

ACC Women's Basketball Championship
Greensboro, NC
#7 Virginia Tech 73, #10 Wake Forest 60
March 2, 2006

WAKE FOREST DEMON DEACONS

COACH MIKE PETERSEN: I was much happier with our effort tonight than five days ago up in Blacksburg. I thought we played much harder with much more focus and purpose. Our want to was really good tonight. We just didn't finish plays. We had a lot of lay-ups that didn't go in the basket. Virginia Tech is a very good basketball team. If you're going to be a good basketball team, you probably need to make lay-ups, and we had lots of those. And that's on us. But I was happy with our want to.

I thought coming off the game Sunday, our mentality was much, much better.

LIZ STRUNK: I definitely think it's disappointing because we were in this situation last year, and we beat them. But not really much you can say. I'm missing definitely bunnies, I will call them bunnies. That's frustrating.

Q. Mike, you cut it to three twice there with about six minutes to go and tried a couple of entry passes that got turned over, you had 4 turnovers in the last three and a half minutes, what were you trying to do in those possessions?

COACH MIKE PETERSEN: Well, we had different things called each time. I mean, one of them was a post entry. One of them was an entry into the high post for a set play. One of them was to shake C (Cotelia Bond-Young) loose for a 3. It wasn't the same pass, you know what I mean?

But, again, good teams, you know it was a game on the line. You can't turn the ball over, you got to get shots. You can't have empty possessions. In that stretch of the game, when it was winning time -- again, I thought we done a really good job. I thought our players did a really good job of fighting back into the thing. Then it was winning time, and we just didn't finish the deal.

Q. Coach, this was a much different effort than you gave obviously up in Blacksburg, can you talk about that, the difference in the way your team played tonight. You know, as opposed to that up there, and what do you think was the motivation for that?

COACH MIKE PETERSEN: Well, it was a pride deal, you know. I mean, we wanted to play with pride, and I thought we did. I thought we played hard.

Again, there is a difference between playing hard and playing well. I thought we played really, really hard tonight. I don't think we played as well as we could.

But our effort was just a lot better in this game. Our focus was better. Our effort was better.

Again, we talked a little bit, in the last few days, about how we're going to represent ourselves, and how we're going to represent our schools and all of that. And I thought our kids did a really good job today of representing ourselves and representing their school in terms of their effort.

Q. Mike and Elizabeth, how difficult is it dealing with Virginia Tech's post players. They may not be the tallest players but they seem to be crafty around the net?

LIZ STRUNK: They're very athletic, but that's something you face every day in the ACC. I think that were pretty much known for our mobile posts. Kerri Gardin is just as good on the perimeter as she is inside.

It's definitely challenging. I think they're going to give a lot of teams trouble who have bigger posts, they can move around them instead of trying to battle with them in the paint. They are very good inside, very well balanced.

Q. At the end of your second season, Coach, where do you think the program is right now, or the pride that you hope to take as you move on to the ACC?

COACH MIKE PETERSEN: Well, we're really disappointed with this season. I mean, you know, let's be honest. We had much higher goals and expectations for ourselves this season, and you know it's my job. I didn't do a good enough job of getting enough out of this basketball team. We were very, very -- what would Skip say, Skip would say mecurial. He's a word smith. We were mecurial. We were up and down. I know this, I think, I'm pretty sure, we'll be the only team in the country with 3 Top-25 RPI wins that doesn't go to the NCAA tournament. We had 3 wins in the Top-25 of the RPI. But we had some losses outside the first hundred, too. That's on us. That's on me. It's not on us. It's on me.

Having said that, we're really going to miss Liz, we're really going to miss Cotelia, we're really going to miss Keila (Evans). But we've got good young players in our program and we've got a good recruiting class coming. We're going to be good. I wanted it to happen this year because our seniors are great kids that really put a lot into this program and I really wanted to be able to enjoy it.

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