

ACC Women's Basketball Championship
Greensboro, NC
March 5th, 2005

Quarter-Final Round Quotes

MIAMI HURRICANES

COACH FERNE LABATI: Well, we came into the game today as a tremendous underdogs, and the last time we played Carolina at Carolina it was just not even a ball game from the get-go, and, you know, I think it was a great game.

We thought we could pull an upset today and we worked really hard and we worked hard for 40 minutes and came up short, but we are extremely proud of our team and the effort that they put forth today.

Q. Coach, in the first half it made it difficult for Carolina to go inside, what was the game plan and what were you able to do?

COACH FERNE LABATI: One of the things, their athleticism, the last time we played them, we knew we would be going against a very, very athletic team. We ran a couple of different wrinkles in terms of positioning of our players. And we really tried to pinch down, pinch our guards down for rebounding and to try to get out of one-on-one situations since we are a lot smaller than they are. That's pretty much what we did, just a couple of different wrinkles. Played a little man-to-man, but mostly different types of zones. We were really worried about one and done as anything else.

Q. Speaking of the one and done, Coach, it seemed like the second half when you guys were trying to hold them off, their offensive rebounding was a key in allowing them to comeback?

COACH FERNE LABATI: I think our kids -- I haven't seen the film yet, but from what we observed on the bench, we didn't do a job in the sense to, you know, make enough contact because they were bigger than us, and if you don't make the contact that's not obvious to the officials. One of the things we were really trying to do is push them back and we didn't do a good job at that.

Q. Tamara, was there a point where you thought you guys maybe had it wrapped up and they made a run and you guys went back up by five or six? Did you think you were going to hang on?

TAMARA JAMES: No, we never thought we had it wrapped up until there were zero minutes left on the clock. North Carolina is a very good team. We never had the feeling that the game is over. We had the game. We still had to play with intensity because they were coming at as hard.

Q. Tamara, the last time you all played at Carolina, they did a good job with Camille Little shutting you down, what did you do coming into the game?

TAMARA JAMES: I just played my game.

Q. Katie, there seem to be a number of points in the game where they sort of gained momentum and cut your lead down and you guys would push it back up, did fatigue play a roll at the end? Was there a difference at the end that allowed them to push it over the top?

KATIE HAYEK: I don't think so. I just think that we kind of fell through what we needed to do. We had patients in our offense and our defense, we played pretty well. But there were those little things that either a turnover or a foul that really hurt us in the end. But as far as fatigue, I think, our momentum had us going the whole game. So mentality-wise, I think that held us through. We didn't make it in the end.

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