

**2010 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP
SACRAMENTO REGIONAL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA – ARCO ARENA
MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2010**

**STANFORD HEAD COACH TARA VANDERVEER POST GAME PRESS
CONFERENCE QUOTES**

On: The overall game

“That was a really tough game. I want to compliment Xavier on just how physical they were. Every stat, whether it was turnovers or [offensive rebounds], it was just that kind of game, so close. It had to be very tough. They had two great looks at the basket at the end, but going down the stretch I was really please with the poise people showed. Kayla [Pedersen] knocking out a big shot, Joslyn Tinkle and obviously the play that Jeanette [Polen] made at the end. You know, taking the ball to the basket. Someone asked the other day if we need a close game, I said no. But now that we have won a close one, this can really help us. This was a battle, a struggle, and our team really stepped up and did the things we needed them to do.”

On: The strategy of the last play

“Two things happened. First, we watched the Oklahoma game yesterday where Notre Dame women had the game with four seconds and they kinda threw a long pass. We really talked with our team about it. Every game that’s on, we talk about things and said that’s a long time. In fact, Lindy [La Rocque] and I were talking as we were walking to the bus [today on the way to the game] to give the ball to a fast guard and let them go to the basket. That was on our mind, not knowing we would need that play, but our team had our sense. The second thing was during the time out, Amy [Tucker, associate head coach] diagramed the play and it was just getting Jeanette on the move. Kayla always takes it out for us, JJ set the screen for Jeanette to come around, and [Nnemkadi Ogwumike] Nekka set a screen. Ros [Rosalyn Gold-Onwude] was supposed to be down the court as an option to pitch out to, but Ros kept saying ‘I can’t hear in the huddle,’ so Mika said ‘Just get out of the way.’ At first we were going to take a time out, but I thought we would have two seconds to run an out of bounds of play, and I said hell, we might not get it in bound, so I said just run it. Jeanette said as she’s leaving ‘We will run it out and we’ll take a time out,’ and I said ‘No, take it to the basket.’ For us, this was a really good thing for people to understand that when you run plays in practice, it’s not like running them in situation. Jeanette, if you’ve watched us during the year, has missed some lay ups going to the basket, but this was by far her biggest shot of her career at Stanford. It really couldn’t happen to someone that has worked any harder than Jeannette, so we are really excited.”

On: Whether the play was practiced

“No, not that exact one. We practice variations of that, but with less time, we would have thrown long like Notre Dame did. But with that much time and we saw what happened with them, we said, alright, here would be something else. We did go over it on the board and talk about it on the time. Amy [Tucker] drew it and they ran it.”

On: A previous comment about Jeanette going 100 mph in plays and sometimes losing the ball

“Her speed is her strength. I was not excited about the turnover she had that got us in that trouble, where it came in to her and she turned and didn’t read that defense, but we go with Jeanette. We love her and sometimes you have to take some of the mistakes she makes. She made a great play. She is a competitor. She is getting better with every game and this will help her confidence.”

On: How the game got so close

“To play against their two big post players was a real challenge, especially with Jayne in foul trouble. Joslyn [Tinkle] came in the first half and didn’t take shots that I was excited about. Obviously she made a big one down the stretch. Their size did to us what our size does to other people some times. Whether it was Nekka [Nnemkadi Ogwumike]. All year she shot 60 percent and she’s 5-for-17. We didn’t have a go-to block player and we struggled from the parameter. I thought people were very tentative. I have not seen that look from our team all year. I felt like they felt a lot of pressure. They’ve seen number one seeds go down. Xavier came in and played looser. They do things that are disruptive to us. They have some very talented players. We doubled them every time, way down into the end when we gave up layups. We couldn’t stop them one-on-one.”

On: Strategy at the end of the first half and going “smaller”

“Jayne was out because she had her two [fouls]. They were trying to protect Amber Harris by being in there 1-3-1. Mel usually does a good job of getting us good shots and penetrating. She really gets the ball to our post players really well. Josylyn came in and she was a freshman. At the beginning of the game, she had the ball one time and she turned and shot right away and I said look at Kayla on the inside. The other time she passed and I was like, that’s your shot. She didn’t seem to be in the flow of things. I liked it when we were big. I kept saying to our assistants, can we put in Jos, and they said let’s look at JJ and Mel [Melanie Murphy], and that allowed us to be small. [Michelle Harrison] took a bad hit to her head. She might have been able to help us in that situation, but it seemed like in a game like this, it’s one possession. I wasn’t ready for her just then.”

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**STANFORD PLAYERS GUARD, HEANETTE POHLEN, CENTER JAYNE
APPEL, FORWARD KAYLA PEDERSEN AND FORWARD NNEMKADI
OGWUMIKE POST GAME PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES**

On: The final play

Jeanette Pohlen (with a scratchy voice and a net draped around her neck): “During the timeout it was set a screen, get me open, go from there, go from coast to coast, set a flat pick and go from there, see what I could do and make out of it. (During the timeout), they kept telling me, four seconds is a long time and I know that, too, because when you’re a point guard, you kind of know how long it takes you to get down the court. I kind of saw the lane open up toward the middle and tried to get it up as fast as I could.”

On: Whether Pohlen thought she released the ball in time

Pohlen: “I had no idea. I knew it was going to be close, and that’s why I wasn’t getting so excited about it. If it counted, we’re going to San Antonio, it didn’t, we still have five more minutes to play. It was kind of a tough situation, I had to keep my head right.”

On: Glancing at the clock during the dribble

Pohlen: “It’s kind of a blur, to be honest. I think I looked up, yeah, for maybe a millisecond and then just kind of decided to go for it. It was tied, so if I didn’t get what we want, we could go into overtime. We were prepared to, but things worked out, and it went in.”

On: Watching the final minutes on the bench and going back to the Final Four

Jayne Appel: “It felt horrible, I was thinking of Kelly O’Hara on our soccer team, who was injured and we missed going to the Final Four. But at the same time, I had complete faith in my teammates. We always talk about how fast Jeanette goes and that she needs to slow down. It was about time she needed to go that fast.”

Kayla Pedersen, who threw the ball to Pohlen on the last play: “JJ (Hones) set a cross screen across the key to get Jeanette open. Her girl was fronting her at first, and JJ hit her in the back. Jeanette was open, and she just went on from there. That was the play.”

On: Pedersen's reaction when Pohlen made the basket

Pedersen: "I was praising Jesus, seriously, though. The ball went in, and I knew it was going to count."

On: The final minutes

Nnemkadi Ogumike: "So many things were happening, and I was also praising Jesus when Joslyn Tinkle made that shot. Quite frankly at the end, the play was so simple. Jeanette came off screen, and I was to try to screen Special Jennings as she was coming. But she was going so fast, and after she passed me, I was paralyzed as I was watching what was going to happen. When the basket went in, I mean (pauses) ... I don't even know. Getting in that position isn't always fun. It's exciting for viewers, but for players, it's stroke-worthy."

On: The final seconds

Pohlen: "Once I crossed halfcourt, I think there was somebody to my left, and April (Phillips) was right there. All I could really do was go at her, I had really nothing else to do. ... It wasn't like I could dish it to somebody. ... There weren't that many people in front of me, which is always inviting when you're going to the hoop."

On: Xavier's missed layups in the final seconds

Pedersen: "That's got to be divine intervention. God wants us in the Final Four, and now we've got to do something with it."