



2018 Big West Men's Basketball Tournament

Presented by MemorialCare



Game 6 - Quarterfinal Quotes

Final - No. 4 Cal State Fullerton def. No. 5 Long Beach State, 76-74

No. 4 Cal State Fullerton

Head Coach Dedrique Taylor -

(Opening Statement) "This time of year it's all about survive and advance and that's literally what we did out there tonight. I thought we had two teams that battled and played a very physical ball game but at the end of the day the stats are what they are. I thought our guys battle and it's a heck of a game there down the stretch they had a lot of opportunities and I was very nervous but the one thing I want to say about our group is that no matter what was going on throughout the course of that game they had a determined look to finish the game and finish it strong and that's what gave us the edge to get some big rebounds and just survive and advance."

(On Rowe's defensive performance on Levin) "This time last year Jackson was sidelined so I think he wanted to take advantage of the moment and the opportunity. At the dead ball with about four minutes left Jackson asked if he could guard Gabe without help and to me it was a sign that we were going to be okay. To me that says a lot about Jackson and of his mentality as a junkyard dog ever since he has set foot on campus and the more and more he plays to that the more he will be productive and help our team come our successful."

(On defense on Booker/Gabe) "I thought down the stretch just trying to stay in front of him was key. Gabe and Booker are very crafty and they are good at using their body and strength to get to the rim and I thought our guys did a good job of moving their feet and getting in the way of them and the rim and they made him earn every bucket he got down the stretch."

(On final shots of game that could've tied it) "I am not as spiritual as I should be but one of coaches said the basketball gods smiled upon us and I thought 100 percent they did. Some people say it's better to be lucky than good but I thought both of those things would be appropriate tonight. It gave us an opportunity to keep playing. Every look that they got I thought it was a good, clean look and I have no idea other than a higher power saying that is not going in."

(On confidence going forward) "I think this is a huge confidence builder for us. The one thing I want to caution this group is that we swept Davis in the regular season but this is the postseason and that is all that matters. It is hard to sweep a team and then beat them a third time in the postseason so I think we have to change our mindset. But overall I think today gave us a new level of confidence for tomorrow's game which is going to be a huge battle there is no other way around it and there will probably be a lot of pace to that game as well."

Sophomore Forward Jackson Rowe -

(On final plays of the game) "Whoever wants it is going to get it and that's what it's all about at the end of the day. "

(On Awosika's performance) "A lot of Austin's game is not on paper, a lot of it is emotional. I don't think we would've won this game without his energy and effort that he brings every night."

(On getting win after missing last year tournament) "It felt good I was a little nervous in the first half but in the second I realized this is the last opportunity I'm going to have this year to play so I might as well go hard."

(On final min down stretch) "I told Jamal [Smith] and Austen [Awosika] to key in on Booker while Jackson was guarding Gabe. All we had to do was key in on him then rebound and run."

No. 5 Long Beach State

Head Coach Dan Monson -

(Opening Statement) "I think it's one of those games where it's like two different emotions. One, it was a tough way to go out and we had great opportunities, I thought we were in control for most of the game. We had some opportunities; we had eight or so. We got to give them credit they really attacked us the second half and they got us on our heels defensively in the second half. The other emotion is that, as teams go out this week or next week or the week after, there's only one team that was truly doesn't have this feeling and I'm really proud that we went out fighting. I'm really proud that effort is not why we lost. It was a great scrap game. I thought both teams played really hard. Losing games is unacceptable; these guys aren't losers. We just got beat today and they made more plays in the paint and finished better. They just did a good job of contesting in the paint. Give them credit and good luck to them tomorrow."

(Frustration with shots coming out of the game) "I thought Timmy's up and under was good. I thought Book's shot at the end was good. Timmy's up and under would have put us up five with a minute and thirty left. If I'm not mistaken there we had a good look to go up 5 after Timmy made a great defensive play. It looked like we were going to win our game with our defense here in the last couple of minutes because we did a good job. You feel for the guys because they take the run of that and Timmy and Gabe struggled in there. Gabe missed some shots he normally makes. I think the two of them combined were 4 for 11 at the half and finished 8 for 30. As a coach, I could tell this was their team and that's how we got here when we had success this year was because of our captains. Book was a great X factor today for scoring. At the end of the day when your season was over as a coach, what you don't want to say is that you didn't go with your guys and those two guys are great players, they were a great inside presence for us."

Senior Forward Gabe Levin -

(On final game for LBSU) "It sucks. I had a lot of goals and an unorthodox journey to get here. I had some goals to get to that tournament. It's not the way I wanted to end it but it's who I wanted it to end with. I can't be more grateful and happy for that type of family and love from the team."

(On some shots going off) "We had the looks and that's what you want but sometimes it just doesn't go your way. It stinks it really does. This team I can't say enough about them. I really love this team, but you know the nucleus is still there. I think we built a foundation for next year and I'm really happy for that. I'm going to live vicariously through them."

Junior Guard Deishaun Booker -

(On being double teamed) "I think they made a good adjustment to protect the paint a little bit better in the second half. I don't really think it was really a double team, they just protected the paint really well. We just have to do a better job of finishing."