

March 30, 2013

Georgia – 61
Stanford - 59

An interview with:



THE MODERATOR: We'll get started with Stanford. We'll start with an opening statement from Coach VanDerveer.

COACH VANDERVEER: First I want to congratulate Georgia on a great game. And I also want to congratulate Chiney for an excellent game and just for a great four years at Stanford.

We made more field goals than they did, we sent them to the free throw line over and over. We were never able to really get in a rhythm with our offense. They're a very athletic team.

They disrupted things for us and quite honestly I think that this -- we had our chances and we didn't make some plays down the stretch. Mikaela's at the free throw line, we needed those. We needed our last play, which was a turnover, and they made some big shots when they needed to.

Armstrong's three was really a big shot for them. But again this has just been a really an amazing year for this team. Dealing with injuries that we have had, graduation, the fact that we have everyone coming back. I hope that this is

really motivating for some of our young players to understand this level and come out and work really hard.

There's no consolation to those who have given us four great years, but I'm really proud of this team and the leadership that we have right next to me and I just want to congratulate Georgia and wish them good luck.

THE MODERATOR: Questions for Stanford student-athletes.

Q. Chiney talk about the defense they played on you in the second half in particular. Did they change what they were doing? Did they just do it more physically and better?

CHINEY OGWUMIKE: I think that the defense in the second half -- I think they came harder with the double, they switched up the doubler to be number 3 Armstrong, but I wouldn't say it was any different than the first half. In those instances I try to look for my teammates more, because it's not a good look if I have two people to try to shoot. And I think we got a few good looks out of that, it's just hard to face a double as any player will tell you.

Q. Can both of you just talk about what you think it was. If there was a turning point in the game, that you felt that you look back on. And also on that last play, the pass, you threw the pass right? And it went off your hands. Can you just talk about that play like it was just an errant pass.

CHINEY OGWUMIKE: I think the turning point was just sometimes forces work against you. We had a turnover on the baseline, the girl threw it. One of their guards threw it and look I deflected it right out of bounds. And that was like four or

five straight looks at the basket for them. Sometimes you can't script that, it's just bad luck on our side.

Then, with regards to that last play, Joslyn is always like a great force to have on the block with her size and her position. So we definitely looked into her, but I don't know, the play didn't work in the end.

JOSLYN TINKLE: I don't know if there was a turning point, it was head to head the whole game. We wanted it badly, we fought hard, but Georgia wanted it just as bad. And like Tara said, credit to them, they worked hard, they're athletic and they hit some big shots and towards the end, just like the last play. We just couldn't quite execute and didn't do everything right, but credit to them.

Q. Chiney, talk about Joslyn and her career and what she's meant to the team.

CHINEY OGWUMIKE: If you look at the history of Stanford players down the line their stats and all that stuff, what they have done, Joslyn may not be at the top of every list. But I think that she brings a beautiful essence to women's basketball and our program. It shows that you can leave an impact just by being you.

So I know Joslyn is one reason that I love going to practice every day because she's always a smiling face that I'm going to look at and I'm going to miss that. I consider her my twin, we always do things together. Her impacts, her charisma, is something that we'll miss, definitely, but she's a force on the court too. I think she just honestly is one of the best people on and off the court. So that's one thing we'll definitely -- I'll cherish and miss next year.

Q. Joslyn how hard were they making it for you guys to score? I think there was a stretch where you guys went a long time without a field goal and they were inching their way back into the game at that point.

JOSLYN TINKLE: Yeah, it was extremely difficult. Knew that coming into the game though that that's the way they were going to play. They were going to be up on us, very aggressive, they're athletic, they're quick. Mainly at the guard, they're not so much big. And we kind of had a game plan too and some players got going and got -- James got hot in the first half and just they were hitting big shots.

And that's what matters when it comes down to it and maybe opposite for us who weren't maybe hitting those shots that we needed to hit towards the end. They definitely brought just a disturbance on the defensive end and knowing what we needed to run, they were doubling Chiney. We didn't hit outside shots, but they just kind of disrupted our play and maybe had us rattled a little bit, but they were aggressive.

