



2018 Big West Men's Basketball Tournament

Presented by MemorialCare

Game 12 - Semifinals Quotes

Final - No. 3 UC Irvine def. No. 2 UC Santa Barbara, 61-58



No.3 UC Irvine

Head Coach Russell Turner -

(Opening statement) "I'm proud of my team tonight. The game type was the type of game I thought it would be: a close game that would be decided in the last few minutes. We showed the same type of resilience and toughness that we've had to show in many games in this conference. In the second half, I'm really proud of the defensive performance that our team had. The first half was difficult because there was foul trouble and it was difficult to adjust to way the officials were calling the game in the second half. We showed the type of defensive team that we're capable of being and I'm proud of these guys. We were able to win because our team has great belief in our ability to impact games and our opponents by getting stops."

(On bench outscoring UCSB 31-1) "It's pretty good. We had two starters that didn't score and that's really the nice thing about this team. We've had unselfish kids who work really hard who want badly to be good and play together unselfishly. Jalen Canty was the difference in the first game we played UC Santa Barbara. I thought we had a better game plan tonight against him and I thought we had outstanding individual defense against him from both Elston [Jones] and Brad [Greene] the entire game. It's a good team win and I'd also like to also acknowledge that our guys are giving up a lot of experience advantage to the team that we just played. That team has old people on their team; experience people on their team who wanted badly to be able to perform and win. To overcome the youth is exciting."

(On emphasis defensively) "We focus on the individual tendencies of the best players we need to take away and then we plan for how we're going to do that as a group. Some of that are matchups; some of that is where we want to dictate the ball to go. We executed about as well as we could have. Their five starters were an outstanding offensive team. They're veteran and good and they all can make plays. They all can shoot, they all can pass so it takes an excellent defensive team to stop them. That's what we were. We were connected in the second half and I was surprised we didn't rebound better. We gave them multiple chances by not rebounding a lot of balls and they beat us to a lot of loose balls. Our defense stiffened up."

Sophomore Guard Max Hazzard -

(On scoring production) "The best thing about this team is that we are a team and we usually do a good job of scoring but nobody really carries too heavy of that load and we all know, we're all confident in each others abilities and we believe in each other. It's really just about executing."

(On big shots throughout the tournament) "It comes from practice every day. We push each other every day. We're really confident and we push each other to get better each and every day so when there's an opportunity like that, there's nothing more exciting. We play different drills in practice that prepare us for situations like this. We learn and we're excited for tomorrow."

Sophomore Forward John Edgar Jr. -

(On the last few minutes) "Coach always preaches to play defense and rebound the ball and get stops, what coach was saying. Execute plays down the stretch and I think we did that as well."

No. 2 UC Santa Barbara

Head Coach Joe Pasternack -

(Opening Statement) "I thought our guys really competed tonight from start to finish and just told them sometimes you can do anything in life and you don't come out on top. That's what I think it was tonight. Our guys really fought for a full 40 minutes and defended, rebounded, but at the end of the day it was going to come down to the rebounded war. They came out on top, 40 to 38. I thought that was the difference in the game, but I'm really proud of these seniors. They really persevered, and in a lot of ways will leave a legacy that made history in a lot of different categories in this wonderful season that we had."

(On being outscored by Irvine's bench, 31-1) "That's been our ammo all year. We haven't had a ton of depth. We've kind of rode it on our five starters, and probably, late in the year, it caught up to us. UC Irvine definitely has a lot of depth, and they were allowed to rest their guys, and at the end of the game that probably was the difference."
Late in the year, it caught up to us

(On possibility in playing in another tournament) "Couple of different ones have contacted us, but no. Our season's over."

(On improvement from last year to No. 2 seed) "I attribute this to our seniors. They worked so hard and ever since we got here in April, they really honored the process. I'm really happy of, hopefully, teaching them about honoring the process. If you honor the process, the results will take care of itself. I thought our team really bought in to our philosophy, and had a great year."

Senior Forward Leland King II -

(On last nine missed shots) "We got some pretty good looks. Sometimes shots just don't fall. That's just how basketball works sometimes. It happens, but we competed. That's all you can care about and worry about because offense is gonna be there sometimes and sometimes it's not."

(On Irvine's physicality) "No. Shots just didn't fall. Obviously, they're a physical team, but we're also a physical team. We work really hard in the weight room, we do a lot of stuff, we prepare every single day, so I don't think it was really fatigue. It's just the game of basketball. Sometimes shots are gonna fall, sometimes they're not. It is what it is, but we played hard, we competed, we got good looks."

(On emotions) "Disappointing, we really wanted to win, but i'm a firm believer, if you do whatever you can, play as hard as you can, you can't be upset at the result. We trust the process. Coach tells us about this every single day. Every single day we're in the gym. Every single day guys are getting shots. Every single day guys are working for these moments. Every single day we were building into this point. The ball didn't bounce our way tonight. It's the little things that didn't happen throughout the game. Obviously, we're upset. You're never satisfied when losing. You never want to lose, but if you go out there and you know you know you gave it your all, that's all you can really ask for."