



2009
Northeast Conference
Women's Basketball Championship

Presented by esurance

Quarterfinal & Semifinal Rounds

William H. Pitt Center

Fairfield, CT

March 7 & 8

#5 Monmouth 69, #4 Quinnipiac 67

POST GAME QUOTES

March 7, 2009 / Quarterfinal Two

Monmouth Head Coach Stephanie Gaitley ...

Opening statement...

I just think it was a great example of neither team wanting to finish their season, especially the seniors. I have to give a lot of credit to Quinnipiac, Tricia does an outstanding job and she has an outstanding group of kids. Aside from the basketball players, when we were talking about the sportsmanship awards to our players, Quinnipiac's name came up and so that's a real tribute to anyone involved with Quinnipiac and their kids. So it was one of those games where it was a hard game for anybody to lose and obviously I'm ecstatic that we're on the winning end of it, but my hat goes off to Tricia and her team because that senior class brought Quinnipiac to a whole other level. I'm savoring this win until midnight, that's our motto then we move on and try to play David and Goliath.

On the last play of the game...

I just thought it was very fitting that the game ended on a defensive play from Marbely Montas, who is somebody who doesn't get a whole lot of recognition and therefore the big play came down to her. She hit a big foul shot down the stretch when we needed it and she made a huge defensive play and she did a great job on the boards, so I just think the fact that we won on a defensive play is a statement about what we've been trying to preach all year and the reason for our success this year.

On the 20-point lead in the first 15 minutes of the game...

I think part of the age comes wisdom and experience and at that point you're not going to knock a Quinnipiac on their heels, someone that is that senior-laden, maybe a young inexperienced team would have folded at that point. We were shooting well and they were missing their shots. So it wasn't a case of them playing sloppy, it was a case of we came out of the gates quickly, that's why I try to keep the kids calm. It's a long game...I think it

was a situation where we played extremely well in spurts and every time Quinnipiac made a run I thought we countered it and we kept our composure at the most important times.

On Jennifer Bender ...

I think when the turnaround came for Quinnipiac is when they went zone. We came out of the gates quickly and then they went into a zone, which kind of boggled up the inside for us and therefore forced us into a perimeter game and I think they went into their half court press and back to a zone, which slowed us down and gave us some problems and forced us to a perimeter game. Once we settled down, we started to identify some gaps in the post and we had 13 offensive rebounds in the second half which had a lot to do with our success inside, but part of the reason Jen didn't get any looks is because of when they went zone.

On the pressure of playoffs ...

I didn't want them to think too much about the next level of this game. They were already hyper and nervous as it was, they wanted to shoot around, these kids asked for a shoot-around today, which meant they had to get up at 6:45 am so it was a very, very early morning, but my hat goes off to them because each one of them brought something special to make something like this happen.

On the morning shootaround ...

I think it just reinforced some of the things that we wanted to do. They were hyper, they were very ready and that's why when that start happened, I said to them at halftime, it's going to come down to the last four minutes. It doesn't matter if we're up 10, down 15, this game is going to come down to the last four minutes and the team that shows the most composure and the team that makes the defensive play is the team that is going to win it. So, having been through so many games, being up 20, down 20, having seen it all, those girls did a great job – it's all them.

Monmouth's Marbely Montas

On Erin Kerner and Quinnipiac's last possession of the game ...

I just did what coach told me to do, I gave her that first step because I knew she was going to drive to the basket. Jen helped me out also and when she spun back I just saw the ball and I just knew what I had to do to have it in my hands...just grabbed it and went.

Monmouth's Jennifer Bender

On Quinnipiac having a chance to win on the last possession of the game ...

I was like, 'As long as they don't get a three, as long as they don't get a three,' so when she drove, I was like okay this is good I'm just going to run to where ever she is going, and it worked out.

On Erin Kerner with the ball during the last possession of the game ...

I wasn't even worried about my girl, I just can't let her shoot a three, so I just kind of followed her around. So when she drove, I was happy because she was away from the three-point line and now we just have to help....All I was thinking was if she shoots a three, I'm trying to block it.

On playing Sacred Heart in the semifinals ...

It's a brand new game. We don't look at the last two games we played them. We just have to take it every four minutes, every media timeout, just take it like individual games and just take it like that.

Monmouth's Alexis Scott

On playing in her first playoff game ...

We were talking about it in the locker room before, it's the playoffs but it's still just a game. It was fun playing with the seniors because they took it to another level. We were talking about how the seniors were going to try to dictate the play of the game and I think our seniors did a great job. So I was just trying to stay within the defense and help out as much as I could and when shots were open I took them.

Quinnipiac's Head Coach Tricia Fabbri

Opening statement ...

Well I thought we took it right down to the wire. It looked like our goose had been cooked with a couple minutes to go in the game, much like it did in the first half, but I thought we really battled to put ourselves in a position to force that overtime, but it didn't happen today.

On the slow start to the game ...

LaKia Barber came out and shot lights out, really set the tone for them in our man and forced us to get into our zone and they just came out and shot the ball awfully, awfully well.

On slowing down Jen Bender ...

Our zone, we just stayed zone. We matched well and we rebounded well in the first half to get us back into the game, but the second half the rebounding let us down out of the zone...Monmouth was 3-for-13 from the three-point line and they came with back-to-back threes when the game was on the line and they really answered.

On giving Erin Kerner the ball on the last play ...

It's her play, it didn't work out this day for us, but there is nothing else we were going to do differently. If I'm in that position times 100 times, 100 times it's going to be the same result of getting Erin the ball and letting her do her thing. Unfortunately it didn't go down for us and it stings right now.

On falling behind early ...

There's a lot of game still left to be played so if you're going to go down by a lot, you want to do it early not at the end. I just knew we had a lot of game left...we just had to take a breath and relax and then once we started to settle in with the change of the defense we were able to relax and play the game and close it to five.

Closing statement ...

We've had a tremendous class come through. I have a lot of admiration for the young ladies...We've spent a heck of a lot of time together winning...the best of times and the worst of times, but I just really admire these young ladies and the quality of person that they are. We all wish it could have been just a little bit different.

Quinnipiac's Erin Kerner

On the last play ...

I wanted to try to draw the foul, the refs were calling everything late in the game so I thought I could draw some contact, but unfortunately Montas had great defense and she ended up with the ball.

On fatigue late in the game ...

This was my last game in my senior year so I was going to do anything I could to try to pull it out so fatigue wasn't going through my mind at that moment, I was going to worry about that after the game.

Closing statement ...

This is not how I wanted to end my senior year, but it's been a great four years and I couldn't be happier with my choice to come to Quinnipiac. It's very sad to leave, it's a great group of girls and I've had an amazing four years. And we fought hard, that's about all you can do, but the ball didn't bounce our way today. I don't know what I'm doing from here, but I'm going to miss it.