



**Postgame Quotes**  
**No. 4 Cincinnati vs. No. 1 UConn**  
**Game 10 – Semifinals, March 5, 2018**  
**Mohegan Sun Arena – Uncasville, Conn.**

*Opening Statement from Cincinnati Coach Jamelle Elliott*

"We lived to make it to the semifinals. One seed against the four seed. I know Coach Auriemma well. He is gearing his guys up to go deep into the NCAA tournament and he they prepared well. I haven't seen them come out as aggressive as they did today. Hitting on all cylinders from a defensive end. It was tough for us to even get a shot off. It was tough for us in the first half. I thought we settled down in the second half and gained some confidence. We were able to find ways to get easier shots at the basket. I am proud of the way my team played. They fought hard all the way to the finish."

*On their chances of a WNIT bid and the aftermath of this game*

"I told them to wake up the nightmare is over," Elliott said. "It is a new day. Hopefully, another season will be coming our way. I am staying positive with postseason. It is in the hand of the committee now. Hopefully, we did enough the last six or seven games of the conference. I believe we are trending in the right direction. Hopefully, the committee will see the same thing. My fingers are crossed, I am saying a lot of prayers and hoping to coach Ana (Owens) and Shanice (Johnson) another game."

*Finishing fourth in the standings*

"We were picked to finish eighth by my colleagues in the conference and we finished fourth with a bye," Elliott said. "It has been a season of firsts for us. We were watching the late game on Saturday and being to live scout the team we were playing for the first time since I've been at Cincinnati. Winning senior night to have a bye which was a first for Ana. We hadn't won a senior night since she has been a player. Coming to the tournament and win a game. Hopefully, our culture is continuing to evolve in a positive way. We are looking forward to seeing where this program goes. We are losing two great seniors, but we have some great young players in the locker room who have gained valuable experience this season. I think our future is bright. First things first, we have a week to wait. Which means a week to practice and we will prepare like we are playing next week. Hopefully, we will get the call to say we are."

*On the success of UConn this season*

"They play hard for 40 minutes," Elliott said. "They have length, athleticism, block shots and do it all. When you scout teams, your objective is to find a weakness that we can capitalize on. This year has been the hardest possible that we have been able to find a weak link other than their bench. He doesn't play them so it is hard to find that weak link. You go out, try to play UConn and have small victories. Give your players as much confidence as possible. Will them to play hard every possession. Today, we ran up against a buzz saw of a team. We couldn't get it going and they did at the right time. We made it to the semifinals and I am really proud of that."