



**March 19 2010**

**UC Riverside Press Conference Quotes**

**UC Riverside Head Coach John Margaritis**

*On playing Stanford...*

"I've run out of ideas, to be honest. I've watched a lot of tape. The more I see of them, the more I want to call in sick on Saturday. They're good. They're really truly good. They're well coached, and I think its going to be a tough matchup.

*On the possibility of upsetting a No. 1 seed...*

"I haven't mentioned [the 1998 Harvard-Stanford game]. I don't think it has anything to do with it. I think we're two different teams. Maybe for coach VanDerveer it's something that she experienced and she felt that she needed to bring that up, but for us, I don't think we're playing against that team. I don't think we're anything similar to Harvard."

*On making the NCAA tournament...*

"We're talking one or two layups away and we wouldn't be here. I thought that since the beginning of the season that you just go one game at a time, one week at a time, one practice at a time. I thought that once we got healthier we had a chance to get better. Now if you had asked me before the Big West Tournament if I thought we were going to win the Big West tournament, I would have answered, "I don't know." And that was the truth. After we won the third game, I kind of knew we had a chance to get over here if we got on the right flight. You just go one game at a time. You win the conference tournament, and your reward is you get to play Stanford. I think we are very proud to be representing ourselves, representing the university. I told the team earlier today in a meeting that we all aspire to get better. Now you're in a situation where you get to see what better looks like. The way we act and the way we compete maybe a step towards that."

**Senior Forward Amber Cox**

*On Stanford's post presence and game...*

"I think by far they're the biggest team that we've played against this season. So there's going to be a lot of physical content with them. We've just got to match their intensity and play hard...There's a part of me that says they are looking over us because we are the 16 seed, we're



not much to think about. At the same time, they're a great team, and I'm pretty sure they take each opponent as serious as their next one regardless of what rank they are or who they are."

*On returning to the NCAA tournament...*

"My freshman year we were all young, but this year is a little different. We're all older, more mature, and have more experience compared to our freshman year. It does help [that we play a tough non-conference schedule]. When you come to a tournament as prestigious as this, that's exactly the type of environment it is. Big arenas, lots of fans, tough teams."

### **Senior Guard/Forward Jessie Schmuckal**

*On reflecting on the season...*

"This year has been sort of a roller coaster. We started off with the best of intentions with really high goals for ourselves. Through a series of injuries, we started to struggle a little bit about mid-season. But here in the end, we've definitely rallied together and come back strong. We're just all really excited that this season has turned out so well."

### **Senior Forward Marissa Rivera**

*On returning to the NCAA tournament...*

"I think the experience is just that we're really proud to be here. I was telling my teammates that it's such a big accomplishment. Just to show everybody why we're here, all the things we've overcome, just to be on the national stage and in a national tournament is exciting in and of itself. I'm not surprised [that we're here]. I think we kind of knew all along that we had a really good team, and that it was just a matter of showing everybody else. I'm just really proud of this team and how far we've come. Being here is just a gift in itself."

*On playing Stanford...*

"I think we know that Stanford has a really good presence on the inside. We have the utmost respect for them. Great team. I went to school with [former Stanford player] Candice Wiggins, grew up with her. I talked to her two days ago over in Greece. She's just excited for us. Everybody has been watching Stanford for years and years and years. We know what kind of a guard game they have, their post game is incredible with their big three on the inside. We're just going to take it to them and not back down. That's pretty much what our game plan is."

NCAA Women's Basketball Championship  
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March 20 & 22, 2010

