

2017 Big West Men's Basketball Tournament

Game 12 - Semifinals Quotes

Final - No. 2 UC Davis def. No. 3 Cal State Fullerton, 66-64 OT

No. 1 UC Davis

Head Coach Jim Les -

(Opening statement) "Late night with the Aggies, hope you enjoyed it. I've been doing this for awhile, and I don't think I've been fortunate enough to be part of a 'guttier' performance. I think these guys showed who they are, their character, their makeup, their resiliency, their toughness, their refuse-to-lose mentality. It was just awesome to be a part of it and I'm glad they got the result they were fighting so hard for."

(On start to game) "I thought we were playing fast, and rushed. And that's not how we're effective or most efficient. There was a timeout in there and we were able to settle down. They wanted to win the game in the first couple minutes by taking a lot of jump shots. The other thing we talked about as a staff, until the ball starts dropping, stay solid on defense and they were mature enough to do that. We held a good team to 30 percent shooting and that was a complete team effort."

(On chance to play Irvine again) "We're preaching survive and advance, we watched the game, I didn't necessarily have a horse in the race, but I do know I have a lot of respect for Russ [Turner] and the team that they have. We'll get back to work and get a game plan. I respect them and we're looking forward to the challenge to compete tomorrow."

(Recovery from 9-1 deficit) "I think a couple things, our guys made some second and third defensive plays which got us going. I thought J.T. [Adenrele] and Lawrence [White] hit the offensive boards. We talked about that in the first timeout. They ignited us with their energy and enthusiasm, it's amazing how infectious that energy is."

(On final play) "At the end of regulation we spent the majority talking about the second-chance opportunity. And we were able to get the stop and then rebound. Coming back, we wanted the ball in Brynton's hands, they took it out of his hands, he made the right play to Siler. Siler took the shot, and Chima, he's got a knack and a nose for the ball. It's no coincidence he has as many double-doubles as he has and he rebounds the ball as good as he does. He finds a way, he's really good at adjusting to the flight of the ball. He's got quick twitch muscles. For him to do it at this stage, at that time, I think says a lot about him, what a big-time player he is."

Junior forward Chima Moneke -

(On game-winner) "I thought about the Long Beach game when it didn't count. I was just relieved because it was a tough game, one of the toughest games I've ever played in. It just feels good to win a game like that."

(On facing UC Irvine after regular season finale) "That's what I was looking forward to, especially after that game. They took it to us and they were a better team that night. They took me out of that game, to go to March Madness I want to go against the best. We'll bring it tomorrow night."

(Last play) "I knew when Siler shot it there was time left and Khalil Ahmad didn't box out. I realized that if he missed I'd get the offensive rebound and that's what I did. I tried to stay cool and I knew there was enough time to get it up and in."

Senior guard Brynton Lemar -

(On nine overtime points) "As a senior, I think it's my responsibility to step up and make plays whether it's on offense or defense. They weren't hedging my screen. I'm a senior and I want this, I want this for my team."

(On what makes UC Irvine different) "They're very well coached. They play defense really well, they play tendencies really well. They know what they're doing. We know tomorrow is going to be a game of who's the best defense."

No. 3 Cal State Fullerton

Head Coach Dedrique Taylor -

(Opening statement) "Obviously disappointed with the outcome but most importantly I'm proud of this group of guys in the way they fought, the way they battled, the way they handled themselves. Extremely proud of our group, I hurt for them because I thought they played their behinds off out there on the floor. This will sting for a little while, it definitely will, but I think when we look back and realize how far we have come I think we will be excited about what we have done and I think we can be excited about what the future holds for this program."

(On final play) "I thought attacking us on the glass was a part of their game plan, and they executed it very, very well. You have to tip your hat to UC Davis and particularly, Moneke because that's what he does. He's extremely aggressive and extremely physical and I think he continued that tonight."

(On Coggins and Leslie's final game) "It's bittersweet because I feel like those guys deserve the opportunity and they earned the right to be able to come back tomorrow and unfortunately the ball didn't fall the way we were hoping that it would but it was rewarding, I think, most importantly for them because of the sacrifices they've made, the journey they've taken to get to where they are today. Their upbringing was completely different but they're bonded by basketball, bonded by a toughness, bonded by a competitive spirit that I thought we all saw, particularly, on display tonight and that's what I'm most proud of about those guys, and it sucks just simply because you'd like to give them another opportunity but unfortunately it's not going to happen that way."