



## 2016 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

First Round · Stanford 85, San Francisco 58

Maples Pavilion · Stanford, Calif.

Saturday, March 19

### POSTGAME PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES – STANFORD

#### **Tara VanDerveer, Stanford Head Coach:**

“There were a lot of different emotions about playing against a coach like Jennifer. It kind of reminded me of playing against my sister’s team. I love Jennifer, and it was really exciting. I was just thinking, ‘Wow, this is her first NCAA game, and this has got to be ... at least 100 [for me]. It was really emotional. I said to Jennifer, ‘How are you feeling?’ And she’s like, ‘It’s kind of surreal.’”

“You go back so long with somebody – over 20 years – and then they’re a player for you, and then playing on an Olympic team, and then she’s coaching.”

“I’m just really proud of Jennifer and their team. I thought their team competed extremely hard the whole game. They were very well prepared. We had to work very hard, we had to play very well to beat them.”

“I’m really proud of how our team came out. After having a disappointment in Seattle, I think we learned. I liked our shot selection. I told our team that we had to take care of the ball. We didn’t take care of the ball as well as we needed to, but I thought we did take good shots and I liked our shot selection. We were moving the ball well, we worked extremely hard defensively. It was a really good team effort. We’re going to have to play even better on Monday.”

“Jennifer might buy into the nice girls from Stanford. You don’t win by being nice, you have to be aggressive. I told our team, ‘You have to take it from them.’ A lot of [our players] are underestimated in terms of how hard they play.”

“I love Jennifer, but I love winning more.”

#### **Lili Thompson, Stanford Guard:**

“All week in practice, I’ve been working on knowing the game plan, knowing what I need to do on the offensive and defensive ends, and just getting up extra shots. My teammates made some really nice passes – I got a few lay-ups off of some really nice backdoor passes, and I think that got me going.”

“Coming off finals, it was a nice exhale for us. Everybody was in the library, doing our thing with that, and so everybody was kind of loose. It’s the NCAA Tournament. If you’re going to get excited for anything, this is it. I think we had great energy in practice leading up to this, and then today on the bus, in the locker room, everyone was really excited. We knew that everyone was going to come out and play their A game. So it was going to be our energy versus their energy.”

“In the first game, anything can happen. Seeds don’t matter; it’s the game. We just want to make sure that we play our game and go for it right from the beginning.”

“For me, the biggest thing you take [from the Pac-12 Tournament loss] is the concept of one-and-done. Throughout the season, you lose a game, you go back to the drawing board, and you have the next game in a few days. But with the [Pac-12 Tournament], you have to earn that right to play. We didn’t, we had to go home, and that wasn’t a good feeling. Now, this is the real deal, where if we lose a game, we don’t get a chance to come back, try again, and fix those things.”

“I have heard a lot about Jennifer Azzi, just in my time at Stanford and even before coming to Stanford. She was our first All-American and she’s done great things as a coach as well. You’re kind of star struck, and then she smiles at you, and she’s like, ‘Good job, you guys played a great game.’ You realize she’s really down-to-earth, and you just want to make all the Stanford alumni proud and try to continue on the tradition.”

**Erica McCall, Stanford Forward:**

“Tara talked a lot about how we could go inside and how we could dominate down there. We just really recognized that the big girl was out and just to be able to go up there and power the moves down and knock them down. I think Kaylee Johnson did a great job down there as far as knocking down a lot of great post moves.”

“This kind of feels like how were going from the Utah game into the Oregon State game. We’re peaking at the right moment. Hopefully, we can keep that going, keep the momentum going.”

**POSTGAME LOCKER ROOM QUOTES – STANFORD**

**Kaylee Johnson, Stanford Forward:**

“A lot of it was energy. It was tournament time and we knew it was going to come down to the little things and the dirty work. I think that’s something we all had a good focus on. We knew we had to come out and be a more aggressive team to win.”

“Every time we’ve lost, it’s been a big eye-opener and we get back to the gym and work on little things. Game by game we’re building those things. I think we’re really rounding out as a team and we’re about to peak at the right time.”

**Karlie Samuelson, Stanford Guard:**

“We’re a different team than last year. It’s playing with each other. The offense has improved, for sure. We’ve had a couple of struggles with our zone offense and man offense. But I think our defense has been consistent. We’re getting better at that, too.”