

DIRECTV WOODEN LEGACY QUOTES - Arizona vs. Santa Clara

Coach Sean Miller, Arizona Opening Statement - "I'd like to give Santa Clara tremendous credit. Kerry Keating and his staff had his team ready to play tonight. They played with tremendous emotion and energy. They played the game really hard. They had a lot of guys coming in and out of the game setting good screens, being unselfish and running the floor. They mixed their defenses and that was effective against us. Jared Brownridge, you can't say enough good things about him. Look at what he did tonight, it's not just 44 (points), its 44 out of 73. That's a lot of points in a college game. You look at the free throw attempts, they made 17 as a team and he made 15 of them. The same thing from the three-point line, he made 7 out of 10. He put 44 on us and it wasn't like we were trying. That coupled with a great game plan and a coach that had his guys ready to go along with their energy and effort level that allowed them to not just have a chance to beat us, but they should have beat us. If you go to the 5 minute mark in the first half, we were really in command and I subbed a number of guys and from that substitution on I don't think we really regained any type of control of the game. You like to learn a lot about your team and tonight I think we got a heavy dose of a lot of lessons and a lot of things that are going to help us move forward, but a lot of things that concern you as a coach. We have to be able to talk about it, learn about it and obviously we have a game tomorrow. Kaleb Tarkczewski has been injured his entire time here his senior year. He has practiced maybe two weeks and been bothered by both ankles. I know he reinjured one tonight. I do not know the severity."

On the play of Elliott Pitts - "I thought Elliott really tried hard. The first thing is first, effort. Elliot's heart was in the right place. He gave great effort. We really put Brownridge to the line a lot down the stretch. When the official is down there on the baseline, you have to be really smart, show your hands, talking to the official and making sure you don't pick up a cheap one (foul). That's something Elliott will learn from. The more he is in that role, the more he will master it. I thought he in particular did a good job."

On Arizona's team defense - "We have such a long way to go on defense, it's not even close. The last two years, if you saw Arizona play, you saw two of the nation's best defensive teams and we are just starting the ascent to potentially one day arrive somewhere in the stratosphere of that. That doesn't at all mean that Brownridge didn't earn his baskets tonight and that Santa Clara didn't execute their game plan, they really did. Did they play against an outstanding defensive team tonight? No."

On filling lost roles - "That's the hard part for our guys. Obviously Ryan (Anderson) is off to a tremendous start and Mark (Tollefsen) had his best game at Arizona tonight. That's why we were able to win. In Ryan's case he hurt his ankle against Boise St. and he did not practice this week. I thought both of these guys were a real positive influence on the outcome but you can't ride the coattails of anything that has happened here in the past. This is a brand new team. Tonight we took a step backwards and we didn't bring an identity to the table. There's a lot of things we have to go back and work on. Where we are in this tournament, it's about winning tomorrow and trying to be the best we can be tomorrow. Kris Dunn can score 60 against Arizona tomorrow. That's one thing I would look at if I were ESPN. Can Dunn score more than Brownridge on Arizona? There's a chance he could get 50."

On tonight's substitutions - "I told the guys at the end of the game, I really did a terrible job coaching the team. I thought Santa Clara had us on our heels all game long. I give their staff credit, they did an outstanding job and when you have a player score 44 points against you, you don't win very many times. We have to look at who is playing well together, maybe playing guys more at one position instead of at multiple positions. What happens is you settle in and improve and get better. At this time of year you are really looking for improvement and I think tonight's game sets us up to learn a lot about our team moving forward."

On Gabe York's play - "He had a really hard night tonight. A couple games ago against Boise St., Gabe was terrific and we would have won if he didn't play that well. You are going to have games from time to time that aren't going to go well. Tonight didn't go well for him."

Arizona Senior Forward, Ryan Anderson, On big men play - "Every game we play we try to impose our will on the team. Whether it's rebounding or finishing inside. That's some coaching Miller is talking about, what is our team identity. That's what we try to pride ourselves on as bigs. I think the team found us bigs in some good spots around the rim and we tried to play hard.

On mindset down the stretch - "Santa Clara did a great job playing us physical. Their coaching staff put them in a lot of good positions defensively. They made it really difficult on our team. What we sign up for at Arizona is to play tough games and to take everyone's best punch. Definitely Santa Clara gave us a great run tonight. Any time you take someone to overtime and you have a guy score 44 points, you're doing a lot of things well. They played really well tonight.