

ACC Women's Basketball Tournament
Greensboro, NC
#1 Duke 79; #9 Wake Forest 50

March 4, 2011

WAKE FOREST DEMON DEACONS

THE MODERATOR: Without further ado, pleased to have up here at the podium, Mike Petersen, head coach of Wake Forest, as well as Brittany Waters and Sandra Garcia. Coach, when you're ready.

COACH MIKE PETERSEN: Sure. We just didn't make our shots. We played pretty hard. We made them run in the second half, when we made a couple shots. But, you know, I know this sounds like a copout, but it's a make-miss game. They made shots. They did a good job. They hit shots whenever they were open.

Our kids played hard. Dub took the same shots she was taking yesterday. It just didn't go in. She had it right at the rim and it doesn't go in. Chelsea took the same shots as yesterday. She goes 1 for 10. They were good shots yesterday. They were good shots today. They just didn't go in.

For some reason, we were never really able to put foul pressure on them. It's hard when a team plays as much pressure defense as Duke does, who is as physical as Duke is, who plays as hard as Duke does. It's hard to attack them when you only shoot seven free throws in a game. We didn't do a good enough job of putting enough foul pressure on them and getting a whistle on some of our drives and some of our post-ups. That's on us.

THE MODERATOR: Questions?

Q. How much is Duke's depth a problem for your team, and how far do you think it might take them in the postseason here?

COACH MIKE PETERSEN: It's a problem for everybody. They're 27-3. It's not like they beat us 26 times and somebody else once. It's a problem for everybody. They're deep. They have good players, and they play hard. So, yeah, it's an issue.

It's an issue for us. It's a real benefit for them. Their kids play hard and deep.

They've got a lot of pieces. Today their shots, 9 for 18 from three. Some of them were open. Some of them were guarded. You know, they made some good shots. But there's no question, it's a benefit to be deep and talented like that and then play as hard and as together as they do is why they're ranked wherever it is this week, fifth, sixth, whatever it is.

Q. Brittany, you were very effective early in the game, and then your production tailed off. Did you feel that Duke was paying extra attention to you defensively or just the same shots didn't go in?

BRITTANY WATERS: I think it was like Coach was saying. I was getting good shots and good open looks but just had trouble finishing on the rim. They just weren't falling like it was yesterday. Nothing different. Just got to hit shots.

Q. Sandra, just wondering how you guys felt, you know, coming off the game yesterday, how you felt physically. Were you full strength?

SANDRA GARCIA: Yeah. I think we were full strength. I think the game yesterday didn't affect us at all. Like Coach Pete said, I think we had open shots. They just didn't fall.

Q. Question for Sandra. Just the great stat line you have. What were you able to do that maybe -- in exploiting the Duke defense that maybe your teammates were not?

SANDRA GARCIA: I think, well, as far as me in the first half, I don't think that -- I think I was rushing my shots, and I just wasn't being Sandra Garcia. So I think I was just sealing up more in the second half and just wanting the ball more.

Q. Brittany, you're a senior, correct?

BRITTANY WATERS: Yes.

Q. This time next year, can you envision yourself playing basketball somewhere?

BRITTANY WATERS: Most definitely.

Q. Where do you have in mind?

BRITTANY WATERS: Wherever it takes me. Whoever wants me to play for them. I just want to keep playing. That's what I love to do. Hopefully, God will place me somewhere where I can still show forth my talents.

Q. Question for Coach. Coach, I know you had kind of big expectations for the season considering the way that you finished last year. Can you sort of speak to this, sort of what went wrong this season and what you kind of are looking for towards next year to sort of move your program further along.

COACH MIKE PETERSEN: Yeah, sure. We just weren't as competitively mature as I thought we might be. And having said that, I told the team, when we met, I think they did a phenomenal job the last three weeks maybe of correcting that. You know, we were struggling. You know, we had to look in the mirror a little bit as a group and say, why are we struggling? And we held ourselves accountable, and I think they did a great job.

When our attitude and our focus are right, we're pretty good. It took us a long time to get that right this season, and I don't know why. The bottom line is in December and January we gave about five games away at that time of year. And, you know, if you don't give those

five away, instead of having what we have -- what have we got, 15 wins? It says 14. It's 15, isn't it? 15. Don't cheat me. Instead of having 15, we have 20, you know.

And that's on us, frankly. We just didn't do a good enough job of competing as a group in some games in December and January, and we gave away some games that we should not have given away. That's completely on us. When I say us, I mean every one of us -- players, coaches, everybody.

And, again, post-game, we don't take long usually post-game, but the one thing that I pointed out to everybody is that this is a group that should have high expectations again next year. We return basically everybody but Dub, and we get Camille Collier back off of her knee injury. That affected us a little, but we're not going to use that. We've good freshmen coming. Next year's team will be built to be very, very good, like this year's team was.

The good news is I think -- and, again, I don't have this 100 percent right, but somebody told me this the other day. The good news is that we have raised the expectation level to the point where being in the middle third of our league isn't good enough anymore. But this team went 6-10 against ACC teams this year, 5-9 and 1-1 in the tournament. I'm pretty sure there's only two teams in the history of the program that have a better league win-loss percentage than that. Is that right?

So we took a step back, but it's not like we stepped into the great abyss. We took a step back. We took a few steps forward and then a couple steps back. Next year we need to take a few more steps forward to make up for the steps back this year. We'll be all right.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you all.

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