



2009 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



STANFORD POSTGAME QUOTES - SECOND ROUND GAME

Monday, March 23, 2009

Stanford University Head Coach Tara VanDerveer:

Opening statement:

"I thought we had a spectacular game from these two young ladies next to me, Nnemkadi (Ogwumike), scoring and rebounding and (Jillian Harmon) scoring and playing terrific defense. San Diego State came out and they're very aggressive. They worked really hard and I thought our size bothered them, but their pressure defense forced too many turnovers for me. I am really proud of our team, coming in here battling and rebounding and am especially proud of Nnemkadi and Jill for just super games."

On being in the Sweet 16 without Tennessee and North Carolina:

"I knew about Tennessee but I didn't know that North Carolina lost. I think it points towards the parity in women's basketball with so many different teams like Ball State and South Dakota doing so well. I think it's a good sign in some ways for basketball. Not necessarily good that Tennessee or North Carolina aren't in the Sweet 16, but that there's more talent. There's more spread around talent. I think it's exciting. You're looking at the future of women's basketball. As long as Stanford's in there I like it."

On getting Nnemkadi Ogwumike the ball:

"Jayne or (Nnemkadi) got the ball. We weren't trying to go to one versus the other. It's real exciting to see Nekka have a breakout game like this. It was good in a way. She played so poised and she was so effective, especially good because Jayne was not that effective. (She) struggled with the foul trouble and missed a lot of easy shots that she usually makes. They play really well together. Nekka really stood out and just had a fabulous game, but we weren't consciously trying to go to her. Maybe we should have been."

On Beth Burn's program:

"I think they have some very talented young players that are extremely athletic. I thought they played well. I think everything is baby steps, getting to the NCAA tournament, winning the first game. Then you have players understanding what it takes to make it to the next level. You can only do it one step at a time and this is obviously a very good first step. You play in the tournament and you have people come out (to support the team). Hopefully there will be some spill over of more fans coming next year to watch them play. I think they're some very talented players. Obviously there's Jene Morris. We know about her from playing at Cal. She's very talented. Jillian (Harmon) and (Roselyn Gold-Onwude) worked very hard to defend her."

Stanford University Senior Forward Jillian Harmon:

On Nnemkadi Ogwumike being the go to option:

"I thought (Nnemkadi) was phenomenal. To have Jayne (Appel) have a bit of an off night and have someone else step in and have 27 points and 13 rebounds, she really helped us out finishing, rebounding and playing great defense. It was nice to have her playing so well right now."

On handling pressure:

"I think we have (handled the pressure). I think we've still got room for improvement. San Diego State is a really athletic team and forced quite a bit of turnovers, but I think we stayed poised and handled their pressure in the second half and I think we'll be able to handle it in the future."

Stanford University Freshman Forward Nnemkadi Ogwumike:

On getting off to a quick start and how she felt the game went:

"At this point everyone is going to be good and I tried to come out with as much aggressiveness as I could. I was just playing for the team and I wasn't going to give up and that was pretty much my goal. I think we did pretty good and I'm really excited for our team."