

NCAA GYMNASTICS QUOTE SHEET – FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2012 – SEMIFINAL 1

STANFORD HEAD COACH KRISTEN SMYTH

Opening Remarks:

"We are thrilled to be moving on to Super Six. Just getting back to Nationals this year was a huge accomplishment for this team. And then to qualify for Super Six tomorrow night says a lot about this team. A lot of people counted us out, I think, and this team just put their head down and went to work every single day and just trained for this moment. We've been building and peaking at the right time with great leadership and a group of kids that really love the sport and love each other. I'm just so happy to get to go one more day with them."

On the possibility of a Super Six with three Pac-12 and three SEC teams:

"I think being a part of the Pac-12 conference – the coaches, the athletes and the respect we have for one another – is very different than other conferences. And I think we do get genuinely excited for the Pac-12 teams to move on. The Pac-12 Championship was really one of the most exciting meets I've been a part of. And to see Utah come in and strengthen what we already had has been really exciting. The SEC schools have their strengths, but I'm just so proud to be a part of the Pac-12 and these coaches and these programs."

STANFORD SENIOR ALYSSA BROWN

On the mindset of the team going into the final rotation:

"We honestly weren't thinking about scores or placement (in the Super Six) or anything like that. Coach Smyth talked to us before the rotation and said 'Beam is our best event, and it has been all season.' So, we knew if we hit a good beam rotation, we were going to be happy with that whether we made it or not. No one was looking at scores, we were just having fun."

On the possibility of an all Pac-12 and SEC Super Six:

"It's nice to be part of a bigger family. I think the one difference is that we've competed against each other before getting to NCAAs. It's familiar for us; we know the girls, we know their routines a little bit and it's sort of a comfort when they're there. At the same time, we're not really thinking about the other teams, we're just doing our own thing."

UCLA HEAD COACH VALORIE KONDOS FIELD

Opening Remarks:

"We all say it. We can't take it for granted getting to Nationals. Regionals, as we know, is the toughest meet of the year for us. And so to be here and to be moving into the Super Six is beyond words exciting. But really, right now, as my peers have said, the power of the PAC-12 is just overwhelming. I don't feel like we're three individual teams up here. I feel like we're one team, and we're all thinking that we're sending out orange vibes these next few hours. For us it was an okay meet. It wasn't a great meet. It's great when you get your team that says, 'No, we're not going to give up. We're not going to settle for less.' And nobody has done that better this year than the senior that's sitting next to me, Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs. She is unquestionably one of the most beautiful gymnasts performance wise in the world. We had two uncharacteristic falls with two of our guns, and Elyse had to follow both of those athletes and just was absolutely brilliant. What a fun day, huh?"

On the possibility of a Super Six with three Pac-12 and three SEC teams:

"I think all of our programs have experienced being in the Super Six with very heavy SEC representation. And it is a bit odd. You do feel like you're a foreigner sometimes. Obviously you don't once the meet gets started. But walking through the hotel, walking through the hallways here, walking onto the floor, when the teams are marching out, that's when it really hits you. And when you're surrounded by so many SEC schools, you feel like you're a foreigner. And with our conference getting immeasurably stronger with University of Utah here and Stanford, there is a comfort to familiarity. I think that's a natural psychological thing that happens."

UCLA SENIOR ELYSE HOPFNER-HIBBS

On what it's like to perform well when her team needed her to:

"All year, I've thought about just going out there and doing my best for the team. You can't control what people do before you go, you can't control what people do after you go, you can only control what you are about to do. So, I just go out there and enjoy every single minute."

On the possibility of an all Pac-12 and SEC Super Six:

"I can speak for our team only, but we go out there and stick in our Bruin bubble. We focus on our team, having fun and going out there and performing because that's what we all enjoy doing. It's great that we have all Pac-12 teams advancing from this session, but that's not what's on our minds when we're out there."

UTAH HEAD COACH MEGAN MARSDEN

Opening Remarks:

"I know our athletes are really excited about going to the Super Six, and our season has been building down the stretch with our postseason events. I think the girls continued on the path with another great performance on all four events. We're really excited about being a part of a bigger family and to have three Pac-12 teams qualify into the Super Six in this rotation was probably even the most exciting part for us."

On how narrow the competition was:

"When we finished up on balance beam and knew that we were on a bye, I didn't even need to ask anyone. I knew that it was a pressure cooker. With my last score on beam, I wasn't sure if that was going to be enough, even at that point. It became obvious as we found out what teams needed that we thought maybe we could hang in there. But it was down to the last routine."

On the possibility of a Super Six with three Pac-12 and three SEC teams:

"I know as we finished up the meet and it was becoming obvious that three Pac-12 teams were moving on, that's when I felt like our group grew, our family got bigger. We talked about wanting to do our cheer, and our athletes got extra excited about that. It was like, 'Oh my gosh, there's more!' Not only are we going, but we're going with a group of people. I remember a few years back when we qualified for Super Six and there were five SEC teams. And in the hallway they did their chant, and we didn't even have a chant. I think our girls were shouting, 'Sugar bowl!' That's all we had to hang our hat on at that point. But they've already talked about how they can't wait to be in the hallway tomorrow night so that they can chant their chant with the group and be part of a family."

UTAH SENIOR STEPHANIE McALLISTER

On setting the pace for the team on the first event (floor):

"I think it definitely helped us to start on floor and hit. It was a good floor set from everyone. We started off relaxed and stayed that way throughout the whole meet. This team really does its best when we're having fun and we had so much fun today. We're just really excited and honored to be in the Super Six."

On the possibility of an all Pac-12 and SEC Super Six:

"We just try to talk a lot about staying in our Utah bubble, but it's really fun for us to be a part of the Pac-12 for the first year."

On competing well back-to-back days:

"We train all year and we practice almost everyday, so we'll just have to restart tomorrow. I think we'll be totally ready for it. If we can go in confidently tomorrow, we'll have fun again."