

2015 Big West Women's Basketball Tournament

Game 13 - Finals Quotes

Final - No. 2 CSUN def. No. 1 Hawai'i, 67-60

No. 2 CSUN

Head Coach Jason Flowers -

(Opening statement)

"First off Hawai'i had a tremendous regular season, a regular season champion, which is harder to do. Laura has done a great job building that program. The reason everyone is up here is this group became a team throughout the year. Everybody made a difference. Through the thick and the thin, these young women did what they are supposed to do, they made sacrifices and became a team."

(Competing against shot blockers)

"At the end of the day, the ball is going out of bound and we still have the basketball. We kept possession instead of them blocking the shot, keeping it in bounds and us getting a turnover. Just because it might not work the first time, doesn't mean we stop doing it. It is the character of this group, they put their head down and kept attacking."

(Adopting a pressure defense)

"There has never been a good team that hasn't been a very good defensive team. We started to really get it going defensively a couple weeks ago. That was a big sacrifice our guys decided to make. We knew we were a different team the last time we played them (Hawai'i), so we knew it was going to be different than the first two matches."

(Core senior leaders and two winning seasons)

"These young women came in, four seniors and Cinnamon joining them later, went from four wins to seventeen wins. Their freshman year they won seventeen games and haven't looked back. We sold them on what they could be, we have to keep reminding them that. This group statistically, as far as wins in a season, as far as what they have accomplished over this season, this is the best team in school history. They have worked their tails off, sacrificed, cried, bled, but they are standing here as the best team to have ever played at Cal State Northridge."

(4-5 season start, then 9 wins in a row)

"They got a couple days off, then we came back and went harder than we have all year. They responded the right way. You can't control what happens but you can control how you respond to it. Practices got more intense, there was a lot more running, but they didn't stop trying to find a way, and the way was working harder."

(Challenges throughout the season)

"I think any time you have success in a group environment it is easy to forget why you are successful. Early on we weren't winning games, it wasn't right, we made a skid in conference play. They figured it out and rededicated themselves."

Guard Ashlee Guay -

(Challenges throughout the season)

"We struggled a lot through this season, we kept asking, what is wrong. What helped us to get back and even better than last year, was we never gave up. Everyone came together."

(4-5 season start, then 9 wins in a row)

"I feel like we never had time off, because it was a trick. Time off means you better be in the gym, you better be getting an extra workout in and you better be ready when you come back because it is about to be real. It got us back on the same page and got our minds ready to practice. We didn't stop trying and we came in and it was probably the hardest practices we have ever had, but look where we are now."

Guard Cinnamon Lister -

(Challenges throughout the season)

"Last year we bought into what we were meant to do. This year we bought into coming together and re-buying into the system."

(Competing against shot blockers)

"At practice we practice going full speed at the basket, it helps us do it in the games. We didn't let them blocking our shots discourage us."

Guard Janea Sharpe -

(Going against tennis racquets in practice to work on blocked shots)

"Honestly, I hate it, because I get my shot blocked every time. But if you buy into what they are saying and what they are telling you, and just listen and apply, we win against teams like Hawai'i and teams that are way bigger than us."

No. 1 Hawai'i

Head Coach Laura Beeman -

(Opening statement)

"This is the press conference you don't want to do. First congratulations to CSUN. They're a phenomenal team. They're peaking at the right time. Their guard play is phenomenal. Congratulations to them for a fantastic season. They gave us a great punch that tells us what kind of team we are."

"We couldn't get to the free-throw line and with that we still made this a seven-point ball game and that tells you what kind of ladies these are."

(On the CSUN pressure)

"Their pressure was more intense. We knew it was coming... it wasn't the actual pressure that got us, it was what we did with the ball after we crossed half-court. We couldn't find the open player and once we found the open player we struggled. We were unable to hit some shots and we picked a bad night to not hit layups."

Guard/Forward Shawna-Lei Kuehu -

(On thoughts after season)

"This one hurts. We've accomplished so much this year and this season, I'm going to take some time to let the wounds heal. It's not over."

"We'll take this as a learning experience and move on."

Center Megan Huff -

(On the challenges from adjusting from high school to college play)

"Coming from high school you didn't have to compete at your highest at all times and now it's been a struggle to give it 100 percent every time."