

ACC Women's Basketball Championship
Greensboro, NC
#5 North Carolina State 67, #12 Clemson 53
March 2, 2006

CLEMSON TIGERS

COACH CRISTY MCKINNEY: You know, I thought for a half we battled really hard. I thought our defense, the first half, was very good other than fouling a little too much, putting them on the line too much. Both teams struggled to score, obviously, the first half. But I thought both teams worked real hard.

N.C. State has a lot of balance, got a lot of quickness on the perimeter. I thought the second half their quickness hurt us on the perimeter, their quickness, hurt us on the perimeter, their post. A little stronger, a little more aggressive just at taking the ball to the hole.

We struggled all year to play for 40 minutes. If you look at our last several games we'll be in it at halftime, do a pretty good job and then we give up 45 to 50 points in the second half of ever game. So somehow we got to find a way in the future to play for 40 minutes.

JULIE TALLEY: Pretty much what Coach McKinney said. Our team, we really go hard, and we try to stick in there together. There is something about us. We just can't hold off for 40 minutes. Hopefully, they can get it together next year. I think Coach McKinney is really going to build a team here. She really has gotten some success here. She is a hard nose Coach, and everybody really respects her.

So I think they're going to have some good outcomes next year.

Q. Cristy, do you feel you may be in trouble if you held them to 24 percent in the first half, and you were only up by a point?

COACH CRISTY MCKINNEY: Well, I tried to tell my team we had them right where we wanted to at halftime.

I thought our defense helped them shoot 24 percent. I thought we really challenged a lot of shots. We felt like we should have been up more. We felt like we lost some good opportunity to be up more.

The other thing was the foul line, that made a huge difference in the first half.

Again, they do a better job at taking it at people, feel the contact, continue to go through. We drive it, feel the contact, back away from the contact. We got to learn to do some of the things they do. Whittington, especially does a good job of taking it up strong into the contact.
