

ACC Women's Basketball Championship
Greensboro, NC
March 6th, 2005

Semifinal Round Quotes

DUKE BLUE DEVILS

COACH GAIL GOESTENKORS: I'm just happy to come away with a win. I thought our defense, in particular, in the first half was some of the best defense we played all year. I just thought we did an excellent job. In particular on Crystal Langhorne and Shay Doron as well. Those are two just incredible players. And I thought our team all understood, you know, where those two were at all times, and I thought they did a great job helping one another out.

And although I don't think our offensive flow was what we would have liked I thought it was our defense that really, I think, set the tone for the game.

THE MODERATOR: Questions?

Q. Monique, can you talk about trying to get your teammates a little more involved the past couple of games and can you talk about the team's ball movement?

MONIQUE CURRIE: Yes, we definitely know that it will take a team effort for us to be successful so a lot of our games we have a lot of assists. A lot of our baskets come off of assists. We are looking to get everyone involved.

Q. Gail, was the idea to try to crowd the lane there in the first half and really make it difficult for them to get the ball inside?

COACH GAIL GOESTENKORS: Yes, we were using Jess Foley was guarding Smith. She is not a great outside shooter, so we kind of saved off of Smith and Jess gave help inside. And Smith hit a couple of jumpers so we need to adjust a bit. But I thought Jess and Wynter Whitley came in and did same thing. I thought those two really gave great help inside on Langhorne.

Q. Monique, what would you point to specifically that you could hold the team to only three baskets in the first half tonight?

MONIQUE CURRIE: I think we were intense on defense, we were up in passing lanes, and we were jamming it down on the post on Langhorne. It was just an all around effort pretty much.

Q. Gail, could you talk about the effect that it has when you got guys in there like Chante that can block so many shots and the effect that had on Maryland in the first half?

COACH GAIL GOESTENKORS: Yes. I think it gives great confidence to our guards, you know, defensively. They know that if they get beat they are going to get help. And I think it's a factor when someone goes in and gets their shot swatted. I think it affects them not just on that play, but perhaps the following play as well. It makes them think twice and makes players try to adjust their shots which only feeds into our defense and helps us to feel more confident.

Q. Chante, can you talk about what it's like coming back to your home area and playing in front of your home crowd?

CHANTE BLACK: Yes, I have a couple of friends and family members here. So it's great being back at home and playing for those people. But like I said, Duke is like home to me too. It's only like an hour away.

Q. Coach, were you happy to see a second game in a row with such balance scoring?

COACH GAIL GOESTENKORS: Yes, I think it's very important for us. I think it shows that we don't just rely on one person, on Monique. And I think for a while we were beginning to rely on her a bit, and I think we really made a conscious effort to move the ball around and other people are stepping forward now which is important come tournament time.

Q. Gail, I think this is fifth time in the last six years that Duke and Carolina will play in the final. What's your motivation now? And, Monique, I want to you this to, you lost to them twice, you are the defending champion, now you come back and play them in the championship game again?

COACH GAIL GOESTENKORS: I think we are looking forward to another opportunity to redeem ourselves.

MONIQUE CURRIE: Yes, Coach said to us we are not defending our championship, we are pursuing another one and that just stuck in my mind throughout the tournament. So we are looking to pursue another one tomorrow.

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