

**ACC Women's Basketball Championship
Greensboro, NC
March 6th, 2005**

Semifinal Round Quotes

NORTH CAROLINA TAR HEELS

COACH SYLVIA HATCHELL: First of all, Virginia was incredible. They played a great, great, game. I just saw Coach Ryan in the hall and hugged her neck, and I told her, great, great job. I mean two games this year we've, you know, beat them pretty good, much different than a regular Carolina/Virginia game today. It was more like our usual games. But she's has done a great job with that team in preparing them for this tournament and for playing us.

For my team, I don't think you can question the heart of these kids. I think both days we've won with just a lot of determination and heart down the stretch.

And, you know, we talked at half time about what we needed to do, and we just kept encouraging them and trying to get them to do, how we felt we could win the game. They just kept fighting and fighting out there. It was tough. Every time we sort of made a little run, or a little, you know, get it down to six or five points, Virginia would make a big basket. I mean they were incredible with their shots. And you know they shot 51 percent for the game. So they made a lot of big shots out there.

But, you know, we kept battling and fighting hard. I was proud of our kids because like I said, I think they played with a lot of heart. You know, tomorrow is going to be tough. We know whoever we play, I'm just hoping that we play a little bit better. We've won the last two days, but we haven't played very good. But the two teams that we played have had a lot to do with that.

But this young lady sitting beside me, I thought Ivory, did a great job being our leader and running things. The second half -- I didn't started Nikita the second half, but when I put her in there, she really got us going and made a big difference. So, again, like I said, I told them in the locker room, I just said this is why I love you guys because you all just have so much heart.

So we're looking forward to playing for another ACC championship tomorrow.

Q. Sylvia, Debbie said that Ivory kind of willed your team to victory, can you talk a little more about that and about the shot she made in the lane that wasn't exactly an easy shot that put you up for good?

COACH SYLVIA HATCHELL: Well, Ivory is a winner. You know, I've watched this young lady since she was barely a teenager playing basketball. You know, she has so much heart. I've said that all along. You know, the Greensboro paper had an article about Ivory, just talk about how much, what a heart and passion she has for the game and in such a small package. But she just loves to play and what she has is contagious. She believes that we are going to win all the time. And she does a great job out there for us. I think, you know, all of that paid off for us tonight.

Q. The shot in the lane?

COACH SYLVIA HATCHELL: The shot in the lane. She is not afraid to do that. You know, she will go in there and among the trees, and make those shots and then, of course if she gets fouled -- I don't know if she is the best foul shooter in the league. But if she is not, she is one of the top two or three. At one time she was leading the league in foul shooting. I'm not sure about that. I'm pretty confident when she gets on that foul line. But she just plays with so much heart. She loves going in there, and, again, I thought she went in there and made some nice moves. She does her shot fakes well. It's something that we've worked on especially in the off season.

Q. Ivory, do you want to give us your perspective on your shot in the lane?

IVORY LATTA: The only thing I know, the Coach was telling us we need to be more aggressive and get on the foul line. So that's the main thing I was really thinking, was get in the lane, pump fake, because I know they will go for all kind of shot fakes. So it happened I just got in the lane. When I get ready to make the shot, there was nobody there (inaudible), I just tried to do a little floater which I have been working on the last couple of days and fortunately it went in.

Q. Nikita, are you concerned given the way you guys gotten yourselves into trouble the last two days going into the championship game?

NIKITA BELL: Concerned about what?

Q. You guys had some serious deficits to pull yourselves out of last two games, and going into the championship game, you guys had some problems this weekend?

NIKITA BELL: I don't know. My nerves are bad right now. I just know that it's mental. I know. We know that a game -- we know these games are going to be big. We know that the game tomorrow is going to be big. It is just how we come out. It's up to us. It is always up to us. Again we came out slow. Hopefully, tomorrow we don't do that. That's the best thing I can say. It's so mental. We just need to be ready and hopefully I'm sure we will be ready.

Q. Ivory, I know it's the kiss of death for Carolina to root for Duke, do you at all root for Duke to set up another one of those great show downs?

IVORY LATTA: Oh man, I'm not going to get into anything like that. I'm just watching the game. Whoever wins, wins. I'm not going to root for any team. I'm just going to sit down there. Its two great teams right now from the ACC are competing out there right now. So I'm just going to go out there and watch both teams and study each player on each team. That's all I can do.

Q. Coach, it looks like your guards, the second half in particular, were even more aggressive than usual taking the ball to the basket. Did you talk about that at half time?

COACH SYLVIA HATCHELL: Yes, we did. We were trying to get a lot more movement in our offense and, you know, get more penetration and get the ball inside more because we felt like, you know, that we could, you know, score in there. And also that's the way we could get on the foul line because at half time, man, I don't know -- I don't remember exactly the numbers. They had been on the foul line a whole lot more than we had at half time. We were trying to take the ball inside. We were struggling some to get in there with the pass and so we started trying to move the ball, but then also attack the basket.

Q. Ivory, with 3:41 left in the Game 1 one of the keys, I think, was the run you made, a 10-0 run, I think you were down 70 to 61, can you talk about that?

IVORY LATTA: I just think it was more on aggressive defense. You know, hands more in the passing lane. I don't know, I'm just looking into -- I really can't tell what really got us started when Nikita started being aggressive out there, and her intensity, it got everybody going. When I look into everybody's eyes, I had no doubt who was going to win this game. So I know it was our aggressive defense and the hands in the passing lanes and things like that, turnovers. We scored on most of their turnovers.

Q. Ivory, at what point in the game did you feel you needed to take over the game?

IVORY LATTA: It's really cold, man. I don't know. I don't know really. I really can't say. I don't know. I just want to win so bad. I just try to do any and everything that I can for my team, whether it's getting in the lane, pump faking, dishing it off to somebody. I don't know. I just know at the end, I really wanted the ball more and I just knew I can get to the lane and pump fake. Hopefully they will go for it and I score.

Q. Sylvia, can you talk about tomorrow's game and analyze if you play Duke and Maryland, what do you need to do?

COACH SYLVIA HATCHELL: I don't know. I'm still thinking so much about the game that we just had. It's been a long time since we played Maryland. That was our very first conference game on the road, January 5th, 6th, 7th, somewhere along there.

Q. January 9th?

COACH SYLVIA HATCHELL: January 9th. And that was our first conference game. We lost up there. So it's been a long, long time since we played them. So, I mean, I thought Langhorne last night, she was just a beast in there against N.C. State. I mean she was just so dominant, just unbelievable. Of course, we played Duke twice and both of those were great games. So we're going to go out there right now and watch. Of course, we've got a lot of information, especially on Duke. But we have a lot on Maryland as well and we got the rest of the day, tonight, to prepare. My staff does an excellent job. We will be up most of the night probably grading go this film and doing what we need to do to be ready for tomorrow. The good thing is we got to practice for tomorrow. We are going to have a practice. So I think that will help us.

Q. Coach, how much did the foul trouble of Erlana and especially Nikita affect you in the second half? What was your thought process when to bring them back in there toward the end?

COACH SYLVIA HATCHELL: That was a concern when Nikita got a fourth foul, I made a decision to put them back in there. I felt that we needed them. But also Kenya did a really nice job defensively when she was in there. She didn't score any points, but defensively I thought she did a really nice job for us. And, you know, we had some good people off the bench that helped us.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you.