

**ACC Women's Basketball Championship**  
**Greensboro, NC**  
**March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

**Final Round Quotes**

**NORTH CAROLINA TAR HEELS**

COACH SYLVIA HATCHELL: I appreciate you being patient with us. It's been a long time since we done this. We are really enjoying this. I appreciate you guys hanging around because I know it's getting late.

First of all, Duke is a great team and it's an honor and a privilege to play them. Preparing for Duke this year three times has made us a much better team. I think that's one thing about a conference this year is that it's the strongest it's been since I've been in it, and I think we have done a great job preparing each other for, you know, the competition. We are going to see in the NCAA. But we wish Duke well. They are a great team.

About my team, these kids sitting over beside me, you can't measure the size of their hearts. I told them in the locker room. The last two days, the way you all played we were good to give me a heart attack. I told them, you guys must have been holding out. But they were ready tonight. They got it down the floor. Our fast break game was good at times. When we play Duke it's always going to be a game of runs like that. I thought our fast break game was pretty good. Our rebounding made the difference in the game. La'Tangela had not played good the last two days. She was on fire today. Camille Little was as well. They dug deep played really well as a team.

Before you ask the player's questions I want to say this because you know before the game a couple people asked me about NCAA seedings and all. And I think we deserve a number one seed. The reason why I say that is because we have more wins against teams in the top 25 with RPI ratings. By that we have more wins against the top 25 than any school in the country. We have 10 wins over teams that are in the top 25. So I think not only do we deserve a number one side. We probably deserve the number one seed. LSU got beat. People just aren't giving our conference enough credit. But I'm giving you facts. I've already confirmed them with Dana. We have more wins than Top-25 teams than any other school in the country. It's an honor and privilege to be here again. I have my gold scissors. These were the scissors that we cut down the net when we won the National Championship in '94. I gave them to one of my managers this afternoon. I said you hold onto these. After the game is over with, when we win pull them out. But these scissors are special because these are the ones we cut down the National Championship nets with and then also, you know, this ACC championship. I'm really proud of these kids they are great. I love them to death they are a fun group to be with, and the coach, they make me laugh all the time, and they get me doing all kinds of crazy things for my age. But they can talk me into about anything. We have a

great time. We just love playing basketball. They love each other. They make basketball exciting for women's basketball the way they love to play and everything. So we are just happy to be ACC champions. I have said enough.

Q. Nikita, after three years of having to be the loser in this game, how does it feel right now to have won this game and beat Duke three times this year?

NIKITA BELL: How sweet it is, after battling so hard in the past. But I'm happy. I'm excited. I just know that the season isn't finished here. We got to go and fight NCAA. I think this tournament prepared us for what it's going to be like in the NCAA tournament.

Q. Sylvia, after such an impressive win you probably forget you missed 14 of your first 17 shots and fell behind again. How were you ready to right the ship after a third straight game?

COACH SYLVIA HATCHELL: Well, both teams were nervous, I thought. Duke was really aggressive starting off the game. We were really nervous. Ivory is sick. The kid was out there. We had doctors working on her and all of that stuff. She got a really bad cold, a sinus infection and everything. That's the only reason that she missed them foul shots. She doesn't miss foul shots. She was just worn out. But, you know, I'm forgetting the question here. About the way we played and stuff. Yes, we missed some shots early, but, you know, I just kept talking to them about their intensity level and rebounding, just playing good defense and rebounding and when they got the ball just being aggressive. Being aggressive. That's what we were trying to do.

Q. Ivory, how much last year when you guys sat and watched them, you know, go through their victory celebration the balloons come down and all of that, serve as a motivation so you wouldn't have to watch it this year, you would celebrate instead?

IVORY LATTA: Yes, while sitting down there, I told the coach, I look at her, I said Coach, we're going to get us one next year. She said yeah, you're right. Today was the day, excuse me, today was the day, we just came out with the big win. I'm just so excited. I'm on cloud nine right now. I don't know when I'm coming down. I'm so happy.

Q. Camille, you just knocked down a bunch of shots today and came to play, did you feel ready to play? Did you expect that would you have that kind of showing?

CAMILLE LITTLE: Well, my teammates when I was shooting, I was hitting a lot of shots. Every shot had gone in. She kept giving me the ball. She said, dang, you keep hitting these shots. You will hit them in the game, too. I was kind of ready, they were falling, so I kept shooting. I didn't worry about it. They gave me the ball, I shot it. My teammates passed me the ball, that's all I can say.

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