



2018 NCAA® DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, March 17, 2018

POSTGAME QUOTES

CREIGHTON HEAD COACH JIM FLANERY

opening statement

"I thought it was a great game. I'm sure it was to play in and I thought it was a great game to coach in. We're familiar with Iowa because we scrimmaged them and obviously, they're familiar with us so there were things they were maybe more prepared for than if they were playing someone they didn't know and some things we were more prepared for. [Megan] Gustafson is obviously a great, great player. We helped a lot and she still had 29 points and 17 rebounds so that gives you an indication of how good she is. These two [Jalyn Agnew and Sydney Lamberty] to my left were fabulous. It's a great feeling. When you're sitting last Monday, not knowing whether we're going to get in to the NCAA Tournament, to feel what it's like to play in the NCAA Tournament and win in the NCAA Tournament, there aren't too many feelings like that. Even though these two [Agnew and Lamberty] were terrific, it's still, always, a team game. I love our team, our chemistry, the fact that everyone plays a role, and you need that to beat a great team like Iowa in the NCAA Tournament. We're going to play another familiar foe because we did play UCLA. What a great challenge that will be, but also a great opportunity."

on shooting 8-10 from the line in the fourth quarter

"We missed a few before that. It felt like we split a few two-shot opportunities before that. I thought Iowa was smart when they went for quick twos and we didn't want to give up threes, so they kind of elongated the game and fouled. I thought that was smart. When you have someone as good as [Megan] Gustafson and you go inside and get a quick two, because at that point we weren't going to trap the post as much, we were going to let them get two. That made it more important that we hit the free throws. We downsized at the end of the game, we played a smaller lineup. We took our [center] off the court in the last couple minutes and I felt like that would make us a little less likely to turn the ball over and make sure we got two free throws."

on containing Iowa's guards

"We studied enough, just looking through box scores and figuring out when they struggle. Our focus, to some degree, was to take threes away from (Alexis) Sevellian and (Makenzie) Meyer. We didn't want Sevellian and Meyer to get threes and I thought we did a good job on those guys. At some point, I thought that (Megan) Gustafson would get a little tired and miss some shots, but that really never happened. Our goal was to help off of their fours, and make their fours make perimeter shots. It just didn't feel like we could guard Gustafson one-on-one. We didn't want particularly Sevellian and Meyer to make threes and I thought we did a good job on (Kathleen) Doyle."

on getting the victory despite being out-rebounded and scoring fewer points in the paint

"We knew they were going to get more points in the paint than us. We don't ever get more points in the paint than anybody. I thought [Jalyn Agnew and Sydney Lamberty] were deflecting praise, but they made great, strong plays at the end of the shot clock. Sydney made some really tough plays. [Alexis] Sevellian did a good job on her, and played her physically, but I loved how strong she was late in the shot clock. We're a slow team, in terms of pace of play, but that's who we have to be to be successful."

on momentum shift going into halftime

"I told them at the end of halftime that we were the best end-of-quarter team in the country because we got that shot at the end of the first quarter and we had no business getting that shot up at the end of the half. Those are big plays. At the end of the second quarter we gave them one, and in less than six seconds, Jalyn [Agnew] hit that layup."

on team's effectiveness boxing out

"We're a pretty good defensive rebounding team, certainly not a great or elite defensive rebounding team. Part of it is we're not a great transition team, so it's not like we're trying to rebound with three players and try to run. We keep five in to rebound and we also know, with certain matchups, you do have to block out and have your guards peel back from rebounds. We're O.K., we're not great and, obviously, Monday, that's going to be enormous."

on plan to stop UCLA and guard Jordin Canada

"We actually played them 'triangle-and-two'. We played them in a stretch of four games in seven days, so we didn't have prep time. We were fatigued so as we looked forward and decided what the week needed to look like, it was in our minds that was something we needed to do. We have to decide if that's what we're going to do again. I do think there's at least a road map for maybe what we can do. We'll try to adjust the things we do plan in that way. Rebounding and containing Canada will be huge, and we have to take risks. We're not going to beat UCLA if we don't take a risk or two in terms of both how we defend and how we play on offense, probably more so how we defend. That's just the reality of it. They're bigger, stronger, and faster than we are."

on attitude team can take against UCLA

"The game was 72-63. We led at the end of the first quarter, we were down one at half. They had a stretch in the third quarter when we turned the ball over a lot. I thought, defensively, they kind of changed the game with their strength and their length. Over the body of the game, our players know that we were right there. That's also basketball. If you watch some of [UCLA's] game today, they were up 30-12 and it looked like it was going to get away from American. We know we're going to have stretches that feel like 'Wow, what can we do?', but we also know that it's a 40-minute game and we have to be disciplined. They're going to make shots that maybe we've done as much as we could to contest and they're going to make things difficult. I think they do a good job of mixing defenses and their pressure will be something that we have to address because they'll mix up how they pressure, so we can't turn the ball over. We can't have 16-20 turnovers. We're a 12-turnover-a-game team and we have to be close to that to have a chance."

CREIGHTON SOPHOMORE FORWARD JAYLYN AGNEW

on converting final four baskets down the stretch

"Well I wasn't even aware of that. But I think my teammates were setting up really good plays for me to get involved. The posts were setting really good screens. It was kind of like an overall effort. There's no way I could've gotten the shots I did without them. Making the plays that they were making as well."

on strong second half

"I think the opportunity came to me. Coach had a few good play calls but they kept saying be confident so I took the opportunities."

on what team was able to use from October, 2017 scrimmage

"I also think we don't play anyone like them in the Big East so kind of having to think back to that preseason scrimmage and having to remember how they play."

on what it feels like to win big game in Los Angeles

"It feels awesome. We were really excited because in the scrimmage, we didn't beat them so we were really excited with that win and Coach said enjoy it today but then we have to think ahead to Monday."

on difference in styles between two teams

"I think our coach did a really good job of giving us defensive assignments and scouts and really abiding by that and focusing on that. And then getting a feel for the first couple minutes how they're going to play and how we play and see where we can be positive."

on working the shot clock

"That's just our style of ball. We usually use up a lot of the shot clock and try to work to get the best shot and you saw sometimes we really wound it down and would have to wait for the last second shot which doesn't always work out in our favor but that's just kind of how we play."

CREIGHTON SENIOR GUARD SYDNEY LAMBERTY

on what team was able to use from October 2017 scrimmage

Something that stuck out to me was definitely their transition, we got hurt by that in the scrimmage and I thought they only had a couple points off transition this time and I think that really helped us. (Megan) Gustafson, we knew she was going to be important in this game as well, and she had a good game but we just needed to shut down their other players on the perimeter and kind of let Gustafson do her thing."

on if change in time zones posed any problems

"I think we were just super excited to get out here, warm weather and none of us have been here before, we didn't know if we were going to get in, so I think there was just a lot of hype going into it that I don't think it really affected us."