didn't do a great job in some circumstances and we telegraphed a lot of passes. This game didn't come down to the number of turnovers, but when we committed them. I thought, at times, we did handle their pressure well. I told the players that if they didn't like what they saw, pull out."

#### **Sophomore Paige Mintun -**

**On Second-Half Scoring Drought**

I didn't get the ball a lot and the pressure got to us. From the previous games, they knew about me and I got doubled a lot. (Cal State Northridge) executed well, doubling down in the post. They knew where I was on the court most of the time.