

2009 Big West Women's Basketball Tournament

Game 7 Quotes

Final - No. 1 UC Santa Barbara def. No. 3 Cal Poly, 64-57

No. 1 UC Santa Barbara

Head Coach Lindsay Gottlieb -

On falling behind by 15 points in the first half and coming back:

"I don't think it was being flat. I think they jumped on us, and we didn't respond as well as we could have, and it played into their hands. At the end of the day, it was holding off, getting open, making sharp cuts, and getting where we needed to be. There was no magic formula, just our players settling in and being a bit sharper with execution."

On Chris Spencer's spark off the bench:

"There's not a player that's more focused and more ready to go, whether I ask her to play 25 minutes or 5 minutes. The lift she gave us was definitely when we started rebounding and taking care of the basketball, but Chris a gigantic part of that with her hustle, she knocked down shots - it was unbelievable."

"I love this team so much; I really do. I've told them all year that every team, each year, is a unique experience. Even if you replace just one player, it's a different feeling. I hope I have a long career, I hope I'm fortunate to win other championships, but this team right now if one I will never forget."

Senior center Jenna Green -

On getting the ball in crunch-time:

"When get in position where I'm really confident and I know I can make something happen, whether that's me scoring or finding a shooter open, I want to step up and just do whatever it is at that time for my team to be successful."

On Senior leadership:

"We knew this was our year, but it wasn't going to happen unless we were a unit. That includes all 15 of us, but really as seniors you know you have to lead them. It was kind of 'by any means necessary' and playing hard."

No. 3 Cal Poly

Head Coach Faith Mimnaugh -

"I'm so proud of the team. We were in the position to win and I'm proud of our effort. Our execution at times was stagnant. We gave up shots at the end that hurt us, but we were evidently matched and it was a great ball game. Congrats to Santa Barbara."

Did the 15-point lead in the first half feel secure?

"Never ... they're great and we knew they'd make runs. We fought the whole game. We didn't play perfect, didn't make shots, but we left it all on the court today."

Season in retrospect

"It was a great season for us. We worked, made sacrifices ... team is one of the top in the country in assists."

WNIT chance?

"It's a possibility. We know Riverside is in from a standings perspective. We lost to UCLA by nine. Ann Meyers remarked on what an incredible team we have. I hope the NIT takes a look at us."

What did the Gauchos have this year that you could not overcome?

"In today's game it was offensive rebounding. We had to foul at the end, so it would have been a 2-3 point game. Jenna Green is a large woman, probably takes two people to box her out. She came up with big plays for them. She is a great player, hopefully she'll get an opportunity to keep playing. Same with Lauren Pedersen. But the difference today was Johnson and Spencer. We did a good job on Pedersen and Green, but the role players were too much. Our attention was on the star players, and the others stepped up."

Megan Harrison

Her 10 points early - did SB do anything different?

"They denied me the ball, so if I didn't touch the ball I couldn't score..."

On the stagnant period

"We got caught watching them. They took our offense away from us. But there was never an instant where I did not think we would not win."

On UCSB's experience in tournament finals

"They're a great team who made plays down the stretch, but I don't think experience played into it much."

Looking back on this year vs. previous years

"This was a great season. I loved it and am going to miss everyone."

Lisa McBride

On UCSB's experience in tournament finals

"Our team fought hard and never gave up. Everyone kept fighting."

Looking back on this year vs. previous years

"Everyone worked hard. The coaches were always on us. We had a Division I attitude. Everyone gave their most all year long. We all worked hard."