

**March 13, 2013**



Washington – 64  
Washington State – 62

An interview with:

## **COACH ROMAR SCOTT SUGGS ABDUL GADDY**

THE MODERATOR: Coach, an opening statement, please.

COACH ROMAR: That's not the first time we've played against Washington State and the game didn't end up something like that. It's unbelievable, regardless how the game starts. At the end, it comes out that way. You've got to give Washington State a lot of credit. They fought hard. They didn't put their head down when they had that deficit. They worked.

But I thought our guys did a great job for the most part of the game defending and executing and playing unselfishly. That start enabled us to have enough left over to come up with the victory.

We're just fortunate. We dodged a bullet, but we're fortunate to be moving on to play tomorrow night.

THE MODERATOR: What builds the decomposition of a 15-point lead?

COACH ROMAR: I thought we started to turn the ball over too much in the second half, and they hit threes. It's not a real good combination if you have a lead. One of our keys was to not let them get off of the three-point line. When they came back, that's what they did.

**Q. In the last possession the ball ended up going to Simmons. Can you tell us what you saw? What your plan was, and how it came out?**

ABDUL GADDY: I had the ball in my hands, and any player who wants to be in that

position -- I just wanted to get the best shot available, whether that was me coming off the screen or Scott or C.J. wide open or Des; and Des happened to be the person that was wide open and he made the shot.

**Q. Lorenzo, thoughts on tomorrow night, third time against Oregon?**

COACH ROMAR: We just had the third one against Washington State. The only difference is we've not beaten Oregon this year, so hopefully we can be at our best and turn that around. They're a very good basketball team. We're a game away, or weekend away, from winning this league.

**Q. Abdul and Scott, as seniors and the up-and-down seasons that you guys have had, what's this mean for you guys to advance and maybe further your legacy as Huskies?**

ABDUL GADDY: Another day to play. That's how we've been playing and coming into this game. It could have been potentially our last game. But we were like, man, we don't want this to be our last game. One thing we said to our guys is, man, leave it all out there. Don't walk off this floor and say, dang, I could have given a little bit more.

SCOTT SUGGS: Pretty much what Gaddy said, it's do or die now. We all know that. I feel like all the games are going to be really competitive all the way up.

**Q. Getting back to Oregon, for tomorrow night, what do you remember about the first two games, first two times you guys played the Ducks this season? What stands out about those games?**

ABDUL GADDY: Turnovers. Turned the ball over a lot against them, and they're a pretty good defensive team. That's been a problem for us all year too. Main thing is to take care of the ball, get good shots, and be dialed in on the defensive end. If we can do those three things,

we'll be all right.

**Q. How do you think you did against Brock tonight?**

COACH ROMAR: Not as good as before. The odds were in Brock Motum's favor. When we played the game, we talked about when Klay Thompson was here, and we did a decent job on Klay Thompson; and then in this tournament opening game he scored 43. Thank goodness, Brock didn't score 43. For a player as multi-talented as Brock Motum is, it's difficult to hold him down every time. We fought. We scrapped. He still had to work for his points. He's just a heck of a basketball player.

I thought he was playing his best basketball of the year down the stretch here. He had 31 points against USC, 20 points a game before that against UCLA. He's really good.

**Q. Why did you have Scott on him in the final possession? And did you want to switch that when they screened?**

COACH ROMAR: Yes, we did. We felt we were more -- well, almost all of us were like-sized, so it didn't matter who was guarding who at that point. They had to get a shot up.

**Q. You only had one field goal in the last 8:43. Do you ever remember coaching a game where you were that inefficient on offense to close a game?**

COACH ROMAR: Unfortunately, yes. Yes, every now and then that happens. They got on a roll. All the momentum shifted to them, as I stated earlier. We're fortunate to be playing till tomorrow. But give them a lot of credit. They scrapped and fought.

**Q. I know you guys are just getting done with worrying about Washington State, but when you look at the Ducks, what are the keys in your match-up with them?**

COACH ROMAR: We'll talk about those as a staff. The keys that we had before probably would be adjusted a little bit, and, like you mentioned, we just finished this game. We'll meet as a staff and then present it to the team tomorrow.

**Q. What was your thought process up 19 and then what were you thinking when they tied it?**

ABDUL GADDY: Up 19, just keep playing. It's the hardest thing when you're it up 20 and

you've got so much time left, especially for players. I always ask Coach, why do guys just all of a sudden just get in this chill mode when you're up 20? That's the hardest thing. That's why I kept trying to tell the guys, keep playing, keep getting stops, and they got hot. We kept playing hard, but they got hot and they started scoring. So when they tied the game, the main thing was calm ourselves and get the best shot available and make sure we're solid on both sides.

I think Coach did a great job of when he brought us in, even though he could have gone crazy because they were scoring and hitting threes, he was like, all right. We've got this. Everybody calm down. We've got this, and he drew up a play. And he was super confident in us, and I think that's why we came out.

COACH ROMAR: Just call me Denzel, because that was a great acting job. I was going crazy on the inside (laughing).

**Q. How do you explain the last five games now that you've had?**

SCOTT SUGGS: I've just been able to make shots and trying to play hard. Things have been falling down for me, so.

**Q. Is there anything in particular that was going on early in the second half when you caught fire? Because for a while there you didn't take a shot.**

SCOTT SUGGS: No, they were focusing on me so that opened it up for other guys. So as long as we're scoring.

**Q. Was that last score for Desmond, or did he just flash open?**

ABDUL GADDY: The play was just to get a ball screen and then make the best decision and get the best shot available. I came up with the screen and Des happened to be open.

**Q. As you go into day two of the tournament, you start to see the teams that obviously get the bye versus the teams that are coming off the game. In your past experiences, which situation do you feel has the advantage? The team that is a little more well rested or the team that is in the flow of playing the game?**

COACH ROMAR: Well, in terms of your legs, the team that didn't play has an advantage. But you could make the argument that if there is

such a thing as opening game jitters, we used ours up tonight and the other team has to come and play their first game. You can go either way with that. I take the position you just go play. You don't worry about all that other stuff.

**Q. Do you think playing a game like this Bay Area it's tight down the stretch and some games that you've lost in the regular season might help you moving forward in a game that might be tight?**

COACH ROMAR: Yeah, any time you can experience something like this, you can draw from that later on and remember what it took to get it done. That always is helpful to be able to do that. Just you don't want to do it a whole bunch just to get the experience, you know?

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