

2009 NCAA® DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Haas Pavilion • Berkeley, CA

REGIONAL FINAL – Iowa State vs. Stanford

STANFORD CARDINAL

POSTGAME HEAD COACH QUOTES

HEAD COACH TARA VANDERVEER

Opening statement

"I'd like to compliment Iowa State on the great season they had and how hard we had to work to beat them. They are an extremely talented team. I always knew they had the fire power to come back with their tremendous three-point shooting. Secondly, I'd like to thank Cal for hosting a first-class tournament and for all the fans- our fans and Pac-10 fans- that were able to come and watch. Thank you for your great support. Third, I want to congratulate [Jeanette Pohlen, Jillian Harmon, and Jayne Appel], who really put our team on their back. Jeanette had a tremendous weekend, and as she reminded me, she averaged 10 rebounds for the two games so we're going to move her to power forward. Jillian [Harmon] was a warrior out there, playing defense and rebounding, and doing whatever we needed. And Jayne [Appel] was spectacular. I'm so proud of her and our whole team for really stepping up and making the plays that we needed to take us to the Final Four. I've never been so excited about going to St. Louis."

What inkling did you have that the game plan would be not to double-team Jayne Appel and guard her one-on-one?

"I thought Jayne [Appel] was one-on-one against Ohio State and a lot of our perimeter game stepped up. I think [Iowa State] was thinking, 'We're going to take a three for a two,' and every time I could, I yelled 'No threes; get out on the three-point shooter.' I thought we did a better job in the second half of getting out on their three-point shooters. They played against Oklahoma and I watched that game. I watched as many of their games as I could to see what they were doing, and that's what they did."

Did you also suspect because Iowa State had such terrible results double-teaming Jayne Appel in Hawaii that they just threw that out?

"We did. We made 13 threes in Hawaii. Kayla [Pedersen] was three-for-three. Rosalyn [Gold-Onwude] was three-for-five. I don't question necessarily what [Iowa State] did. Jayne [Appel] had to deliver. She had two and three people on her sometimes, but she definitely had people working behind her, pushing her. She had some good shots, but I think that was their plan."

"We knew what we had to do. We had to keep them from shooting threes and not foul them. I was really proud of the fact that they only shot seven free throws. This is something that our team has been able to do all year. We, as coaches, figure out a game plan and say this is what we're doing, and they do it. That's great."

Is it fair to say getting to the Final Four in 2008 was something you hoped for and getting there this year was something you expected?

"I think things can happen where you don't have control of it. There was no guarantee we were going last year, and there was no guarantee we were going this year. We might have been able to go the year we got to the Elite Eight and played Tennessee. It came down to one play. It came down to one play against LSU. It didn't come down to one play tonight, but three times in a row, we were in this game and lost. We worked as hard as we could to convey to our team how special this game is. When I think back about 1990 [and winning a national championship], I don't think I was happier than when we won at Maples Pavilion. I tried to communicate to our team that not only would it be great to win and go to the Final Four, but you're here and your fans are here, and it would be a night they would remember all their life."

Can you put it in perspective for yourself? You lost the best player you've ever coached and you lost your point guard early in the season. Yet, you're back to another Final Four, a place people used to expect Stanford to be all the time.

"A lot of it is keeping people healthy. Obviously we were very disappointed when JJ [Hones] went down, and it took us a while to figure out. We played a very tough schedule. In fact, Iowa State was one of the great teams we played, as well as Purdue. We played a great schedule. I feel like our team really has bought into their roles. They are excited to win and do whatever it takes. If Jayne [Appel] has four points or 46 points, she is the same person. She sets an example for people. I'm thrilled for these young women and that they get the experience of going to the Final Four. I love going there too. "

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CENTER JAYNE APPEL

Talk about Iowa State's game plan and being single covered.

"Tara [VanDerveer] told me she was pretty sure they were not going to double [cover] me, so we knew immediately we were going to go inside. That was our game plan from the very beginning and that worked for us."

What does it mean to go back to the Final Four?

"I think we weren't going to leave here without cutting down those nets. That wasn't an option for us. That's the mentality we needed to come out with this entire season that we were going to a certain place, and we were going to leave there victorious."

After being double and triple teamed all season, can you recall the last game you were single covered?

"Ohio State left me a little open most of the game [in the Regional Semifinal]. In Pac-10 play, I didn't see very much single coverage. It's taking advantage of what the other team gives us."

How do you feel about breaking Stanford's single-game scoring record?

"It's a tremendous honor, but I couldn't have done it without the other four players on the court. They're the people that have to get me the ball and take care of the ball bringing it up the court. I was going to do whatever it took for our seniors and win this game. Morgan [Clyburn] – I wish she could be playing for us – has been out all season. She's been contributing in other ways and reading the scouting report this morning, and she's not even playing in the game. That's the type of seniors we have this year and there was no way I wasn't going to do anything possible to get them another trip to the Final Four."

What did it feel like to be single-covered?

"I wouldn't say it was that easy. They were pretty physical inside, trying to push from behind. I almost feel like they were going in circles. They weren't sure if they were going to front or go behind in the second half. I just tried to stick with it throughout the game and try to deliver for my team."

FORWARD JILLIAN HARMON

What does it mean to make it to the Final Four for the second-straight year?

"It means everything. My freshman year, we got to this game [the Elite Eight] and lost. It was very disheartening and the next year, we lost in the second round. To come back [to the Final Four] two years in a row is so exciting. To put the program back on the map and be one that makes it to the Final Four every year and to do it with this team and these coaches is so special."

Talk about the game plan and getting the ball inside to F/C Jayne Appel.

"To get the ball inside, [Jayne]'s a big target. Tara [VanDerveer] always says, 'if you can't pass to Jayne, you can't pass.' [Jayne] does a great job of getting big in there and she delivered."