



2019 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Second Round · South Carolina vs. Florida State

Halton Arena · Charlotte

Postgame Quotes – March 24, 2019

POSTGAME QUOTES – SOUTH CAROLINA

Dawn Staley, Head Coach:

Opening Statement...

"We beat a tough Florida State team. I think both teams wanted to win in an incredible way, but it is unfortunate that somebody has to win and somebody has to go home. I do feel for Florida State because we have been in this situation before and obviously we've won all the games but it is not as easy as saying we won the games. They fought, they gave us an incredible effort, 27 offensive rebounds that's memorable, but I'm happy that our team was real resilient in getting the win."

On the plan for Tyasha Harris to drive the basket...

"In the timeout we set a play up for Ty to have the ball and make a decision whether she wants to shoot it or dump it to someone. What happened was we wanted to run it whether it was man or zone. I didn't specify if they were in the zone to continue to run it. I just said you know this is what we are running. More times that's a man play for us, but you know Ty had the whereabouts to get the ball and create a play. It happened in the same place it should have happened if we were able to get some screening action in there for her."

On Mikiah Herbert Harrigan's impact on the game...

"Kiki is a hard guard, she is someone that can put the ball on the floor, her mid-range is efficient enough to where you have to play her, she is long, she gets blocked shots when she's on the floor. A lot of things can happen out there on the positive side, so having her ready to go and ready to compete always gives us an extra boost."

On Tyasha Harris deciding to shoot or pass on the game's deciding possession...

"Ty has only played with Alaina Coates, Kaela Davis and A'ja Wilson, she defers in those instances. I made a point to let her know that the ball was going to be in her hand and to go make a play. I was thankful that she decided to shoot the ball and take it to the basket. The and-one was a bonus. I was happy that she progressed in that moment to take that moment on."

On how tight games help you down the road...

"At this point of the tournament you are just fighting and clawing. Your next game could be your last game. Obviously whoever we will face on Saturday will be a tough opponent. We will have to continue to work in practice. Our team is playing some of its best basketball as far as 40 minutes just grinding it out and giving multiple efforts. We are going to have to grit it out with some of the teams that we will play in the round of 16."

On Alexis Jennings and Florida State's offensive rebounding...

"Alexis Jennings is a big part of what we do. We have to get the ball to her. She is an efficient player. She is a hard guard for any post player."

"The offensive rebounds are academic. We had a timeout with two and half minutes left in the game, I told them to forget about what took place the first 37 and half minutes, let's get every rebound from this point on. We only gave up three but it was enough to win the game. We scrapped and clawed and got to loose balls. I was very proud of our team."

On going to the Sweet 16 seven times in eight years...

"I am extremely proud. I am super proud. It is about sustaining and keeping your program in place that you are competing for National Championships. You have that in front of you. It feels good for our former, current and future players."

On being fearless in big moments...

"This is where players are made. If you are fortunate enough to continue playing in the NCAA Tournament, you are going to see great players rise to that challenge. I don't think any of our players are afraid of it. Do I think they will play perfectly, no. I don't think they are afraid of it. What we have been able to do all season long is compete in practice and compete in the toughest league in the country. We are prepped to play well on the biggest stage."

Tyasha Harris, Junior Guard:**On if the mental aspect of clutch moments is something she's improved upon...**

"I don't think so. I mean I just stay focused and try and hit the free throws."

On what the difference was in this game for the victory...

"I think just being resilient, still scrapping after they got the ball, trying to get our hand on it. Just giving three or four efforts."

Mikiah Herbert Harrigan, Junior Forward:**On what she was feeling on the floor to make such a significant impact throughout the game...**

"Just being ready when my number is called, and going in and performing."

POSTGAME QUOTES – FLORIDA STATE**Sue Semrau, Head Coach:****Opening Statement...**

"Two teams just battled and you saw it till the very last play. Two teams that put a lot of belief and courage in themselves. Especially proud of my team and the courage they had as a young team to come out in this great environment. The fans that came from South Carolina, I thought were fantastic. For them to continue to compete when things went wrong – we had our opportunities. The foul on Tyasha Harris getting the and-one was tough. I thought we defended that really well, but we continued to battle till the end. Hats off to South Carolina and the continued success as they go forward."

On it being tough to lose after dominating rebounds...

"It's tough to lose anytime. I don't think we had the complete game we needed to advance. We took shots that we haven't practiced. It felt like that turned to easy run outs for South Carolina. We gave them opportunities. You felt the squeeze as it got tight, like we gotta make something happen. That's the youth being on this stage and when it didn't happen, the chances that they had at the other end, the times that we fouled, I thought that was the difference between us and a more veteran team."

On running with South Carolina despite a shortened bench...

"I'm absolutely amazed. I'm amazed at their resilience, I'm amazed when I think about their practices. There is 8 kids at practice and they have stayed positive, ready and fit. Like Nicki (Ekhomu) said, I really credit our strength coach Dave Plett. He has done a phenomenal job with helping me to know how to prepare them for this time of year."

On if the crowd played a part in South Carolina's win...

"Honestly it didn't feel that way. It was a great crowd, but it was like that the whole game. When South Carolina hit a shot, it was like the world ended and were going to heaven. I think that may wear on you after awhile, but I do think that we have played in great arenas. When you go to Notre Dame and Louisville, and even in our own arena. We knew that was gonna be the case. We've been really good on the road and it might've been a little bit to much for us. I think Alexis Jennings did a great job getting the ball inside and she was tough to stop."

On having a young team and being excited for the future...

"To get those players back that have been injured, I am extremely excited. We went into this year knowing the youth and building for what's to come. We also have a couple in Atlanta at the All-American game that can hopefully help us right away. We'll have the depth that we didn't have this year, next year."

Nicki Ekhomu, Junior Guard:

On playing a physical game with South Carolina...

"It says a lot about the fight and I just think that we appreciate our coaches, our whole staff as far as the way we train. They really make sure that we take care of our bodies and I think that, that's what really helped us be able to sustain playing 40 minutes that hard."

Morgan Jones, Freshman Guard:

On what was the difference in the final minute...

"I mean it really could've went either way. We played hard, they played hard too. It was just some things in the end that didn't go our way. Sometimes these (things) happen, but I think we played a very great game."