



Postgame Quotes
No. 12 Tulsa vs. No. 4 Cincinnati
Game 8 – Quarterfinals, March 4, 2018
Mohegan Sun Arena – Uncasville, Conn.

Opening Statement from Cincinnati coach Jamelle Elliott

"I am glad we are because it could have easily been Tulsa. They had a great tournament. Winning against Houston and taking our game down to the wire. For a team that won three games in conference play, they came here and showed up to play. Hats off to Tulsa. We got the W. We found a way to win. Our mantra has been for a long time refuse to lose. We could have easily given up down seven inside of five minutes. We made enough plays to win the game. I am so glad our two seniors got to live another day. Hopefully, this give us an opportunity to make postseason, but first things first, we need to get through the juggernaut of women's basketball tomorrow. We will prepare for them like we do everyone else and play one possession at a time. If nothing else, they will help us be better for our next endeavor after this tournament."

The last four minutes of the game

"It wasn't about me today," Ana Owens said. "It wasn't a secret that I didn't play as well as I normally do. Shanice (Johnson) came on strong. They couldn't stop her. Angel (Rizor) showed up offensively and defensively plus came out with the rebounds. We had to stick to the game plan. When adversity hits, we have to focus on the next play."

Getting your first trip to the American semifinals

"I feel like as a team we have developed mentally and physically," Shanice Johnson said. "Our coach has been harping on our defense so from here on out, we need to stick to the game plan and our defense."

"It means a lot to me," Elliott said. "I haven't been to the semifinals as a head coach. Coming here, we were overjoyed to come and watch the team we are playing next. Usually, we are playing in the game. This time we got a chance to scout our opponent. The different experience and now another one. It is almost like we won two games in the tournament. Going on to the semifinals and we are making history. I am so thankful that we get to make history with these two young ladies as seniors. They have given so much to our program. We have great young players coming up the pipeline. They are learning how to win and understanding what it takes to win. It starts in the future of our program and this season."

Importance of the points in the paint

"All season long, our threes have been either on or off so coming in, I wanted to knock down some shots and finish in the paint," Johnson said. "This could have been my last game so I was playing that way. I gave it all I have."

The last few plays of the game

"We were down one and they had the ball in front of their bench and we knew we had three fouls to give," Elliott said. "We were saying we have 14 seconds left in the game, three fouls and can't let any time tick off the clock. Good luck! Luckily, the last thing we told them was don't foul first, go for the steal. Luckily, someone was able to get a hand on the loose ball which are special plays which we try to get every game and thankfully, the jump ball went our way. It gave us an opportunity to win. Ana hadn't been herself offensively all game, but when I went in the huddle and called our horns play, I wanted our two seniors to have the ball. Ana coming off the screen, Shanice popped and ready to make a decision. I wouldn't have designed any other way than making these guys be the ones to make a play to help us win. The last three minutes were crazy. Hopefully, they were fun to watch. It was stressful to coach. I am enjoying as a coach being in these moments too. I am learning every time I get an opportunity to coach and it was no different tonight."