



NIT First Round Postgame Quotes

Stanford vs. BYU | March 14, 2018

Stanford Head Coach Jerod Haase

On your halftime message to spark the second-half surge

“We talked about being true to ourselves and being truly unselfish making plays for others. I thought a lot of the turnovers in the first half, some were carelessness but some were being too aggressive, and then, making the play that wasn’t the appropriate play and I thought we cleaned that up in the second half.”

On BYU

“I’m extremely impressed with their program, with their coaching staff. That’s what I told them after the game as well. They have a fantastic program, and at no point did I feel comfortable with the lead. I knew they were going to keep competing, keep fighting. I thought we could’ve made some better plays, but you have to give them a ton of credit for fighting and competing and making plays on their side too.”

On getting out in transition

“It’s pretty intentional because if you can hear me, I’m screaming “run run run run” on the bench. We do want it to be the DNA of our team that we’re going to push the basketball, we do have guys that we feel can make plays in transition, and the more experience we get doing that, the better it’s going to be. We believe in getting easy baskets. We believe in attacking the basket. We believe in getting to the free throw line, but transition offense can be a way to get easy baskets and we want to make sure we push.”

On the play of Oscar da Silva

“I’m going to be a little redundant from the times I’ve talked about him earlier this season. But at the end of the game, he tends to find himself on the court, because he has so much versatility with ball screens, or different situations. He allows us to switch or play ball screens differently and he’s still a great rebounder so there’s a lot of great options with him on the court. That shows my level of confidence in him. Again, I use the term versatility, I really think that’s the best way to describe him.”

On the recent play of KZ Okpala

“I think another step in the progression is a great way to describe it. You know he didn’t have the nonconference to continue to grow, and I think every game now his confidence continues to grow. His aggressiveness continues to increase. He’s still making some plays that we need to correct, but we want him being aggressive and trying to make plays and I think he will continue to blossom throughout his career.”

On the play of Daejon Davis, including breaking the freshman assist record

“I thought his second half was really high level, on both ends of the floor. He led the team, he had a great presence and the guys fed off his energy and his presence which was just fantastic. To have the freshman assists record is a big time honor. The neat part is a lot of former players have really encouraged him and are really excited to have that honor, and hopefully he’ll continue to achieve individual and team records as time goes on but, his presence again in the second half, I thought was a really important part of the game.”

On Oklahoma State

“I know they’ve had a fantastic season. Other than some things I’ve seen on SportsCenter where they beat Kansas twice. They are a team that expected, or hoped to be in the NCAA tournament, probably for good reason. I know they’re a talented team, but in terms of the nitty gritty and personnel, I haven’t had a chance to watch much of them because I’ve been so focused on our conference and our team.”

Stanford Junior Forward Reid Travis

On the second half surge

“I think we were trying to go too fast in the first half, they were good thoughts, we were trying to make the right plays and hit guys when they were open, push them in transition, but sometimes it’s really just seeing it through, if the defender is coming through, to see if he can steal it, I think for us, it was really just slow down, we were really excited and trying to make the home run play every time so once we settled down and got into the flow of the game, as you saw, we cleaned it up and were able to play better.”

On the final moments with BYU cutting into Stanford’s lead

“We’ve been put into that position many times throughout this season, with buzzer beaters, going up and down, and stuff like that, for us, it’s just continue to learn that we can’t look at the clock, and look at the scoreboard, we have to keep playing and staying aggressive on defense. It’s just keep on learning. You definitely want to come out on the other side of that, and learn from that mistake, so I’m proud of the way we finished.”

On what the run like this means for the program

“It’s very important. I think a lot of teams this time of the year, you’re disappointed you’re not in the NCAA tournament. However, there’s a lot of momentum that a lot of the young guys, and even some of the older guys like Mike and Dorian who aren’t done where you can build on this, going into other careers after Stanford. Any time you get the opportunity to lace them up and go play Basketball, you definitely have take care of that opportunity. For us, it’s really about getting in that mindset that you’re having fun. And for us, we love playing with each other, we love coming to practice, we love competing on the court, so it wasn’t too tough for us to rally together for another opportunity to go do that. We’re just enjoying every day we get to do that.”

BYU Head Coach Dave Rose

On the game

“I told my guys that what comes to mind is how I’ll remember the entire season with these guys. They’re a bunch of fighters that don’t ever quit. When things aren’t going very good, they can find a way to turn it. It’s been a season of these guys going through some tough times but these guys just continue on; they didn’t give up.”

On the technical foul with 6:13 left in the game, after which BYU outscored Stanford 10-0

“We were frustrated with a lot of things that were happening. We only had a few guys here, and we had a lot of them sitting on the bench with four fouls or three fouls in the first half. It was pretty difficult for us. One thing our guys are really good at is that they play for each other. It’s a group of guys who fight to the end, that’s for sure.

On the leaders

“Everybody who came in gave us a lift. I thought Rylan [Bergersen] really competed hard. He’s a guy who’s kind of gone unnoticed all year, but he’s been so good for us in preparing us for games. He’s got a good future.

“It's just a shame that we came up short. I know these guys still want to play. It happens that you just get to the point where there's no more games.”

On Stanford

“No question that Stanford was more aggressive in the second half. The third quarter was a problem for us when they outscored us by 13; they went right to the front of the rim. They knew that we had a couple guys who were in foul trouble; they went right at us, we didn't give them the resistance we should have. They got momentum going and rode that right to the end of the fourth quarter.

“Jerod made some real adjustments. They did a much better job of isolating the big (Travis), then penetrating with a nice pass. They also were really aggressive on the offensive boards. We had to fight out of that hole the rest of the way.”

BYU Junior Guard Elijah Bryant

On the game

“We always fight to the end, no matter the situation. A couple shots here or there, it might have been different. If I had made some more free throws, we would have been in a better spot. Fun game, but they beat us fair and square.”

On the last sequence, when he was fouled at mid-court with 5.7 seconds left

“I heard the coach say “foul!” so I was looking to get the ball up and shoot three free throws (he was given two free throws, missing both). I knew they were going to foul, it was a smart play.

On Stanford

“Stanford did get more aggressive in the second half. The coach told them to stop shooting and just drive, drive, drive. It was to their advantage to drive because we were in foul trouble, and they took advantage of that. They're a great offensive rebounding team, and that was part of the difference.”