

ACC Women's Basketball Championship  
Greensboro, NC  
#1 North Carolina 90, #5 NC State 69  
March 4, 2006

## NC STATE WOLFPACK

COACH KAY YOW: It was a very disappointing performance for us today. I just feel like we were prepared as well as we needed to be for this game.

I have a couple of players sitting here to my left that I feel like gave everything that they had to the game today. But besides Sasha, we didn't have a strong inside presence. And, you know, having played North Carolina a number of times, we know it's important with a team like them and other really great teams to start the game out strong, not to really start to lose it in the first 5 minutes of the game which I feel happened to us today.

And from that point on, I think, their confidence level really rose. They really shot the ball extremely well. Particularly from the 3-point line of the first half, and really everywhere.

So it's just like we got in a deep hole and then we were just fighting for our life, and we couldn't overcome that. I don't think we can overcome with any team of that caliber when that happens.

Q. Coach, (North Carolina) Coach (Sylvia) Hatchell said part of their game plan was to come out and really go at you the first five minutes knowing that you were coming off of two straight games in a row, how much of a factor was their defensive pressure the first five minutes of the game?

COACH KAY YOW: Well, as it turned out it was very effective. It wasn't something that we were unaware of. As a matter of fact, we knew that comment would be made and that this would be a part of their game plan.

I just feel like transition-wise we've always handled their transition game really well. Today we didn't.

I mean, when we look at the stats, we shot more free throws, we out rebounded them, which is sort of incredible, we are the ones missing all of the shots. But we ended up out-rebounding them. Even on steals, only one more turnover than they had. I mean, it's just like a lot of stats that is unbelievable that you can look down and you can see that.

But defensively, our defense, our own defense, was unable to contest every shot the way that we would like to. And some of easy transition baskets, along with our poor shooting.

You know, we give credit to North Carolina, they are a great team. They have great athletes. They can make some tremendous plays. Coach Hatchell has done a great job with the team. I still say it's the best team that I've seen her have. And I mean they are ranked No. 1 in the country, and I think that sort of solidifies that point.

But we just, I mean, we just need to do a better job of powering up the ball on the inside and some other people would get in some better looks on the outside. Their defense was a big part of it.

Q. Coach, as disappointed as you were in the performance today, you haven't had a lot of success in the ACC tournament going into the NCAA tournament going into the NCAA tournament, you came here and won two games, what do you take now from that going forward now?

COACH KAY YOW: Well, I think that the players know that down the stretch, they've been playing some really good basketball. I'm not going to say it. We know we are a little tired, but not that tired to play that way in the first half, you know. I mean, we should have done better. We know that.

So we feel badly for our fans. We didn't give them more than we did today. But the way we've been playing down the stretch, and having won the first two games, it let's us know that we can do some really good things when our focus is there, and our mindset, and we're ready to go and we're together.

We weren't complementing each other well today at all, but we know that we can do it.

And so I think this loss, we go back, we have time to practice before, you know, the selection comes out where we are going.

We certainly saw today some key things that we need to work on so we can go back. We can really work on those things and hopefully next time we run into a team of this caliber, we'll, you know, hopefully it will pay off for us. We'll do a much better job.

Q. Ashley, how much of a factor, the effort of the last two games going into today, how much of a fatigue factor was there and how soon did it set in?

ASHLEY KEY: I'm not sure about the whole fatigue factor. I mean you come out and you want to play. So there is really no such thing as fatigue. It's just mind over matter. I mean I think that if it affects, you know, you just have to fight through it. I think we fought through it. I mean, we just didn't pull it together as a team today.

- - -