

**ACC Women's Basketball Championship
Greensboro, NC
#1 North Carolina, #9 Clemson**

March 7, 2008

NORTH CAROLINA TAR HEELS

SYLVIA HATCHELL: Well first of all I think Clemson played well. The progress they have made as a team is something they have to be proud of. They shot well and they played well and gave us a great game. They showed us how to rebound, especially offensive rebounds. So, I was real proud of these two. At half time neither one of these had missed a shot. And Erlana missed 3 and LaToya missed 1. I was proud of these two and they are seniors and I challenged them to lead our team and that is exactly what they are doing. So again, we have 5 kids with double figures and a lot of people contributing. We need to do that, plus we know we have a tough game tomorrow with Virginia. They are a great team. I love Virginia's team except when we're playing against them. But they are really very athletic and just solid in every position. So we're looking forward to playing Virginia tomorrow.

Q Erlana, about ten minutes into the game Clemson was hanging around, there was a sequence where you scored 6 straight points that you rebounded in the steal. Can you just take it upon yourself to sort of risk things or is it just kind of the natural flow of the game?

ERLANA LARKINS: I think it was a natural flow of the game. We weren't making good decisions and so we wanted to execute on the offense and take care of the ball and not stand behind it offensively, and that's what we did.

Q Coach, can you tell us anything about Rebecca; Gray and her condition?

SYLVIA HATCHELL: They had to take her to the hospital to check her out. She got hit in the face and when she got hit in the face her neck popped. It was hurting and she had some tingling in her arms, so I'm not a doctor, I can't really say anything, but they took her to evaluate her.

Q I just had a quick question before the game with the moment of silence, and I noticed lot of players had messages written on their shoes. Can any of the players or coach comment on that?

SYLVIA HATCHELL: Well all of the staff wore the blue ribbons, and the players tied them to their shoe laces and all of the players wrote her name and some of them little messages on their shoes. And, you know, because it's just tragic that this has happened.

So, we're a very tight community just like any college or university and, you know, one of our comrades goes down we all feel that. But it's just away we could honor Pete.

ERLANA LARKINS: I think personally, myself, I just did it for Laura because Laura Barry was really close to her and it hit home to her. We thought we would do something to honor her as well as to do something for Laura.

LaTOYA PRINGLE: I just feel that, you know, with Eve being just a leader at our school and as much as she accomplished in our community it kind of hit close to home. A lot of us didn't think that something like this could happen, you know, at Chapel Hill. I think it hit close to home and it kind of gave us a little awakening. And we wanted to honor her for all she had done for the university and as Erlana says, some of the players on the team were closer to her more than others. We just wanted to honor her because she was our student body president and a student at the same school.

Q How much sharper do you think you may need to be against Virginia and what are the biggest obstacles they may present?

SYLVIA HATCHELL: First of all I learned that when you play like this, the team that played the day before early in the game they seemed to play a little better, which I think Clemson did. You have to get out there and get going. And so I felt after a while we did. But, you know we had a really good game with Virginia up in Charlottesville a few weeks ago. They are solid every position. They have big post players at the side and they are athletic and they have guards that can you know run fast break and they have shooters. I mean they are just really solid in every position. They match up well with us.

Q I was just wondering did you feel like you could exploit Clemson's inside end?

SYLVIA HATCHELL: Well, I don't know. We didn't really talk about doing that. We didn't talk about that much. We were trying to take the ball on side for us. We were trying to get the ball in there and get it to these two because we felt like we got it in there, and that would give us an upper hand. And then also, we don't take a lot of 3's, we took 16, we made 6 of 16. And that wasn't too bad 37%. But getting the ball inside, it really, I mean, that is sort of our bread and butter getting it inside. We have got good guards that can shoot the ball and in transition we have good drivers and everything, and when we can need it they can do it. We like to go inside with these two.

Q You mentioned that you had five players in double figures today, and you had 26 assists can you talk about their balance and you know sharing it and getting everybody involved?

SYLVIA HATCHELL: I think that is the strength of our team is the balance of our team. We play a lot of people and even as we substituted today and down the stretch. We have got some of our kids that have been coming off the bench and not played a lot this year have really played well lately. Like Trinity Bursey she has gone in there and played really well. Martina has given us some good minutes. And you know when Monica got hurt and backed her up a little bit. We have good kids that can go in and give us quality time. And that is, you know, all of those kids that is the strength of our team. And you know hopefully that will help us.

Q Coach Hatchell, talk a little bit about Cetera's development as your point guard leader?

SYLVIA HATCHELL: I don't think she gets the credit she deserves, the little girl. She was a J¹ RT. And she was national player of the year and she led the team in two final 4's and we lose her and then Alex tears her knee up in the third or fourth game. And the freshman are thrown in the fire. Cetera has done a tremendous job. Her numbers are

good and more than anything else her leadership. She is so steady, and she doesn't get rattled and you can talk to her and coach her and fuss at her, and she is a great kid and so coachable. And has done a fantastic job running our team. And I mean we have got a good record and ranked 2nd in the country and she played well against Duke, Tennessee, Connecticut, and Maryland and she played great against the top competition of the country. Except for, I think, she is just an unbelievable player. I think she has to be the second or third best freshman in the country for what she has done for our team. It's not just numbers, but it's the leadership she has provided. These two can tell you more about it because I know they are glad she is running our team.

Q LaToya, you talked half of the Connecticut game about taking more leadership and the coach says she has challenged the seniors to take leadership. How much of that you have discussed with the younger players before the tournament?

LaTOYA PRINGLE: We didn't discuss it with the younger players, but with the whole team in general. We want to go out on top. And we know and told the team that once you go into post season it's a whole new level. ACC even though you are playing and we beat everybody, they are going to play better the second or third time around. And once you get to NCAA it's going to be harder everyone is going to step up to the game because you are wanting it done. I think it's just trying to give insight to how the post season is going to be and let them know it's not going to be easy. And you have to play almost perfect basketball to win.