

**ACC Women's Basketball Championship
Greensboro, NC
#1 North Carolina 86, #3 Duke 73**

March 9, 2008

DUKE BLUE DEVILS

COACH JOANNE P. McCALLIE: It was a tough exciting, physical game. I think both teams played very hard. Obviously Carolina took full advantage of playing more aggressive to the basket and that type of thing to the free throw line. For us it's something that has been a process of growth and getting to the line and getting an awful lot. And so it's something that we have to improve on as well. I thought it was interesting game statically because so many of the statistics are even much more even than really the score for that matter. I thought we fought hard. I was proud of our team's fight. I think we have to take it up another level in terms of just playing together and getting to the basket hard, to get to the free throw line and those things. Some lessons here for us, definite lessons that we'll take. It's great to play excellent opponents and that is what it's like to play this time of year. And that is what we're doing here on out, and its great preparation for us and the challenge is the lessons we learn and how we absorb them and learn from them.

Q You obviously had a tough time with them a week ago, what went better in your game plan this time and what didn't go well in your game plan?

COACH JOANNE P. McCALLIE: Again, I think we're a different team. This team has grown and matured and improved in many ways. We grew this game and we were set back too in regard to last night's game. So we're just a very different team. I don't think you can compare and go backwards in time like that. I think we have grown a lot. I think it's hard to compare the games. Our team attacked more and played more focused, but I think we have gotten better over the course of time. But obviously, it didn't do enough to get over the top there and take the game.

Q Coach, could you just talk a little bit about Jasmine Thomas' performance in the second half?

COACH JOANNE P. McCALLIE: A lot of heart there. A lot of heart. Very tacking obviously. Jas is somebody that has I think learned a great deal for being a first year point guard whether she has been in the line-up or coming off the bench. Her quickness and ball handling and attacking was very, very important to us. And I thought she showed great attacks in the second half. And it's a process of getting all things together.

In terms of assists and points and rebounds and those types of things. But I think Jas has grown as a player and has gotten a great deal of experience.

Q The foul situation, Coach, caused you to have to play with three freshman at one time, is that something you have done very much this year?

COACH JOANNE P. McCALLIE: We played a lot of people and our freshman have played a lot. I think the foul trouble was something that we have got to do better at as a unit and a team. We had quite a few people in foul trouble not just one. I think we're better when we can play aggressive, really aggressive. And I think we are going to need to work on that. Because we did have too many people chopping up fouls today and it cost us. But I think the first years' did an admirable job for lack of experience in ACC Tournament. I thought Careem did nice things and Krystal did nice things. Krystal was 2-2 and 5 rebounds and 4 points and you can't argue with that. And Careem did nice things as well. Good experience for them, but we definitely want to make sure we have our full depth without the foul trouble in the future.

Q Coach, you said that after the final regular season game that this tournament would test your team's character. What can you say about that throughout this event and how you go forward and what is next for NCAA?

COACH JOANNE P. McCALLIE: It absolutely does play three games in a row. This kind of competition I think our character has been tested over and over again. And in each game we have played and this one in particular, obviously, Carolina has proved to be the best team in the ACC in the regular season and now with the tournament. So I think our character has been tested. It's so easy to fall back on, you know, feeling bad for yourself or struggling with issues. And we're trying to get that championship mentality in the sense that we just are not affected by anything out there. And that is important to us. It's kind of a poise we want to show as team and as individuals and something we are working on and it's a work in progress. You don't arrive to any point, you have to get a whole lot better and that ups your chances for doing well at this time of year.

Q Were you happy with what they showed throughout in reaching this line?

COACH JOANNE P. McCALLIE: It speaks of great things along the way whether it was last night or today. But I think we are happy with progress, but we're very far from satisfied. It's a great opportunity that we had today that this team created for themselves, and you want to capitalize on those. So obviously there is tremendous disappointment.

Q Abby, could you talk a little bit about after the last Carolina game the regular season game, Coach was talking about you all needed I believe it was a tougher attitude. Do you feel like you came out as a team today to play a little tougher, and why was that?

ABBY WANER: I think Coach earlier said when she said we learned a lot from the last game against Carolina we didn't want to have that feeling again. And I think today our attitude was inconsistent, it was a lot better than it was last weekend, but clearly we need to make a few more adjustments before the tournament starts.

Q Both players have NCAA Tournament experience. Where do you all have to lift your game up the most for the upcoming games?

ABBY WANER: I think after today the fouls and turn-overs. Carolina is an excellent rebounding team and they got most of their points, but a lot of points from the free throw line and those were second chance points where we need to box them in initially so they don't get a chance to try that foul.

Q For Chante, what's it like to battle inside constantly against the Larkins and Pringle Breland and the physical nature of the game they play?

CHANTE BLACK: They are an athletic bunch and, you know, the ACC has great players all the way around. So going in night in and night out I'm prepared to play against those. But they did have a great night tonight and the victory came out in their favor.

Q Did it matter, I know Chante you went to east for. You grew up with the Carolina-Duke scenario. Was this more concentration for an ACC Championship or how did the Duke-Carolina thing play into the mix?

CHANTE BLACK: Duke and North Carolina are always rivals so of course that is one carry-over. We wanted to come in and pull out this victory of winning the ACC Championship. But, yeah, there is a hate relationship between those two schools.

Q What have you thought of what you saw of Cetera DeGraffenreid?

COACH JOANNE P. McCALLIE: I think what is unique about her to me is how consistent she has been. For a first year student athlete she really produces 99 out. And I think she has been having incredible first year. And we didn't do much to stop her today. And that is unfortunate for us. She has done what she has done very, very well for them.

Q Do you walk away from this tournament feeling like you have proved something or do you walk away feeling frustrated that you are not where you need to be at?

ABBY WANER: We always want to win. So, we're not going to be happy with second place regardless of the regular season years past, we're in the moment and we demand excellence and we demand a win, and we didn't get that. We're going to take what we can from it. However we want from it because we still have games left in the season.