

ACC Women's Basketball Tournament  
Greensboro, NC  
#8 NC State 54; #9 Wake Forest 59

March 5, 2009

## NC STATE WOLFPACK

THE MODERATOR: We are joined up here at the podium by NC State Coach, Stephanie Glance as well as student athletes Shayla Fields and Nikitta Gartrell. Coach, an opening statement, when you are ready, we'll take some questions.

COACH STEPHANIE GLANCE: Clearly we are disappointed that we didn't win the game. I think that there are a flood of emotions that our team and our staff are feeling at this moment. It's the end of the season. It's the last team that Kay Yow coached and the last staff that she had. I'm personally really proud of them. They never quit and they gave tremendous effort under very difficult circumstances. I told them in the locker room that I felt like they gave their best. Our best just fell short today. On the floor I think the biggest difference was Corrine Groves back in the lineup, back on the court, and we certainly missed Sharnise Beal. So we just sort of traded players, traded issues. So we gave up too many second chance points, but on the other hand we scored a lot off of their turnovers. And so for us the game is very disappointing, but it's a much bigger picture for us right now.

THE MODERATOR: Questions?

Q. Both the players, talk about what kind of kept you together as a family through the rest of the season.

SHAYLA FIELDS: I think we all pitched in a little bit and, you know, just encouraged one another and tried to keep one another up. I think the coaching staff did a great job, you know, helping us stay together doing team functions. It's been tough not being around our teammates. When I am with them, it's so much better. I feel like as a team we stuck together on the floor and off the floor and the coaches done a great job in helping us do that.

Q. Shayla, can you kind of provide some words that describe your teammates in a way that they just finished the season. How would you describe what you guys have done under the circumstances that you faced?

SHAYLA FIELDS: I think under the circumstances, you know, we have all did a great job in staying together. If I had one word to describe my teammates I would call them warriors because we've been through so much. The season has been very emotional. I think we stuck together like glue. We let nobody or anything tear us apart. So I just think we've been warriors this whole season. It mean it showed throughout the season. We just fell short this game.

Q. I guess this is for Stephanie or any of you. Teams come to the end and they go separate ways. Your team has been so close and has been through so much, do you feel like you all are going to stay in touch forever? Do you need that? Do you feel that this will be a team that will always be

together?

COACH STEPHANIE GLANCE: I think we will always be connected and bound by this year, this season, in some way. Probably as they grow older and move on into life, I think that they will feel more and more, and understand more and more just how connected we have been. And actually how the things that they learned from this, and how much character this built in them, the staff and the support staff and the people that are in the program, yes, we'll always be connected no matter where we are and where we go in life. This has been quite difficult.

Q. You talked about emotional overtones of this game, how difficult was it preparing for this game under the circumstances? And also just from the standpoint of having to play a team for the third time this year?

COACH STEPHANIE GLANCE: Well, I mean we prepared the same way, really. You know what was different for us was the rotation and the personnel, so we prepared the same way. Wake did a great job with their preparation. I feel like we prepared and knew what they were going to run. We did not defend it sometimes which was disappointing. From an emotional standpoint we prepared the same. I think that really the emotions of this moment couldn't have happened until the moment was through, until the season was through, because we've had emotion, goodness, we've had a lot of emotion.

It's like Shayla alluded to, we were all in it together, we were all in it together. We were all having emotion for the same reason. There is a different kind of emotion with the finality of this game.

Q. Stephanie, when you were walking off the court a Wake Forest fan called your name, told you good game, you gave her a thumbs up, what do those type of things mean from opposing fans up to this point?

COACH STEPHANIE GLANCE: Oh, wow, I probably just couldn't say enough thank yous to the people, to our own fans, to the fans of other universities inside the ACC and outside the ACC, across the country. Coaches in the ACC and outside the ACC. It's been tremendous support. And I'm very grateful for that. And it's very encouraging to have that kind of support.

Q. For Shayla, since you are a senior, are there other words to describe what must be going on inside you right now?

SHAYLA FIELDS: I'm very sad. I didn't want this day to come at all. But I'm also happy for the people that I've been around and the program that I had a chance to be in. It's been fun. It's been very emotional for me, and I am going to miss every aspect of being a college student and a college athlete. I think that's about it.

THE MODERATOR: Any further questions?

Q. In light of what you have been through, is it possible that basketball has been a distraction and now it can even be more difficult?

COACH STEPHANIE GLANCE: Yes. I wouldn't say it's been a distraction. I would say that basketball has been the funnel we can funnel all of our emotions into basketball. We can be together every day. We are the group of people who have a common bond as her team and as her staff. So the fact that we could go to practice every day, go on the road trips, be at home, go eat pregame, do those things together, through a very emotional time, was great support for all of us. So I think it will be very difficult to not have that kind of daily togetherness. It will be very difficult, yes.

Q. Nikitta, Coach Petersen said that he voted for Coach Glance as Coach-of-the-Year, can you speak to how she closed around the team and helped you guys get through this as well as the rest of the coaching staff?

NIKITTA GARTRELL: Well, it's funny that you mentioned that because we all thought about that too, because ever since Coach Yow passed, we've always looked up to Coach Glance. She motivated the team. She helped us day in and day out and just kept a strong, and throughout practice she was like the mediator. Anything that was going on, Coach Glance was there. Coach Glance is the perfect individual to me, in my eyes. She is always around. It seems like she knows everything, no matter whether we tell or not. I mean Coach Glance is just -- she should be voted as Coach-of-the-Year in

my eyes, in my book, especially with my teammates.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you all.

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