



2013 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

First Round · Stanford vs. Michigan
Maples Pavilion – Stanford, California
Tuesday, March 26

QUOTES – Stanford

Opening Statement

Tara VanDerveer, Stanford Head Coach: "I'm really excited about how our team played. Michigan has a great team and their senior leadership, I know they came out. If we had let them get going, it would have been a lot of trouble. I thought Sara James' defense on (Kate) Thompson was a real key. Joslyn (Tinkle) got us going. She just played so confidently, knocking her shots down. I thought our team seemed very relaxed and played hard. I think both of these games, our game against Tulsa and Michigan, are games that are really going to help us improve. I saw some people do some things that we've been wanting all year and they stepped up in a time we needed it. Again, congratulations to Michigan. They have a great team and they had a great year. We're very, very excited to be going to Spokane."

On Michigan starting the game in zone:

Joslyn Tinkle, Stanford Forward: "We were just talking about it earlier after the game, it was kind of just one of those days where you wake up and feel good. Everyone was on the same page. We've worked extremely hard in the past day after Tulsa. We moved onto Michigan and we were really prepared for them. Everyone was excited to go. We didn't play as well as we would have liked against Tulsa, so I feel like we rebounded and came back strong. Before the game, emotions were high and the energy was insane. People were feeling really good. We knew we prepared for zone coming into the game, so I feel like we've gotten a lot of shots up in the past few days. Like coach said, we were confident out there. Once I hit one here or there, it's contagious. Everyone else starts hitting shots. It's fun. We went out there and played really well and had fun doing it, which is important. I felt like the energy was really great."

On if she is surprised how well they played without Chiney Ogwumike being a huge factor:

Tinkle: "No, not surprised. I think it's really what we needed to keep advancing in this tournament. It's something that we've been trying to strive for and push for the whole season. We can't rely on Chiney every game. She's going to bring it every game. She's an awesome, amazing player and we love playing with her. We need to step up as other players, and we always say it can't be the Chiney show every night. We're doing our best to relieve some pressure off of her and we proved that tonight. We have multiple threats. It's really good for our confidence going into Spokane for the Sweet 16. We handled our business tonight and a lot of people stepped up and did really good things."

On her emotions after the game:

Tinkle: "I had a really good conversation with assistant coach Kate Paye, Tara sent me a text last night. I'm a very emotional person. It's crazy and surreal that tonight was my last game at Maples. I talked to my parents today on how to handle those emotions because it's a mixture of them. I'm extremely excited, I was ready to go. But, I'm sad and nervous. I just want to do so well and I want our team to play so well. To really go out with a bang, not for myself but for the whole team, and advance. I was really proud of the way I handled everything. I used that to motivate me and to get me excited and to go out

right away and be aggressive. I wanted to be a leader and be positive. I've said it before, I don't really need to ever preach it to them. They want it for me and I can't say enough good things about each and every one of them. Tonight I was having fun out there. Things were going well. My team, they're the best. They got me going. They were excited for me. I think I deserved that game. All the hard work that I've put in and all the hard work our team has put in this year. We're unbelievably excited for this coming weekend."

On her often being unsure of her shots but taking more shots tonight:

Mikaela Ruef, Stanford Forward: "They weren't guarding me at all, so that was kind of easy to take shots. Also, I have this habit of running to the ball at the end of the shot clock, even though I'm not supposed to. That kind of happened. When it gets that low, somebody has to throw it up there, so I figured, why not me?"

VanDerveer: "She doesn't care about her field goal percentage."

Ruef: "That's pretty much what happened."

On whether it was the best game the team has had this season:

Tinkle: "I feel like it just showed what we're capable of. There are a lot of things we can improve on from watching this game. We can use it to fuel us for the sweet 16 and going into Spokane. There was just so much contribution from everyone, the starters and from the bench. We don't need Chiney to dominate every single game. We want to have her back and help her out, and spread that out a little bit. I think we played extremely well. We did a really good job defensively guarding their key players. Like coach said, Sara James did a really good job defending Thompson. Amber (Orange) did a really good job defending their point guard. They have really good shooters and they're big, too. I thought we played really well and we had a really good strategy going into the game. Was it one of our best games? Probably. It just showed what we're capable of and, like I said, it gives us a lot of confidence going into the tournament showing that we can build from that."

Ruef: "I thought it was one of our better games. It's always nice to be playing well in the tournament. That's always encouraging. I think the game showed it was a tribute to how, if we put our minds to something, how good we can do it. We had two days to learn their scouting report and I think every single person on our team, even if they didn't get in the game at all, knew every single one of their plays. We studied really, really, really hard these past few days and learned everything we could about this team. We watched a ton of video and it really paid off because we played great defense against them and stopped them from doing what they wanted."

On how much emphasis was placed on starting strong, after having a lackluster start versus Tulsa:

Tinkle: "After that game, we really kind of brushed it off. We obviously talked about it at halftime and after the game, and said we knew we could play a lot better. We did pull together a much better second half. There's no excuse for it. We can play a lot better. We kind of brushed the rust off of us a little bit, knowing that we can start a lot stronger. We woke up this morning and I think everyone felt that sense of urgency and that's one thing that I said is so nice as one of the leaders of the team. You don't have to preach that too much to the younger kids of the less experienced players out there. They want it for everyone and we want it for each other. The tournament is all about winning and to keep playing together. We knew that there is no guarantee and we just need to bring that energy and that focus to each and every game."

On Ogwumike sliding the rebound to Tinkle:

Tinkle: "I think it was just one of those games where we were having fun. Everyone was playing really well. The atmosphere was awesome, a credit to our fans. They're the best. They get us all going. Just one of those plays where it's your night. We made that little eye contact, but it was just a great play on her part. We just had fun out there."

