

**ACC Women's Basketball Championship
Greensboro, NC
#9 Maryland, #1 Duke**

March 5, 2010

#1 DUKE BLUE DEVILS

Mike Finn: Okay. Just a few ground rules before we begin. Please make sure that you mute or turn off your cell phones. We'll begin with a statement from Coach and then we'll take questions shortly there after. Please wait for.

the microphone to get to you. When you are asking your question. And then please state clearly your name and affiliation. Today's press conference is going to be transcribed and it's also going to be streamed available on the ACC website at acc.com. With that sitting next to me is Coach Joanne McCallie, Jasmine Thomas, Karima Christmas and Joy Cheek. With that, Coach, if you are ready.

Joanne P. McCallie: Well it was a great game. Great basketball game, and very interesting game. I just love the second half, the 7-minute stretch where our team focused and did a great job defensively. I love the attack of Jas and Joy and Karima they were very aggressive looking to attack which is always good. Rebound-wise, I think we could have been more dominate. It was a very physical game, and that was a battle. And getting after the ball was something that we certainly needed to do there. Not too pleased with turnovers, I think we are a better team than 20 turnovers, but I like our attack and finish and composure down the stretch and some of the key place made down the stretch. And Joy made key plays, and Jasmine did and Karima's overall play. So game-wise it was a great game and excited for game two.

Moderator: Questions for Duke?

Q Coach, how strange was it that you had met Maryland in the latter part of the tournament the first couple of years you were here, how strange was it to meet them in a 1-8 match up?

Joanne P. McCallie: It was different. I think they are a very, very good team. They are enormously talented. And they have the best inside player in the league on their team, plus the best 3-point shooter proven by her statistics. So for us it was a very challenging battle, but they are a talented team. And I guess it was strange, you know, because we have met them later, but it seemed apropos to play them I guess. That has been sort of the characteristic thing. But the most important thing I think is our team and how we are growing. Again the composure piece and some of the critical plays that were made down the stretch that makes March a lot of fun.

Q Can you talk a little bit about the job of Krystal Thomas did defending Kizer down the stretch.

Joanne P. McCallie: That is great point. Krystal came up huge for our team. Her focus for moving her feet, she had great body positioning. She had great intelligence where she did not foul. Krystal has been working hard. I know she wants to have a complete game defensively and offensively but she gave our team an enormous amount of lift today without question. It was exciting for us. I think we all felt that on the floor. And the guard energy also picked up because there was so much confidence about the interior, and I think the stops down the stretch were some of the best stops of the game.

Q This is for Joy. How does it feel to be beaten three times in the season?

Joy Cheek: It's satisfying. The other two times we played them you had Morrison and Lett this is it. It's said and done and it's satisfying in the turn.

Q Coach, a lot of people are saying that Maryland needs two wins to be an NC Tournament team, do you think they are an NC Tournament team?

Joanne P. McCallie: I can't make that judgment. What I can say is their talent is for the moment. Kizer is one of the best runners in the country. There is no doubt about that. You know Bjork is one of the best 3-point shooters in the country. I think 24 is sort of the difference maker right now as a freshman and she is playing mature basketball. I think they are an outstanding team and they are very, very good. I would love to see them in the NCAA Tournament. But I don't know how they are going to weigh the ACC schedule. The 5-and-9 thing Jackie has to figure that out. That is their glaring issue.

Q Jasmine, you guys have been this far many times talk about where you are, and taking that last step to win this title issue?

Jasmine Thomas: It feels good to come in here and grind this win out and move on. Like we have been doing all season. We have to take what we didn't do well in this game and transfer it to the next game in the NC Tournament. We have teams that we are familiar with. It's not about executing and doing X's and O's, it's who wants it more. That is what we have to prove this year that we want it more.

Q For any of you players. If you could tell me a little bit about the match up with Georgia Tech and what kind of game you expect.

Jasmine Thomas: I think it will be pressing physical play to have a really good forward in Ardossi, and they have great guards, and I expect them to play the same way they have been playing, aggressive. And they have a good slashing guards and it's going to be battle.

Mike Finn: Anymore questions for Duke?

Q I know Kizer was in foul trouble was there anything special you all did against her that put her in the foul trouble or was it just the flow of the game?

Joanne P. McCallie: I think our posts were impressive and it was a very aggressive game. So you know, and I think we went at her. I just want to say, the very best of the game as long you are impressive people are going to foul us. As it was aggressive people and foul us. It was good to have her in trouble. She is an excellent player. You know, it wasn't necessarily a game plan. I think I give a lot of credit to Joy and a lot of credit to B,

Krystal, and Allison. There was just a lot of people trying to get in there and attack, as well as some of the guards, so.

Mike Finn: Anymore questions for Duke? Thank you, Coach.

Joanne P. McCallie: Thank you.