



2018 NCAA® DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Monday, March 19, 2018

POSTGAME QUOTES

CREIGHTON HEAD COACH JIM FLANERY

opening statement

"I thought UCLA was terrific. I thought they really defended us well and were sharp offensively. We set up ourselves to play a triangle-and-two like we did against them in the Thanksgiving game but they hit some shots early and we didn't really get organized and their confidence only grew from their start. We hit some shots in the first half and we hit enough threes to stay in the game and that's a testament to how well they played because even though we shot it really well we weren't really in a very good position at halftime. We weren't out of it but they continued to play well. They did a good job of playing different defenses and keeping us off balance with the presses and all. They played really well and I think they have a good chance to go to Kansas City and be super competitive there. Proud of our group. We had a great year and a good season. We've made it to the second round of the NCAA Tournament for the second year in a row, something we've never done before. Hopefully this is a sign for us to move forward to be a more competitive program."

on not wanting to get into a track meet with UCLA

"I thought they did a good job of pressing. Watching their American game I don't think they pressed as much and that might be because American did a better job of breaking the press and attacking or a little bit sharper. But I don't think they pushed the pace that much. We've played Marquette and DePaul who is super up tempo and we tried to slow them down a little bit. They played really well and the shots they missed they rebounded them. From a communication standpoint and a physicality standpoint I thought we needed to be better because they got off to a good start and played with confidence the rest of the way. It's one thing to say block out and it's another thing to actually do it against someone who is bigger, stronger and can jump higher. Like I said they got hot. I probably out thought myself with the triangle. In retrospect we probably should have played for man because I thought we got caught not communicating as well as we needed to because that's not our traditional defense. The difference is that [Japreece] Dean did not play against us the first time and she can obviously shoot it and Burke hit some as well so that hurt us too."

on if UCLA pressed more than expected

"Yes. Not that I didn't expect that. We rely a lot on Sydney [Lamberty] and I thought that their goal was to wear her out and they did a good job of that. Again in retrospect we probably should have had Olivia [Elger] be our primary ball handler a little bit more. We tried Temi Carda a little bit but they sped her up a little bit too. I thought they did a good job of really making Sydney have to work and as a result her numbers were not close to what they were on Saturday. We ask a lot of her and probably should have had a little bit better approach to take some pressure off of her."

on how he will evaluate the season two weeks from now

"This is the first time we've been to the second round of the NCAA Tournament in consecutive years so that's a great sign. We lost good players last year. We lost a three-time all-conference player who was a senior. We lost our starting post player and then we lost a 'glue kid' and another kid so we lost a good class and still managed to play in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. We lose some good kids off this year's team, but anytime you win and have success you have a little better road map on how to do it the next year. What I really appreciated about this team is that we really didn't have as many pieces as we did last year, but these guys learned how to win the year before and they kept fighting and figuring things out. That's a neat thing to see in sport. For a program that just came from the Missouri Valley not that long ago I think it's neat that, in terms of NCAA Tournament success, duplicated what we did the year before. We weren't quite as good as we were in the regular season but we were still a really competitive team."

on how UCLA is better now than in previous meeting

"Well [Japreece] Dean gives them another shooter. They're experienced. I thought their focus was really good and defensively they were better for longer. When we played them in November I thought they had stretches where they were really disruptive. But tonight I thought the stretches were longer where they were really attentive defensively. They didn't allow as much easy passes. They made some nice adjustments within their zone. When we threw it into the foul line they really stretched out and made us make plays at the foul line. They really didn't do that the first time. We probably weren't as prepared for the adjustments they made in their zone versus what we saw in November and what we saw a couple of days ago so credit to them for that."

CREIGHTON JUNIOR FORWARD AUDREY FABER

on difference facing UCLA tonight versus meeting in November

"Offensively, they just made everything really hard. It was hard to get anything going to the basket. They're really athletic. Just made catches hard. Just made everything we did hard. I think their defense was just, defensively more pressuring on their defensive end."

on if she did anything different offensively compared to Saturday

"I didn't really do much differently, honestly. Just kind of tried to forget about the last game and come up with a new mindset and just take what they give me."