



2013 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

First Round · Stanford vs. Tulsa

Maples Pavilion – Stanford, California

Sunday, March 24

QUOTES – Stanford

Opening Statement

Tara VanDerveer, Stanford Head Coach: "I want to compliment Coach Mossman and the Tulsa Golden Hurricane, with no 's'. I thought they really came out very aggressive. I thought they played really well. It took us a little time to get some traction and get going, but I'm really proud of how our team battled. We definitely looked like we had two weeks off and we played like that in the first half. But in the second half, we started to get things going. I thought Amber (Orange) played really well for us. I thought Taylor (Greenfield) came in and gave us great minutes off the bench. Chiney (Ogwumike) was our usual Chiney out there scoring and rebounding for us. We're moving on and we're very excited to play whoever wins over there."

On the mood at the half and the message going into the second half:

Taylor Greenfield, Stanford Forward: "We keep a pretty consistent mood. We don't get rattled. I think that's one thing that keeps us so strong. The message was that we could have twenty minutes left of our season. We don't want it to end, we love playing together. Everybody got motivated. The first half was over; the score was 0 to 0 and we stepped up in the second half."

On being covered by three people every time she gets the ball:

Chiney Ogumike, Stanford Forward: "I come into every game expecting the worst, expecting to be the focus. I think that presents a huge opportunity for our team. I love playing like that because my teammates are so unselfish and they really step up. Every game we want someone different stepping up. I think Taylor was huge for us. I try to stay positive or try to smile, because it's just a game. I try to be aggressive, just like coach says. It's our number one goal for a reason. I just want to be there, be aggressive and be that blue collar player that is consistent for our team."

On her not smiling when coming into the second half:

Ogwumike: "I actually should qualify that statement. After the four-minute mark I was mean-faced. Coach told me at one point, I think after our second Cal game, that I need to stay poised, poised, poised. This is a time where all joking is aside because you can go home at any point. I smiled after our great plays but I was definitely trying to stay tough, poised and together for our team."

On how disruptive Tulsa's pressure was in the first half:

Greenfield: "It was clearly disruptive to our offense. I think more so, it didn't seem like we were expecting it. We've played against it before, so we weren't necessarily rattled but we weren't poised. Once we figured it out, you can tell 'OK, this works and this doesn't' but it kind of took a little bit to get into that."

Ogwumike: "And I think we were a little anxious. Everyone was so excited to come out on the court, especially at Maples. We have a heck of a crowd tonight and I think we are a young team, so you saw a little bit of our youth. I'm happy with the way our team responded. We've been tested all year."

On her reaction to the three steals in the first 43 seconds of the game:

Ogwumike: "Coach always says games are not won or lost in the first five minutes. You have to weather the storm. I knew the first 20 or so minutes were not our best minutes of Stanford basketball, but that's the beauty of our team. We put all those things aside. We have short memory and we work hard. I think this tournament is about teams that work hard, play for each other and peak. Hopefully that experience will help us later - a competitive first game. It would be nice to win by a large margin, but all these are new experiences for our team: on this stage, being able to pull a win together against a really aggressive team so I'm really proud of our effort."

On whether they were thinking about the history of Stanford being beaten by a No. 16 seed at home:

Ogwumike: "Definitely not during the game, but we know our history. That's the beauty of history, you can learn from it. We know we don't want to be that team, but that team had a few situational factors that we tend to overlook. We are just out there to play for each other and to try to get a win. Coach Tara really helped us get going after halftime. I have to defend my team."

On whether Coach VanDerveer 'lit into the team' at halftime:

Ogwumike: "No, I wouldn't say that. Coach Tara is very poised. That's the beauty of experience. She's very experienced and she's poised. She knows how to motivate us, not by reaming into us, but getting us to do our job. That's one thing she told us this week, to do your job. That's what we wanted to do the second half and I think we did a better job of doing it the second half."

On her mindset coming into this game and what she needs to do now:

Greenfield: "[Coach Tara] is always talking about doing your job, that's the biggest thing. I think that I've been overlooking my job thinking 'someone else can do it' kind of thing, like I don't want to do it. But now it's kind of like something hit and it's tournament time, I want to win, I want to go as far as we can with this team because we couldn't have any more fun together and I don't want it to end. We're down one guard right now, I want to be able to help at the guard spot. I want to make things happen on offense so we can get the ball back in to Chiney. We're not necessarily going to take the attention away, but help motivate plays elsewhere and work it in to Chiney. I think I can do both those things."

Ogwumike: "She does them both really well. I love Taylor and playing with Taylor."

