

Arizona vs. Long Beach State
McKale Center – Tucson, Ariz.
Nov. 11, 2013

Arizona head coach Sean Miller

On the performance of Gabe York:

“The guy who, I think, is really standing out for us is Gabe York. In the first two games and through our early practices, I think it is obvious that he is a much improved player. He has worked extremely hard from last year. When he comes in the game, he really does a great job. The fact that he had six assists and no turnovers, that stat there is every bit as remarkable as the way he shot the ball tonight. He’s a pivotal part of us moving forward. I’m happy for him.”

On the variety of lineups used against Long Beach State:

“That is what gives our team depth that we can play players at more than one position. Nick (Johnson) for example, played three different positions. That is very difficult to do, but he is able to do it because he is very smart, experienced and very talented. Aaron Gordon, when you watch him at the three, he can play the three. As a matter of fact, in light of this game and last game, we have been very efficient. It gives us a big team physically. When we sub and go with the three guards, we have to learn a little bit of a different style. In time, that will come. We are working very hard to smooth that out.”

On the difference between the first and second half play:

“One thing about Long Beach State is that they really offensively rebound. They’re going to do that well the entire year. They have a number of players that are hard to keep off the glass. We learned our lesson early in the game that we have to block all of their guards. We did a better job as the game went on. To me, it was 40-minute game. We had some good plays and did some good things. Like always, especially in November, there are things we need to learn from this game and carry into the next game.”

On the upcoming game against San Diego State University:

“We respect San Diego State a great deal. We’ve had a couple of tough games against them. They’ve had some players leave, but there is no doubt that it will be one of our most difficult games that we play this season. The last time that we went to San Diego State was my first year. That was probably as big of a whooping as I had ever taken since I was in about second grade. I think they had 11 offensive rebounds in the first eight minutes. We could not match their physicality. They have a very good team this year, so we will have to be at our best to win that game on Thursday.”

Junior Guard Nick Johnson

On if this defensive effort was the best since he’s been at Arizona:

“Obviously in a game, yeah. We’ve done a lot better in practice, though. They got a lot of offensive rebounds in the first half, so we’ve got some things to work on, but overall it was a good effort.”

On the free throw struggles continuing in the first half:

“We’ve been practicing it. Coach just tells us not to make it mental. Yesterday we all went to the gym and put up 100 free throws each.”

On the team’s strength in transition and the alley oops:

“We talked about our identity as a team and we want to be a strong defensive team and we want to be able to get on the break. When we push the ball, we’ve got a lot of people who can finish in transition. We know that’s going to be a big part of our game all year. ”

On Zach Peters:

“He didn’t think he was going to play. He’s looking good. He practices hard; he really attacks the offensive glass. He missed a couple of shots tonight but I know that was just jitters. He’s going to be good for us. We all know that he can hit those shots when he gets in the flow.”

Sophomore Center Kaleb Tarczewski

On his night:

"It was a great night. The other team rebounded really well so it motivated us to get rebounds. Coach Miller says that we're the biggest team ever here at Arizona, or at least much bigger than last year, so we go into every game expecting to get every rebound."

On the matchup with San Diego State:

"I'm looking forward to it; it's going to be a great game. I'm excited to play in front of their crowd. It should be a good atmosphere."

Sophomore Forward Brandon Ashley

On if this game is the pace he wants to play at:

"Minus the fouls, yeah. I didn't really get into a flow until the end of the game where I wasn't committing fouls."

On the team's 2-to-1 assist-to-turnover ratio:

"The chemistry we have on this team is unrivaled to any team that I've been on. We spent a lot of time together this summer. The bonding we've done on and off the court has really helped us as a team."

Long Beach State head coach Dan Monson

On tonight's game...

"We play these games to see where we are at against one of the best teams in the country and we are just not at that level. We have to walk away knowing we have a lot work to do and go and do it. We were dominated in every phase of the game."

On their struggle on offense...

"I was just disappointed we didn't battle through it. I wasn't surprised we only had 18 points at half, I knew offensively we were a work in progress and we were going to struggle. What I didn't like is how we reacted to it. We didn't fight through adversity as a group."

On takeaways from the game and moving forward...

"That is the overwhelming part as a coach. We have to get better offensively, we have to get better individually on defense, we have to get better as a team defensively. I think one thing is we competed on the boards adequately, but we still have to get better."

Junior Guard Mike Caffey

On what they were trying to do and what Arizona did to prevent them ...

"We were focusing on stopping Arizona's fast breaks. They got a couple of fast break points and that got them going, they made a couple shots, so after that, they just kept rolling. We made them get a little too comfortable and that's what popped our defense."

Senior Forward Dan Jennings

On what they accomplished well in the game ...

"At the second half, we played a little better, we played a little harder. But I'm going to be honest, our effort wasn't there in the first half. Arizona came out with a passion, and they came out playing harder than us. They did well. We just got to look at this as a learning experience and try to bounce back and get better as a team. It's early so we can still learn from these mistakes going forward."