On what the text said that VanDerveer sent her last night:

Tinkle: "She was just texting me kind of saying, I don't like when coach gets sentimental because I'm a crier, but she said that it's crazy that it's my last game in Maples and she remembered my first visit or my first NCAA trip. She said she knew it was going to be a great game tomorrow for you and for our team. It just kind of shows her confidence in us and that we were ready. We were really prepared. Like I said, we've worked extremely hard in the past couple days. It was really nice and I really appreciated it. She took the time because she knows how important this is to me. That's one thing she said to me. I love playing for this team. She had all the confidence in the world in us and she just texted me that last night. It was very nice and I appreciated it."

On if she thought today was going to be special for Tinkle:

Ruef: "It's crazy because I knew Jos was going to play hard and play well. I didn't know she was going to go 5-for-5 from three, that was pretty sweet. I'm just so happy for her that she played so well and that we collectively played so well. It was awesome. It was just like another game for us, but everybody had that feeling inside like this is our last game at Maples and this is Jos's last game every at Maples, so let's kill it. And I think we did."

On if she can guess how many shots she took this week:

Tinkle: "I probably can't give you a number. We had a shoot-around this morning and we've been preparing for a zone, that was very possible just because of how they play. So just knowing that, we did a lot of zone review. Then, we'll break up and go guards and post and get shots up there, the shots that they think we'll get during the game. We usually shoot the last 15 or 20 minutes, just getting shots up. We'll have players on the wings and shooting free throws. That happened the last two days. I probably can't give you a number, but just a lot of shots. Just to kind of get our confidence going and get used to coming out and knocking down shots. They doubled and tripled Chiney, and she did a great job passing tonight and looking for the open player. Luckily, we had a few of us that were hitting outside."

On if she felt her team was coming together at the right time:

VanDerveer: "I don't think I could have asked for us to play any better than we did. It was exactly what our team needed. In our UCLA game, Chiney really struggled and when someone averages 29 points, she's going to get some extra attention. Different people stepped up really well. It's kind of funny because, I told Jos, Candice (Wiggins) was here and her last game in Maples she had 44 points. In Rosalyn's (Gold-Onwude) last game at Maples, she went crazy against Iowa and hit seven three's. I told Jos this was a tradition, if you're a senior this is what we want from you. I'm really happy for Jos that she played so well. She was sick in the Pac-12 tournament, but she played major minutes and struggled, but we needed her out there. Michigan does a lot of stuff and they have a lot of really talented players. For people to learn that, honestly yesterday at practice, they were ahead of me. I had to go home and play catch-up. We really knew the tendencies of the team. We studied, we watched all their games, and they were really prepared. Then people came out and really did what we asked them to do, and it was really exciting to see."

On what Tinkle's legacy will be at Stanford:

VanDerveer: "It's funny, because I think Jos came to watch Stanford play in Spokane when we played Maryland. She wanted to be a part of this team. Jos is really Stanford. She's a high energy person. You can tell she was really in her element tonight knocking down shots. She plays smart defense and played well for us at both ends of the floor. You coach players differently, but with Jos, and I'm not really good at this, but one of the things that seems to get her to play really well is if she gets mad at me. After the game against Tulsa, I was just like 'Jos, you're 6-4 and you had 0 rebounds,' and if you just get under her skin a little bit. I love her energy, I love her versatility. We will miss her so much next year. I just wanted to tell her before the game, I'm sad to see her go. She's really just kind of continuing what Jayne (Appel) built. She loves Stanford. She loves Stanford basketball."

On Sara James' work on defense:

VanDerveer: "Sara is a player that, quite honestly, did not play major minutes for us her freshman year or her sophomore year or the beginning of her junior year. I give her a lot of credit because she will do whatever we ask her to do. We just said, you're guarding this girl. No threes. If she scores a three, then you're coming out. And she wants to play. She can score other ways, but not a three. She is so good, has made so many and she has such a good percentage and Sara just really focused and said this is my job, and I'm going to do it. She did have help from other people and other people guarded her, but Sara didn't foul her. It was Mikaela Ruef that fouled her. I thought our team really focused on where she was, and that's a credit to Thompson, and how to take her out of the offense."

On not pressuring her team too much:

VanDerveer: "In getting ready for this team, we really focused on everything that Michigan did. What can we do against it? We haven't played against any zones. I think Arizona State was the only team that played us in a zone all year, that I remember. I went back and watched Arizona State film to figure out what worked best for us. Our team really studied hard to get ready for Michigan. We have been working every day on if Chiney gets doubled, what we're doing. She passed it out, or we move her high, or we do some different screening for her. When that happened, we had been working on it and it's about time. We needed some other people to step up. I told Chiney that during the game. I said other people were doing their job, don't foul, stay in the game and do your job, which is being a passer today. I thought she did really well."

On whether this win was a statement win:

VanDerveer: "I think that when you're a No. 1 seed and you're tied at halftime with a No. 16, everyone says Stanford isn't that good. Tulsa played us well. I thought we were sloppy. That got our team's attention. I said before the game, 'show people the good play that I see in practice.' Coming into the gym tonight, I was thinking about what our best games have been. Obviously Baylor was the best game of the season, but we've had other really good games. I told our team, I challenged our team, let's have the best game of our season tonight. Let's play the best game that we've played in Maples here tonight. Let's play a better second half than we did our first half, and we played a very good first half. I'm very happy with our team. I'm very excited that so many people on our team did so well. Our team is excited and that was another thing, too, just the whole mentality. Candice Wiggins came and spoke to our team and she said 'I was never a No. 1 seed at Stanford.' I never really thought about the pressure that people might feel. I was watching the Florida Gulf Coast team and how much fun they were having and I told our team, we've earned this. Let's have fun, let's enjoy it. I'm glad to hear that Jos had fun."