On the conversation she had with her team at halftime:

VanDerveer: "A lot of what I do is ask Amber (Orange) what she likes to run out there. So, I talked to Amber about things we were doing; what was working and what wasn't working. I think that coming out got everyone's attention. Tulsa didn't come out here for the sunshine. They're a very well-coached team, they're a very aggressive team. They don't have anything to lose and they played that way. They forced turnovers right away. I was disappointed the way we started the game. But I don't think just

carrying on about that would have help. More at halftime I talked to the team about having a great second half. Let's really play our style of basketball. Let's try to get out and get going. Let's try to get good shots. I thought Sara James started us out with a nice shot. Bonnie (Samuelson) came in and hit some threes. Our numbers in the second half were awesome. We have been off two weeks. Coming out when people are getting right up into you, we didn't handle it well in the beginning. My dad would always say 'it's not the start of the race, but the finish,' and I would rather play a game like this than a game where we play good in the first half and stink it up in the second half. We're carrying our momentum over into Tuesday night. I was really excited to see how Taylor came in and contributed. Amber came in and made some big shots, played great defense for us. They're a really nice team. Mikaela (Reuf) really struggled. She's not been 100 percent the last two weeks, so we need to get her back in sync, but she's had a great season with us so far. I was excited about how Tess (Picknell) came in at the end of the game. We might have to build her minutes a little bit. It is a pressure situation. I just try to be positive with the people that were doing good things and make corrections with the things we weren't doing well."

On how she presented this game to the team to prepare them:

VanDerveer: "As soon as the bracket was announced, I said we're the only team that has been a 1 seed, so we have that distinction. We are not a team that overlooks anyone. We can beat anyone and we can be beaten by anyone. Our team knows that. We just focused on the game. We did have finals this past week. We're excited to get those over. I just think we're going to keep playing better. We're a team that will learn from this. This is a great confidence builder for Taylor. I thought Sara James played well for us. Joslyn (Tinkle) has to go 40 for us. We don't have three games in three days anymore, which is really nice. Our team knows what they're expected to do and I thought they stepped up really well in the second half."

On the specific tactical changes she made in the second half:

VanDerveer: "This team for us has been really challenging in a way, in that we, all season long, I call it cooking spaghetti. We take spaghetti and we throw it up on the wall and see if it sticks. If it works, we just stay with that. We do a lot of things and I don't know that we do anything extremely well. We try to find something that will get us a good shot. We're running part of our offense that got us a good shot that created 2-on-2 situations with Amber and Chiney. We ran that a lot in the second half. We started out trying to do something else and we had two turnovers the first plays, so we said goodbye to that one. I just think that we were trying really hard to go to Chiney, that's where we start, that's where our offense starts, but then other people were making outside shots. Taylor making outside shots. Sara James making outside shots. We can't just be about Chiney. We've really worked hard the last two weeks and doing a lot of new things. We did a couple new plays and they executed them really well; we scored on them. Moving Chiney high, it's harder to double her there, so we did move her high. I'm waiting for her to really knock down that shot like she did in our Baylor game."

On Mikaela Reuf not being 100 percent:

VanDerveer: "She's been out the last few weeks of practice and it looked that way. Hopefully she's feeling a lot better now. You could tell. Her timing wasn't right. Maybe she read the Sports Illustrated article, I don't know. Something got into her. Maybe she was thinking that that circus shot she made at the UCLA game was her shot, but it isn't. I think she'll be fine for us on Tuesday. She's feeling good."

On Reuf's condition:

VanDerveer: "We're just not talking about injuries or illnesses. She's doing well now, but she did not practice for two weeks."

On if Tulsa played the way she expected:

VanDerveer: "Yes and no. Offensively, we kind of had things we knew what they were doing. Sometimes we didn't switch quick enough. Grovey was a very nice shooter. I think that teams tailor some things to us. I think they were more aggressive than what we've seen. They were coming in fighting for their life and we were fighting for our life. Their defense was probably more extended than what we'd seen in other games."

On whether the margin of victory is a measure of anything:

VanDerveer: "I think those help us. We've been in situations where we've blown teams out, and then when you get into a tight game and you've got to run set plays... We had a lot of what I call 'slippage' plays today – out of bounds plays, 30-second shot clock violations. There is a lot for us to learn. Does it make us less of a number one seed? We're playing. The best thing is, no one got hurt for us. We learned things in this game; we had different people step up. I don't see a downside for us. I'm happy."

On if she expects to see more upsets in the tournament:

VanDerveer: "I haven't really been paying attention to the other teams, but maybe that's just because the committee seeds well? Maybe they really have a good handle on it. I will say that I don't think Oregon was a No. 12 seed. Maybe they have a better handle on the women's teams."

On how much she knows about Michigan and Villanova, and the possibility of an eventual Cal matchup:

VanDerveer: "I'll answer the second one first. We're a long ways away from a Cal matchup. I've watched a lot of tape on both Michigan and Villanova. They're both excellent teams. They give you different problems. Villanova has probably made the most threes of any team in the tournament. Michigan has one player that has made 107 threes. Michigan is probably a more physical team in some ways, maybe not as athletic. They're both excellent, excellent teams. We're going to have to work really hard and I think this game will help us on our preparation for either winner for Tuesday."