



2018 Big West Men's Basketball Tournament

Presented by MemorialCare

Game 8 - Quarterfinal Quotes

Final - No. 2 UC Santa Barbara def. No. 7 Cal Poly, 75-53



No. 2 UC Santa Barbara

Head Coach Joe Pasternack -

(Opening statement) "I thought tonight our guys really locked in. It was our best defensive performance of a half in the first half... Did an incredible job of holding them to 0-8 from three. Just so proud of these guys they battled through all kinds of adversity and we really showed up ready to play tonight."

(On less from Cal Poly game) "It wasn't about Cal Poly it was about ourselves. We had to tighten up our defense and sometimes a loss does that. It was evident tonight that we keep getting better defensively as the year goes on and that's what you want."

Senior Guard Gabe Vincent -

(On lesson from Cal Poly game) "We learned about our defense, we learned about what went wrong and what happens when we play defense the wrong way. It was a great experience for us, obviously we learned a lot."

Senior Junior Forward Ami Lakoju -

(On double-double) "I'm here to help. Credit to my teammates as well for trusting me and continuing to work with me throughout the season. It's time to continue to grow and get better."

No. 7 Cal Poly

Head Coach Joe Callero -

(Opening statement) "Our postgame speech went something like this, 'stats don't matter, stats disappear and go one way or another. This was about people trying to compete, trying to do anything they can possibly do. I thought that in the first five minutes of the game, when hit three or four layups, and they knocked down three or four shots, I don't know what the stats say right now. But it feels like they shot fifty percent from the three point line, and it feels like we shot it at twenty percent. As I said to the team over and over, I'm never going to trade stats for people, but at the end of the day, 'he who makes buckets wins games.' It's a real simple philosophy and hats out to Santa Barbara, multi-prong attack."

(On what to talk to players about when down 27) "Well, the biggest thing is to review what our gameplan was. We tried to pick up the pressure. Last time we played them at their place, they only had five turnovers. I just thought that we allowed them to move the ball wherever they wanted to and really got it going. We tried to pick up the pressure, and tonight we forced 14 turnovers, and of course Cal Poly Basketball is to move the ball and keep your own turnovers down. There were eight to ten points that were emotion-breakers. So we were just trying to get the game down to the low-teens and try to chip away, and hope to change the tide, emotion and energy, but it was obviously way too big of a hole. You have to give them credit. I think that's a good a five players, starters, that from top to bottom, we played against in the last nine years."

(On slow start) "Our inside game is basically driving to the hoop. We don't have a proven post-up player, where you just throw the ball under there and say 'go to work.' When you have that, you have a different team. You look at all the teams that are playing right now, they have a guy that you can throw the ball down to the basket and get fifteen or twenty points. We're still developing those types of players. Our slow starts is because game is based upon driving and shooting, and that's very tough to make it a consistent basis."

Senior Guard Victor Joseph -

(On what UCSB did to limit Cal Poly) "I think it's their two big men they have in there. Me and Don [Fields] are under six feet tall, so I feel like they were contesting and altering our shots. And today we just had a few roll-outs, just like coach said."

(On difference compared to regular season games vs Gauchos) "First game, I believe they weren't hitting as many threes, compared to the last two games. It felt like they came out hot in the first half, and felt like they were knocking down threes, like coach said. It felt like every time we'd get a stop, they would hit a big three. It's really crushing."

(On disappointment) "I wouldn't say disappointed, because my team really fought all year. It kind of makes you upset, because you know how much work you put into it. A little hurt because you can't fight with these guys anymore, but I wouldn't say disappointed."

(On conversation with teammates when down by 27 points) "Not give up. We thought like the first half, they were hustling harder than us and we just had to come out and play in the second half. There are no 20-point plays, so chipping away, fighting on the offensive and defensive glass, and just chipping away from that lead. Just keep fighting."