



## 2019 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

First Round · Florida State vs. Bucknell

Halton Arena · Charlotte

Postgame Quotes – March 22, 2019

### POSTGAME QUOTES – FLORIDA STATE

#### **Sue Semrau, Head Coach:**

##### **Opening Statement...**

"Well, just credit Bucknell. I mean, what a great game plan they had and they just played like the champions of the Patriot League. I was really, really impressed and have a lot of respect for them. And then I'm just so proud of our players. Two weeks off is a long time to be off and you can see that at the beginning of the game. We were rusty, we weren't able to get stops, and for them to just bear down and come back and win a gritty game, I'm just really, really proud of them. And I think the biggest thing for me is rebounding. And the way we were able to rebound the ball, I thought, was the difference."

#### **Sue Semrau, Head Coach:**

##### **On the team's experience in close games this season...**

"It helps a lot having been in those situations against great teams in tough situations on big stages and I thought that their confidence never waned. Thought they got a little frustrated with the fouls. We fouled a lot tonight, but to keep their mind in it was big for this young team."

#### **Valencia Myers, Freshman Forward:**

##### **On having double digits in her first-ever NCAA Tournament game...**

"It's really fun and it's amazing because my teammates really gave me a lot of confidence to get the ball inside to me. We knew that it was gonna be one-on-one in the post and they just trusted all the post players to make our moves and had confidence in us."

#### **Valencia Myers, Freshman Forward:**

##### **On if there was ever a point she was concerned...**

"It's funny because, in the huddle as motivation, I told the team that we are the same team that was down by 10 to Virginia Tech with four minutes left. So, if we can do that we can definitely come back down four with basically a whole quarter left. We just have to have confidence in ourselves. The refs might have felt against us and we just have to go up stronger and finish and grab every rebound."

#### **Nausia Woolfolk, Junior Guard:**

##### **On what was going through her head in the close final minute of the game...**

"To just get stops. You know we pound on that at practice you get stops defensively offensive comes great for us. So, it's more so just rebounding the ball out, hold it, secure it, and make right decisions."

#### **Nausia Woolfolk, Junior Guard:**

##### **On Kiah Gillespie delivering at such big moments...**

“For our teammates that trust us and put it in our hands, it shows they have confidence in us to knock it down and it just shows that they rely on us a lot. But, it’s more so hitting the shots and if we can’t, to just go in and rebound hard. I mean we gotta do what we gotta do for the team and the fact that they trust us and lean on us and can communicate with us is a great deal.”

## **POSTGAME QUOTES – BUCKNELL**

### **Aaron Roussel, Head Coach: Opening Statement...**

“I thought it was a great game. Everyone in the building and watching at home would agree. I thought that it was a really good basketball game. I couldn’t be more proud of the way we started out. Five for our first five coming from five different players – that is something we talk about as a program, about our balance and being unselfish. Pretty cool way to start the game. I was proud of the way we came out. We have talked about it for awhile that we were built for this. None of these moments would be too big for us. Unfortunately for us we did not quite have enough.

“I thought we got two good looks at the end, but were not able to knock one down. I talked to our team in the locker room as a positive to go minus 21 on the boards, that is something that you don’t ever feel good about it, but to be in the game with a chance to extend it to overtime with those numbers is impressive. I couldn’t be more proud of the effort that we gave. We ask these guys to be coached hard and thought they were able push through that and it was for moments like today. Florida State was able to extend a few possessions with rebounds and their size and athleticism. I thought that wore us down at the end.”

### **Aaron Roussel, Head Coach: On Bucknell’s veteran team vs. Florida State’s youth...**

“I think when you are 32, 33 games in, you have been through the ringer a little bit. We were built for this after we have been through a championship game on Sunday. We have been the hunted the whole time and we were little bit the hunters today which helped us a little bit. I don’t know how much that helped us; we really did not talk about their youth and inexperience. That is a group that has been through the ringer, you look at what (Florida State coach) Sue (Semrau) did throughout the season, I did not realize until this week preparing for them. She probably should get more credit for what she has done this season which is incredible. They had five new starters with the injuries that they had and down to eight bodies – that is an incredible season. I thought they were a tough team. It wasn’t like we thought that we were tougher than them or what we had been through was any different. I thought we were two seasoned teams that got there in different ways. I think that is what made it such a competitive game.”

### **Kate Walker, Senior Guard: On how the team started and played so well for the 19-6 lead...**

“We were taking open shots and making them and that’s always nice. We all, we’ve had experience in big games. My freshman year we played Notre Dame, this year we played Syracuse and Iowa State so I think we were ready for this. Coach has been saying we’re built for this. That’s kind of been our tagline and we came out ready to go so, it was a good start and we made some mistakes that came back to bite us in the end, but it was a great game and I couldn’t have asked for more.”

### **Ellie Mack, Junior Forward: On...**

“I think that just speaks to our toughness and our resilience. We knew that they would go on runs, but we also knew that we would go on runs. Coach challenged us in the fourth quarter to get three stops in a row and we did that. In the end we just weren’t able to get rebounds, but I thought we were really resilient that entire game.”