

**ACC Women's Basketball Championship
Greensboro, N.C.
March 7, 2008**

#4 Virginia 52, #5 Georgia Tech 43

GEORGIA TECH YELLOW JACKETS

COACH MaCHELLE JOESPH: Coach I just want to say I really felt like our defensive effort today was one of the best we have had all year long. To hold a team like Virginia to 52 points after giving up 103 in double overtime a week ago, it felt like our defensive adjustments weren't effective. I really think we struggled in the offensive end. With our two winning scorers go 5-for-25 it's going to be a hard for us to find a way to win. We also missed our free throws 3-for-10. And we got the job done on the defensive end. But on the offensive end we just weren't effective today. We missed a lot of easy shots around our own basket that has a lot of doing with focusing concentration. But I thought and Iasia Hemingway a freshman I thought she came in and played fearless, and was really tough in and around the basket.

Q Coach, do you feel like you are still solidly in the NCAA tournament?

COACH MaCHELLE JOESPH: I think so. We had 22 wins and we had some good preseason wins, and we played really tough in the ACC regular season. And we played tough in the tournament. I don't think there is any doubt we're in the NCAA tournament.

Q Coach Joseph, going forward what does your team need to do to be successful in the next NCAA tournament? First of all and how much did having an extra game affect you down the stretch?

COACH MaCHELLE JOESPH: I don't think it was so much the conditioning aspect for us today. I think it was the mental aspect. Mentally we just allowed some things to take us out of our game and we weren't prepared. And when we stepped on the floor we were not focused, the way we are normally focused to play. I thought that was a factor. I will continue to say we're playing really good basketball. The fact we didn't press that much and we had a 12 steals, and we held Virginia to 52 points. I think defensively we made adjustments in this tournament and that we have actually gotten better. The last two games the two teams under 53 points is a great accomplishment. And offensively we have been playing well the last couple of weeks, and we'll go back to Georgia Tech and we'll work on those things and we'll get mentally tougher and we'll be ready for the NCAA Tournament.

Q How frustrating is it to play as well as you have against Maryland and then twice against Virginia and still not come away with a victory?

CHIOMA NNAMAKA: It's frustrating and like coach mentioned we have been working hard and we have a lot of energy and so we know that it's there. We just have to continue to work hard and it will pay off.

IASIA HEMINGWAY: I agree with coach we work hard every day and we come out and we have a lot of energy. Today we have our game and our leading scoring was 525 and it had a big impact on our team and that affected us. Like she said we're going to be ready for the NCAA.

Q Coach Joseph, did you think it was helpful to play Miami yesterday and you are for the policy of having a play in game in the ACC?

COACH MaCHELLE JOESPH: You know I really thought it was all for us. Coming into the game I felt like we were going to be on a roll. I thought we were comfortable and had a great game plan defensively. And I told them at half time we were fortunate to be three down, with our two lead scorers both making a field goal. I like the playing game and I don't think there is an issue with that. And I think the four seeds earned that first round by. And hopefully next year we'll be sitting there with the next four spots. I am all for the playing game, but at the same time we were in control of what we did today. We have choices whether we make lay ups and we have choices whether we make free throws and we played hard, but we didn't play smart a lot of the times. And we had a lot of opportunities and we'll go back to Georgia Tech and figure out how to fix those things make those plays.

Coach Joseph, this game was different than the last game you played against Virginia. Is this more like the kind of thing you are going to see in the NCAA Tournament with a little more contact?

COACH MaCHELLE JOSEPH: I thought the officials did a great job today. It was physical on both ends, and like you said, that is what we can expect in NCAA Tournament play. Our players know that, they have been there, except for the freshman they have been there, and they know it's going to be a physical game. I thought the officiating was fair and great. I thought they let both teams play on both ends and they let the players decide the game in my opinion.

Q How did the physical nature of this game affect the shots you were getting opposed to last week?

CHIOMA NNAMAKA: I don't think that it affected it. I just need to be more -- I don't know how to explain it, I think it's just mental. I just need to step up and make shots. There is no excuses for it. That is what I need to do is get in and get my extra shots and come out and be ready to play.

Q What is your schedule going to be like now you are waiting for the 17th?

COACH MaCHELLE JOESPH: We'll go back and take a couple of days off and we'll regroup and practice for a couple of days and get ready for the pairings. And once we get the pairings then we'll take a couple of more days off and get ready to play. Last year the best thing we did was we took four days off in a row, and let them get mentally and physically rested and refocus and regroup. And then we came back and we have a lot of energy and we are ready to go when it came to NCAA Tournament time.

Q Coach, the game was decided in the last three minutes. You did not score at all. Could you just kind of take us through and let us know where the wheels came off.

COACH MaCHELLE JOESPH: I thought the latest three minutes that Virginia picked

up their defensive intensity. The game is on the line the players have to make plays and the coaches have to make good decisions. Both ways we were not at our best. We got smoking shots, and we just weren't able to convert. There were situations where we needed to drive the ball to the basket and get in the bonus there at the end. And we weren't able to do that. And you know we tried to make aggressive plays at the basket and we missed the shots with contact. Those were the same shots we were getting the whole game we just needed to connect on them. And you know that is tough, even when we came out of the time out we got a shot clock violation. And I have to take responsibility for that because we wanted to make an aggressive play at the basket. And we never got any ball reversals. And so that was hard to do. And Virginia got the ball on the side of the floor.