

## **Opening Statement**

Coach Richard Moodie: It's difficult to win these games, but it still doesn't make it easier when you lose them. Our team has built something really special this year. We've managed an amazing season capped off with a young lady who has broken so many records with our program. We said in the circle, she's left an amazing foundation. We lose one senior and I'm sure we'll be back again the same time next year.

**Question: You got a look at them earlier in the season. Any differences early on or is it just the same way that they can attack and attack early on?**

Coach Richard Moodie: For us, I think we came in here with the idea that we could be in a similar shape and maybe frustrate them a little bit longer. We had some changes in personnel that happened in the first game. It doesn't matter what you throw at them, they'll figure it out at some point. They've got enough quality and the tactics are spot on. They find ways, but I thought we did an exceptional job frustrating them at times. I thought we didn't make it easy, and obviously we need to look back at the goals, but I'm really proud of what we did. The second half was a fairer reflection. I feel like we got in their face and frustrated them and we did a great job. Maybe we should have done that a bit earlier, but again, you do that and they'll figure it out either way. I think it was good to see them early on. We like to try to avoid them at this stage in the season, and if the NCAA wants to take that into consideration we'd appreciate it. They're a fantastic team and arguably they're the best team in the nation so I think for us to go toe-to-toe tonight and do what we did speaks volumes of what our girls have been able to do this season.

**Question: It's tough playing so early in the tournament against such a good team, but with the way the NCAA does it with the geography and everything it kind of puts you behind the 8 ball a bit, but do you think it helped you to play earlier this year against them?**

Deanna Green: I think it did a lot actually because we kind of knew if we were to make it past the SunBelt Tournament we would most likely have Florida State in the first round, so I think getting a feel for them and being able to work out the tactics and everything to frustrate them and everything really helped a lot.

Coach Richard Moodie: They did it easier on us this year; they just pulled our name out of the hat first so we could just get on with it and keep it suspenseful. It's never easy. It's a good game to have on the schedule in the regular season, but I think that you want to play the best and build confidence to prepare us for conference play and it does that. Then ultimately, playing in the first round and second round, at some point you're going to play a team of that quality and that caliber. You've got to be able to go up against them. We played the national tournament again in April and we got Colorado, but again like that, we feel really confident. It's just a new opposition to prepare for and it does give us a chance, but then you go into the next round and you're beat up, banged up, so again, it is great to see them early on, but at the same time, you can never be prepared enough for these games. You just have to do your best in the moment, and I thought our girls were fantastic tonight.