



2017 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

First Round · (2)Stanford 74, (15)NM State 64

Bramlage Coliseum · Manhattan, KS

Saturday, March 18, 2017

POSTGAME QUOTES – STANFORD

Tara VanDerveer, Stanford Head Coach

Opening Statement

"I've known Mark a longtime and that he'd bring an aggressive team, and he did. I thought that we didn't come out with the defense that we needed in the beginning and that really hurt us. We had a great game from Alanna (Smith), she really scored really well for us. Bird (Erica McCall) rebounded and we had different people knock down some threes - Bri (Roberson) making two, Alanna making hers, and Karlie (Samuelson) making two. I just feel like you could tell that we've been off for a few weeks and hopefully we got the rust off and play better on Monday."

On going to a smaller line-up...

"We did that the first half, we didn't do that the second half. I felt like they were taking us off the dribble too much in the beginning. Our small lineup did pretty well in the second quarter, although at the end we gave up four points on one play. We would have been tied in the second quarter if we hadn't given up that one play. We decided to go to the block in the second half. Bird (Erica McCall) had it down on the block and we said, 'Let's go inside and pound it in.' That hasn't been our game all year, but it worked for the second half. I think we struggled offensively a little bit, but we picked up our defense in the second half. I thought we had some really key shots. Our free throws were really good, we have some really nice blocks. Things were just not going our way and we stayed with it and showed resilience. Some of the illegal screens that were called weren't called all season. We had to battle and it's good to be tested. I'm really proud of how our people battled back."

Alanna Smith, Stanford Forward

On the quickness of New Mexico State...

"I think having size is an advantage, but them being quick can be hard to guard. Them beating us off the dribble can be a problem, but we had really good help-side (defense) from the other post and other people helping was really good for us."

On coming off the bench...

"The starting five usually always start us off right and having somebody to come in and back that up is something I take as a big job because they start us off really well. I just keep attacking. Our bench is really deep and can attack and score too."

On what she has done differently over the past few games...

"I think I've just changed my mindset to be a little more aggressive. I am a big body, I am tall, so I need to use that to my advantage. We've got great players on this team that attract defense. Karlie gets doubled consistently so you've got to take your open shots."

Karlie Samuelson, Stanford Guard

On if they took New Mexico State lightly...

"I don't think that we took them lightly. I think every team in this tournament is really good and that we were prepared for that. They run a dribble drive offense with a lot of switching, which can cause some miscommunication on our end. Our defense is what we pride ourselves on and I think we had a couple lapses. I think we didn't come out ready to play since we haven't played in quite awhile, but I don't think we took them lightly. We knew they were a good team and they played really well."

On keeping their composure...

"We keep our composure well. We've been down plenty of times this year and have come back from big deficits. We keep our heads in the game. I think there is a big difference from feeling panicked and having a sense of urgency. We can yell at each other and have that sense of urgency, but we're never in a panic and know that we can always come back from anything."