Q. Joslyn, on that inbounds play, did you think that there was a timeout called on that play?

JOSLYN TINKLE: Yes. That was my fault. I actually thought I heard whistle. I thought either he called a timeout or we did. And that's what happened.

Q. For either one, or both, sitting here right now, you probably weren't expecting this. How are your emotions? I mean when it gets to this point anybody can win, so what are your emotions, not being in this position for a long time?

CHINEY OGWUMIKE: Yeah, I think losses are tough. You just have to use them as motivation. But I think the reason why I'm not going ballistic right now is we were 33-3, correct? Is that right? I mean that was a huge achievement for our program.

Losing considerable seniors, having people step up, we were without Toni for a

considerable stretch, so I'm really proud of how we were facing our form of adversity as a team. So I think that's the one thing I'm hanging on to, is like we worked our butts off this year and things didn't fall the way they should have, in my opinion, tonight. But I'm proud of our team, proud of our effort, credit to Georgia, they made the big plays down the stretch. But I'm proud of just the girls that I have with Stanford on the front of their jersey.

JOSLYN TINKLE: We all season long we have truly enjoyed playing with one another. And we come every day working hard as possible for one another. I was proud of the way we fought today. Things didn't go as well as we would like, but we played together, we stuck together.

I think personally one of the hardest things about this is no one expects to be in this situation. No one likes to lose like Chiney said, definitely not us. Me personally it's just -- it's the last game that you're going to remember and I think that kind of the biggest thing that I'm most pained about right now is not being able to play with these girls again. They're wonderful.

CHINEY OGWUMIKE: Right back at you, Jos.

Q. Chiney talk about the physical battle down low between you and Jasmine Hassell.

CHINEY OGWUMIKE: Every game I'm really happy to say the PAC 12 is a pretty physical league now days. Every game is pretty physical for me. And I think with Hassell, she was very aggressive. She always wanted to have an arm on me, almost to the point of exaggeration, but I mean it was back and forth. I don't shy away from contact. She doesn't either.

So I think it was just any attention that I can bring, I'm happy for, because that means our team is going to get good looks at the basket if we rotate the ball.

So, yeah the double was there, Hassell was a force in the paint, as well, that we had to deal with and I think down the stretch she proved that she wanted to win. And I just wish we could have contained her in those last few possessions, but credit to her and her teammates for going after the ball.

THE MODERATOR: All right we'll dismiss the student-athletes and take questions for coach.

Q. Your team shot 46.9 percent in the first half, 29.4 percent in the second half. Was it a case of them ratcheting up their defense or your team missing looks, what was going on in the second half?

COACH VANDERVEER: I think a couple things: I think they did double harder, although what could you ask Chiney, going 12-15. I can't do the math, but she shot a great percentage.

I thought that some other people had some makeable plays. Sara James driving in for a lay up. We just needed more from different people to open things up for Chiney a little bit. Mikaela Ruef did hit two high post shots that helped us. But we struggled offensively.

Their athleticism, their physicality, bothered us offensively. The fact that we really don't have the depth that we need to have at this level, they were able to keep people fresher. Jasmine James did play 40 minutes and Chiney did for us, but we didn't really, we weren't able to give Amber a blow.

I think that in the second half, they maybe didn't have the legs and we really, we missed Taylor in the rotation. She does a great job of getting it inside and can knock down some shots for us. But as Chiney said, if someone in the beginning of the year had said to me, this team will finish up 33-3, in Spokane, I

would be like, how?

I really feel like we have really improved a lot and we didn't do some things that we needed to do. And they made some big shots at key times and we made some I think mistakes. Like the I didn't even see it, it was way down the other end, like turnovers at key times.

Q. Will you talk about Taylor's injury? Joslyn at that point picks up a couple fouls and she's out of the layup. I know it's the first half, but can you talk about what impact that has on you guys to be able to be productive and push out a little more?

COACH VANDERVEER: Yeah, it was a freak thing. From what I saw, it happened very fast, but the girl kicked it and the ball came right back up into her finger. So she was out. They X-rayed her hand, it wasn't broken, but she could not move her hand. She couldn't play.

