

**ACC Women's Basketball Championship
Greensboro, NC
#1 North Carolina, #9 Clemson**

March 7, 2008

CLEMSON TIGERS

CRISTY McKINNEY: You know we knew going in it was going to be a tough game, and that we were going to have to play well for 40 minutes. And we played well in some stretches, and I'm proud of the team. And I felt they really battled. We got hurt inside some, and the bigger we are and the deeper overall and a great team. But I'm pleased with the way we battled. And I feel like that this should give our young team a lot to look forward to coming next year.

Q Coach, Silvia Hatchell told us how much improved your team was in this game over the previous time you played, and just in general. Do you see your program on a kind of a forward arc and do you think your players see that good things are coming in the future in the upcoming years?

CRISTY McKINNEY: I really do. I think that has happened over the last couple of weeks, I think. We really for whatever reason and we have a better mind-set in the last couple of weeks and we started believing in ourselves a little more and playing with more confidence and more composure and we did it at a good time so we would have a good feeling going into next year and feel we're heading the right way.

Q Why do you think that was, that it had happened the last couple of weeks? Was health part of the equation or part of natural maturation of the players?

CRISTY McKINNEY: Probably a little both. We have had injuries all year. And obviously we had the 3 that we lost for the year, but then we've had a lot of other injuries. Thomas who has played great at times has broke her hand this year, has had a muscle and broke a toe. And Lele a broken bone in her hand yesterday, and you wouldn't hardly know it today with the way she played. Moreemi Davis has got cartilage damage and she is going to have surgery after we leave. This team has really battled and we hung together. The team hung together. I feel like I tried to hang with them and tried to be positive in the last couple of weeks. And I think they just really hung together and made a great push.

Q Coach, your seniors really went out in style today Alicia had 20 points and 10 boards and Lele with 16 points, 6 assists, 5 steals. Take a moment to reflect upon these two young ladies.

CRISTY McKINNEY: You know Lele is a sophomore not a senior, I'm really excited that I have got her for two more years. I'm glad to see D'Lesha to have a good game against a great team. D'Lesha's shoulder went out early in the year, went out in the summer, and went out again in September-October, she missed the first six weeks of practice. And it went out a couple of times after we started playing. And there is no question that hindered her for this year. It's great to see her come back and have a great game today, and not enter her career with a bad one. I'm happy to see her do that because she is a talented young lady.

Q Coach, could you talk about the inside game and what you were trying to do to stop it and maybe what didn't happen.

CRISTY McKINNEY: We were trying to double at times. We were trying to make it hard to get it there. But, you know, we would struggle with that. And sometimes Larkins is such a great passer, she would pass it right over the double team and right out of it. And so they are just a really talented ball team and it was a good job. Coach Stevens made a suggestion at half time a zone we played a long time ago at Rice, trying to sit somebody in there on top of Larkins to limit her touches a little more. And I think at times that helped in the second half. And they are tough and we had to battle. But we have to battle a little stronger. And we have some freshman that are going in there and they got a good taste today of what it will take. And I think they'll grow from that.

Q D'Lesha, you had a great game today. Is there anything as a senior can you keep playing anywhere? Is there a chance you can get in the WNBA or will you coach or is this the end?

D'LESHA LLOYD: No this is definitely not the end. I'm going to a pro game and it's going to be in Boston and there is a lot of scouts and stuff like that from different WBA teams and overseas teams, and so however good I do is going to determine where I play, but it's not the end of basketball no matter what.

Q D'Lesha, can you reflect on your career at Clemson and how you played and bringing the program back on the road to Providence?

D'LESHA LLOYD: Well I really don't think I brought them back. I just really felt like we believed, we finally just got together and finally believe we can do it. I felt like my role was more as a scorer because I came in as a shooting guard, but I eventually moved down to be a post player because Coach McKinney felt like I can do more in post. I believe we can finally do it and we did.