



2014 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

First Round · #5 North Carolina St. vs. #12 BYU

Pauley Pavilion · Los Angeles, Calif.

Saturday, March 22

GAME QUOTES – BYU

Jeff Judkins, BYU Head Coach:

Opening Statement

“First of all, I want to congratulate North Carolina State. They are a great team and we were fortunate to win tonight. Both teams are very close. I told Coach Moore, his team is very classy. They do things right. It was a fun matchup. Second of all, I’m really proud of these young ladies. They believed themselves. We played the kind of basketball we played all year; this is how we won 27 games. Defend, pound it inside, takes what the defense gives us, everybody helping no matter what the situation. Thirdly, these three young ladies (Hamson, Eaton, Bailey), great efforts tonight, I’m proud of them. They have waited for this a long time and it was great to see them all step up and do something for this team tonight that wasn’t planned. To tell you the truth, I didn’t think I would have Morgan (Bailey) guard Gatling the whole game like I did tonight. I thought it would be in spurts, but she did a great job. We’re happy for everybody.”

On matchups in the post

“I think both teams prepared for it. They did a great job on Jen (Hamson). They were real physical and tried to get her off balance. I thought the second half, she did a lot better of getting position. Gatling, we prepared for. They tried to go inside. This is why both teams are here because we don’t go by one person. It’s a team effort. They did a good job in the first half with their guards driving. You didn’t see them drive that much on film, they really had hurt us that way. It was a gamble on my part tonight. I put Bailey on her (Gatling) because I didn’t want foul trouble with Jen early. Jen did a great job guarding Burke. She (Burke) had some shots but she had a 6’6 and an arm flying at her hand every time she shot it. She is probably not used to shooting over someone that size so that might be why she didn’t shoot the ball as well as she normally does. These guys believe in themselves. Like Lexi said, she didn’t have the greatest game at Gonzaga but this is the type of player she is and person she is. She came back hard, she worked hard, she got in the gym, didn’t feel sorry for herself and worked on her shot. She studied what shot she was going to get tonight and took advantage of that. If she plays like that and we have (Bailey and Hamson) inside, we are a tough team to guard.”

On matchup with Nebraska on Monday

“They are well coached. They run their offense, spread you out and make you guard them on the whole court. The key to this game will be can we guard them outside and not get hurt and can they guard our inside presence. That will be an interesting game. If we can get it inside to Jen and they guard their bigs outside, it should be to our advantage. Nebraska is a very very good team. They won the Big 10 championship. They don’t beat themselves. Today, Fresno State caught up to them and they showed their true character and got the ball to their key players. It will be a lot of fun.”

On being a #12 seed and how that played out

“First is, we were excited to come to LA. It’s not a far trip, it’s a great place with tradition to play. I told the girls you just don’t realize how awesome it is to be able to play in this arena, Pauley Pavilion. Second, we looked at the matchups. We knew the teams that were in this region, that we had a chance of beating. We matched up well with the. Third, you have opportunities. We kind of blew the opportunity two years ago. We came out, didn’t play our best game against Cal. I just wanted them to come out and play their game and that is what they did.”

On Lexi Eaton’s improvement over year off

“When she got injured, she took advantage to really watch, study and be on the bench listening to what was being said during and realized how to relay that into the game. Practice is easy, I just stop it and say go this way, go that way. But in the game, it is up and down. I think she really realized some of the things that were being said to her, in the game you can really adjust. I think that is where she has made her biggest improvement, she can go on the fly and adjust to that.”

Jennifer Hamson, BYU Center:

On finger injury

“It’s dislocated but we popped it back in. I’m all good.”

On defensive and rebounding effort

“My whole focus was to rebound and play defense. I knew that if I did that, we could play together as a team and we could do it together. I have great teammates who take advantage offensively when I’m not feeling it. We just worked together and I tried to do my part on defense.”

Morgan Bailey, BYU Forward:

On defending Markeisha Gatling

“On defense, I think I have been waiting for a game like this all year. I have never played against a big like her before. I made it a point to play early and try to push her off the block as much as I could. That is my type of game; I love being physical. It was fun.”

On mood change during game

“It the first half, with all the turnovers, it got a little stressful. But at halftime we all pulled together and just said let’s just play. I think second half was when we all really had fun.”

Lexi Eaton, BYU Guard:

On bouncing back from last game

“I think I just chose, after the last game, to learn from it and move on. That was the biggest thing, you can’t dwell on losses like that. You just have to learn from it and move on. I think we all came ready to play with a different mentality, a more aggressive mentality.”

On advantages offensively

“What I saw open, and we saw this in film before, they were going to squeeze the pick on ball so they were going to play tight to the bigs. So I knew I had a lot of room to drive it off of the pick and roll. That was nice, to get going early on that. I knew that I could drive to the basket, so that was the big thing I took advantage of.”

On advantage of having NCAA tournament experience

“I think it did (have an advantage). We also knew that they didn’t have experience so we knew we had that leg up on them. We tried to take advantage of that. But still, we didn’t take care of the ball like we wanted to in the first half, there is still room for improvement.”

On what she learned during year off dealing with injury

“The year off made a huge difference for me. I learned just a lot more about the game. I learned that I really missed the big games, like this one. I made a list of what I wanted to improve on and I put in all the time. I think it is starting to show right now. It has just been great to enjoy it with my team this time around instead of on the bench with my hands behind my back. It has paid off for sure.”

GAME QUOTES – North Carolina St.

Wes Moore, NC State Head Coach:

Opening Statement

“This was a tough day. I have to give BYU a lot of credit. They were well coached and well prepared. They shot the ball well. They also have a lot of toughness. They did a good job getting to the rim. I give them a lot of credit.”s

“This is not the way we wanted to end our season. It will hurt for a while. At the same time I am very proud of our young ladies. They bought in during my first year so I am blessed in that regard. It’s a tough way to end but maybe in a few weeks we’ll be able to look back on all the success they brought us.”

Miah Spencer, NC State Guard:

On playing for Coach Moore

“It was exciting to play for Coach Moore. He brings a lot of energy. He believed in us and we believe in him. We fell short but Coach Moore gave us a lot of energy.