That really shortens our already short rotation. But I just feel like Chiney has been a warrior all season long. Double, double, very physical in there, and we missed Taylor. We missed, we missed Toni. But I think Amber really improved a lot, made some big plays for us Mikaela Ruef made some plays for us down the stretch. Sara James went from being a basically hugging the water cooler to playing 39 minutes when we needed more from her.

Q. It's been six years since you haven't gone to the Final Four. Did you -- it sounds as though you never really expected this team to get there. Chiney was pretty matter of fact about it. Do you feel the same way emotionally, that you're not really that surprised that this happened?

COACH VANDERVEER: Well, I'm really proud of how far the team has come. But what I guess maybe what surprised me more was how well we did.

In some ways, I think it created a little bit of fools gold in terms of we're

winning, but Chiney's getting double doubles and we did play, we had to gut out some games. But once -- I think once we threw on the injuries to people, it really became a little bit of mission impossible. And I think the thing that I told our team in the locker room is I used Peter Ogwumike's quote. Every disappointment is a blessing. This is disappointing.

We know that we can compete with these teams. Obviously we competed, but we had to really go as hard as we could, we worked as hard as we could to get to where we are. And I'm disappointed because I have experienced more going to the Final Four and winning a national championships, but I'm not disappointed with what this team accomplished.

Q. Just to be precise, Taylor's injury was a finger, a jammed finger?

COACH VANDERVEER: It was her left hand, three fingers. The ball came up and hit three fingers, so it could be like three jammed fingers. They weren't broken. But she had a wrap on it, she could not move her hand. Like she couldn't put on her warm up jacket.

Q. At the very end of the game it looked like there was a shot clock, possible shot clock violation, that the officials went over and checked. Did you talk to them at all about that? Mikaela was called for a foul and went to the line, but it appeared that that foul happened after a shot clock violation?

COACH VANDERVEER: A shot clock violation on us, you mean?

Q. No, on them.

COACH VANDERVEER: You know, that, I know, that play, I couldn't see it well enough to understand it. I didn't see it well enough to make a judgment on it. I just think that it was a win-able game. We maybe over-achieved to even make it

a win-able game in some of our minds. We're just like, how, you know, how to score and we made some big shots. Amber's three was a huge shot. And then like Anne Marie, I think had made the three right before that.

But we weren't moving the ball well, we weren't, I think -- people just, we weren't passing the ball well, we weren't finishing at the rim the way we needed to. And then we didn't get very many free throws. We have to be more aggressive and attack, but I did not see that play to make that call.

Q. Taylor's injury, of course, was in the first half and there's plenty of game left to be played, but you don't have Toni, I mean there was so many things, it seemed like maybe was that a little bit of a psychological last straw?

COACH VANDERVEER: You mean like -- well, sometimes I look down the bench and you couldn't take Chiney out, Jos has got the two fouls, I don't think Tess did badly, but we're not in sync offensively like with Tess in there right yet. But it was hard enough and then it became harder.

And again, I think our team -- we had a lead, we had chances, and whether it was missed opportunities. Sometimes like, again, we put them at the free throw line too often, I think. We gave up 15 offensive boards to them. We have to make more plays. We did not make some plays that we needed to make.

THE MODERATOR: All right thank you, coach.

COACH VANDERVEER: Thank you.



Regional Semifinal - Stanford vs. Georgia
Spokane Arena – Spokane, Washington
Saturday, March 30

POSTGAME LOCKER ROOM QUOTES – Stanford

Amber Orrange, Stanford Guard

“It’s disappointing the way it ended. We had control of the game for the majority of the game and then kind of let it go towards the end. I’m proud of my teammates and I’m proud of all the senior leadership.”

“We’ve got to keep our heads held high and get ready for next year and this is just motivation. Congratulations to Georgia.”

Sara James, Stanford Guard

“We definitely struggled. We got a lot of opportunities to hit threes outside and we got a lot of opportunities to drive to the basket, but we missed free throws and we made a lot of mistakes down the road.”