

NCAA Women's Basketball Championship –1st Round
Stanford 86, UC Davis 59
March 19, 2011

Stanford

Head Coach Tara VanDerveer

Opening Statement

...I thought the first half we were trying to do too much. The first half we gave them some threes that we didn't want to be giving them. In the second half, we did much better aggressively. We also did much better in that we only had two turnovers in the second half. It was a really important game for us to handle their zone. I thought we did well screening their well. We had people knocking down shots. Jeanette shot a few threes, Nneka shot well.

On Stanford's balance...

I think it wasn't just the shooters, it was the fact that we had people screening to get those [three-pointers] open. It was just something we spent time this week learning from maybe the less-than-stellar game against UCLA recognizing that this is what's coming and to make those adjustments. Those screens were the real key. Those same shots would have been there had we done that against the UCLA zone. Now whether or not we would have made them, we would have had the same looks. I think Lindy was correct that they are kind of contagious.

On Davis' disrupting Stanford...

I think it was to our advantage to have played against it before. They were disruptive. I was disappointed with some of the passing decisions we were making with some of the turnovers. We had ten of them, and we weren't sharing them very well. It was something different. It was something that we don't play against very often. We had prepared for it during the week and we tried to really focus on what kind of looks we were going to get.

Junior F Nnekamdi Ogwumike

On playing UC Davis...

Coach actually mentioned something, that what UCLA did to us was actually a blessing. They actually mix it up a little bit more, but their defensive style consists of defending the perimeter. Also making it hard to pass it to the outside with traps and people having their arms out in the outside lanes. They're really good at what they do. They were disrupting in the first half. We were trying to not necessarily figure out what we needed to do but do what we needed to do and do it well. We started screening the zone and keeping people flying out. With the three pointers, I think we delivered well in the second half. They're definitely a really good team. We had a lot of assists today, and I'm just glad that my team could recognize all of those offensive capabilities.

On their style of play...

At halftime, coach was telling us that we needed to attack, and that we couldn't just stand around. Really, right now, we're just trying to be more aggressive. It doesn't matter what you're doing as long as you're out there being scrappy and hustling. Those kinds of things can really throw people out of their funk.

Junior G Lindy La Roque

On coming in facing UC Davis...

They were giving us awkward shots, even in the first half, and I don't think we were screening as well in the first half, but I think we figured that out in the second half. I knew coming out in the second half coming out that, first of all we needed energy, and second of all get going defensively so that we could go offensively.

On their second half adjustments...

We are all obviously student athletes, and we're all students of the game. We're all intelligent. We know what exactly what to do, but its going out there and actually doing it. I think our concentration level is higher than the average team, so to say. We really help each other with that, and it starts with talking and communicating. I think its our concentration, just being a little more intelligent, and just knowing what to do.

UC Davis Head Coach Sandy Simpson

Opening Statement...

"I thought prior to this contest that Stanford was a national championship-level team. I watched them a lot this year. Especially with Jeannette (Pohlen), she has that special quality that could run them to the title. Nothing that I saw tonight dissuades me from that opinion. They're a solid team and they had answers tonight. We sort of had to pick our poison and tried to protect around the hoop and we did a decent job of that in terms of points in the paint."

"I was really, really, really pleased with our team's effort. To be honest, in the first half I thought we had three or four defensive breakdowns that were uncharacteristic of how we play. Major breakdowns in our shift, and they scored on those. Without those maybe it's a single-digit lead at halftime. We knew they would come out strong in the second half. Our goal was to hold the line, not even cut into the lead. Instead, they blew it out to about 18 and that was it from there.

On the transition to Jennifer Gross as head coach...

"As of today, she (Jennifer Gross) is going to be the head coach of the program. All the spring workouts, individual work, development will be the responsibility of her and her staff. We have a banquet in late April, and I will still be involved in that before stepping away and letting them tweak the program how they want and move it forward. I am excited for them. They are extremely intelligent, great people and care about the student-athlete. They have the energy to move this program forward. We aspire to become not just a Big West Conference power, but a regional power. I think there is potential to that, and I am excited for Jennifer."

Senior center Paige Mintun

On when the game got out of reach...

"Like Coach mentioned, in the first half we did a good job of competing with them overall even with a couple lapses there. In the second half, they came out pretty strong and we couldn't keep up with them. They were starting to make more reads and their guards were more comfortable. Shots that they weren't making in the first half started to fall."

Talking about Coach Simpson coaching in his final game...

"I feel so blessed to play for him the last five years. Even though we ended up losing by a lot, it was all for him and I would not want to play for any other coach."

Senior F Heidi Heintz

Talking about Coach Simpson coaching in his final game...

"I think it's pretty emotional for all three of us up here at this point. We've gone through a long stretch this season and it's just been a fun run for all of us. It's been such an honor to play for Coach Simpson and I know he feels the same way about all of us. Going into this game, we all thought this would be an awesome way to close this out."