

**NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament
Austin, TX
#11 San Diego State 64, #3 West Virginia 55**

March 23, 2010

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY AZTECS

THE MODERATOR: We're joined by Head Coach Beth Burns, senior guard Jene Morris, and senior guard Quenese Davis. Congratulations to you on advancing.

We'll start with an opening statement from Coach Burns and open the floor for questions for the student-athletes and Coach.

COACH BURNS: Before I even address what has just -- we've just accomplished, I would really like to extend a huge thank you to the University of Texas. Our experience here for our student-athletes has been unbelievable. There are people at every turn here to help you in every way, shape, or form. That extends all the way over to the Crowne Plaza, where we're staying, and all the fans that are with us from San Diego have repeatedly commented on how the people are so friendly and helpful. So thank you for that.

Congratulations to West Virginia on an incredible season. We pride ourselves on guarding people, and that was as good a defense as I think we've ever faced, both from a scheme standpoint and from the talent of their athletes. They made this game really, really difficult. It was the way I kind of thought it would go.

But I couldn't be prouder to say that, for the first time in the history of San Diego State University, we're going to the Sweet 16. It means an awful lot to an awful lot of people. It was hard

fought. I think, when it was 47-47 for a while, we just had to keep reminding our team, remember what got you here, which is guarding people, and you've got to have the courage to do what you do, which is guard people, get it, get out and run.

I think that little spurt was the difference. West Virginia had fought so hard so repeatedly to get to that point, that that might have been enough for us to put it over the top.

Q. You all are not an 11 seed. I think you proved that. Were you kind of out to prove something?

COACH BURNS: Oh, heck no.

Q. How do you feel about the 11 seed? You're a lot better than that.

COACH BURNS: Thank you. And that's the beauty of basketball. I said this to the team this morning at shooting practice. In November you learn plays, in January you run plays, and in March you make plays. I think it was the evolution of our team. I don't have -- I didn't have a problem with being an 11 seed. Frankly, I was quite happy to be invited to the party. We'll come in front door, back door, climb in the basement window. You can't get a chance if you can't get in.

Of our own volition, we had a couple of bad losses in our league that I thought had jeopardized that, and that's why. I think that kind of in the western United States you don't see us as much, and if you get a bad loss, you're in trouble. And so we knew two weeks ago that we had to win three to get here. We knew here we had to win two to keep on going. No, we were happy to get in.

Q. To the players, can you remember any time this season where the defense tired out, especially in the first half, and what got you through that?

JENE MORRIS: I'm so excited I can't remember anything.

COACH BURNS: We have honest athletes at San Diego State University.

JENE MORRIS: I think, when we played TCU at home, that's when we started playing defense and working together. I think that's when we started our flow and confidence as a team and working together and realized how good we can be if we work together. Our offense starts from our defense, and I think we figured it out that game. We played great defense today. I'm really proud of our team.

Q. To the players, in the first half, both teams in terms of statistics, 1 of 7, 2 of 9 for them, obviously tough defenses. But was anything else contributing to that, nerves, anything, or was it just strictly two teams going at each other?

QUENESE DAVIS: I think we definitely came out at each other hard, could have been a bit of jitters. I know we missed a couple of shots around the basket. The post players, they were going at it, battling tough down there. They weren't gathering their momentum going up, trying to be physical through the contact, and that played into us missing our shots.

Q. Jene, it's 47-47, five minutes to go. You scored 12 points in the last five minutes. What was the mindset at 47-47, and whom did you have in your mind that you wanted to be the person to take you there?

JENE MORRIS: I think at that point me and Queneese said to each other, this isn't our last game. We fought hard to make it to that point. It's tied up with that much time left, there's no way we were leaving the court on a loss. Our team deserved to win. We played a great game up until that point. If I had the shot, I was going to take it.

Q. Defense, you think, was what won it for you tonight?

COACH BURNS: Oh, without question. And I would say, kind of referring to what Nicole just said, it was big hands and faces that were causing a lot of problems. Both teams really, really wanted -- I told our team, as much as we talk about we're 40 minutes away from, well, so are they. It's going to

be that kind of game. And that was, to me, the difference was -- I think I told you yesterday it could be -- I told them before the game, if it's 2-1, that's fine as long as we have 2. You've got to do what you're comfortable with.

And the rebounding component is what we really added here. To out rebound both these teams is a huge accomplishment for us because, if we get defensive boards, we can do what we do best, which is get out in space, and it makes it difficult to guard us and takes some pressure off our offense. That, to me, was the biggest key.

Q. Coach, when you were tied at 47, how comfortable are you knowing that you've got these two guards?

COACH BURNS: Very comfortable. I was almost getting depressed, and I almost sent my recruiting coordinator at the four-minute mark to go call somebody because next year is not going to be as fun. But that's the difference is -- and that's why we have great guard play, and I said that five days ago. I'm not saying that now because we just were successful. That's why we're here. They brought us here.

Basketball is a guards game. You can have the best big in America, but if you don't know the angles and the hows and the whens and the whys, it's not going to matter. In these type of close games, it comes down to guard play. I think they made the right call every time. Nothing you saw this weekend was any kind of superlative, super human, senior last stand to get somewhere. This is how good they are, and this is what we want to do.

Q. Coach, what does it say about the game that a No. 11 just upset a No. 3? That you guys are going into the Sweet 16 very likely with at least one or two more significant upsets. We've seen them all through the early rounds of the tournament.

COACH BURNS: I think we've seen in our game, you know, the huge growth in our game, which is why we balked a little bit about going back to courts that weren't neutral is we're getting closer. You

won't get an argument from anyone that No. 1 has certainly distanced themselves, and 2, 3, 4 maybe. But then when you start getting to the high single digits and into the teens and the 20s, there's a lot of good players. There's a lot of good coaches. And I think it's not surprising. It's not surprising for us.

We are so proud to represent the Mountain West Conference because I think that we have hall of fame coaches in our league. They help me -- they get me better. They get our team better because you play them three times, you'd better be creative three times over. I think there's good basketball being played everywhere. And as I said to John, all you need's a chance. You've got to get a chance. You get a chance, you get a stage, then you have to do something with it. What we did obviously didn't just help us, it helped everybody in our league.

Q. No team in San Diego can ever say they've won up here and advanced to the Sweet 16. As players, as those who came to a program that couldn't get to the Sweet 16, what does it mean to be able to say you guys are the first?

QUENESE DAVIS: That means a lot. It's exciting for us. That makes a statement. We're putting San Diego State on the map. No one on the East Coast or Midwest knows who San Diego State is. We're definitely representing for our school.

Q. And what does free-throw shooting do for you all? You all said you were 7 for 7.

COACH BURNS: I think that goes back to the fact that both Q and Jene are great free-throw shooters. We get the ball in their hands, and, again, it's not surprising. I think, we have a statistic for Q, something like in the last four minutes of games, she's almost 98%, I think. She wants the ball. They both want the ball.

So not surprising, but, again, critical because we struggled -- we got a little bit of separation, and then you could see our bench like smelled it a little bit, and we were trying to quell the smell because there was still an awful lot of time left. We gave them two quick scores back to back,

where those free throws meant everything to us.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you.