



2017 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Second Round · South Carolina vs. Arizona State

Colonial Life Arena · Columbia, S.C.

Postgame Quotes – March 19, 2017

POSTGAME QUOTES – SOUTH CAROLINA

Dawn Staley, Head Coach:

Opening Statement

"We're just elated to be moving on and going to the Sweet 16. I thought we beat a very good Arizona State team. They gave us our best shot. I feel very fortunate to have played on our home court in front of our fans. That willed us into another victory."

On the matchup with Arizona State...

"I think they are a team that was much more deserving than an 8/9 seed. As you can see across the board, the number one seeds, what they had to do and the talent level as far as their opponents. This team was a dangerous team because they got healthy, that's number one. Number two, they are a tournament tested team. They always find themselves in a tournament, they play well in a tournament. Quite honestly, I thought the matchup was going to be tougher, more like what the game ended up being like. I didn't foresee us going down by 11 points and having to claw our way back in, but I just thought it was going to be a really tough matchup for us."

On Kaela Davis and Allisha Gray and their experience in the NCAA Tournament...

"They're battle-tested, maybe not in the SEC but Kaela has been to the NCAA tournament, Allisha (Gray) has been deep into the NCAA tournament so for us it is a familiar place it is just with different personnel. They're not freshmen. They're kind of freshmen in our system but they're not freshmen when it comes to the experience and the amount of game time that they've logged over the past three years."

On the pace of the game...

In the second half, I thought we had to go to a zone, and that gave them pause. It allowed us to turn them over a little bit and get some easy buckets in transition and just disrupted them. I thought they did a good job of controlling tempo in the first half by allowing us to shift the ball east and west versus north and south. We just didn't have the speed that we needed to attack them and we just changed that in the second half."

On the upcoming week...

"At this point, less is more. The less time that we spend on the floor, the more time that can be spent watching a little bit of film seeing where we can get better. Our numbers are down as you can see, so we don't want to put ourselves in a position where someone gets injured, so a lot of it is just trimming the fat off of our practices and just maybe working on two or three things instead of a full practice. At this time of the season, you're not going to change much. You'll throw a wrinkle here and

there, and that's what we did for this particular game, and we'll get ready to play the winner of Miami and Quinnipiac."

A'ja Wilson, Junior Forward:

On the game's many lead changes...

"I feel like we've been in that situation before, maybe not even in games but in practice. We prepare very well for situations like that. I think we were prepared, and also in the Tennessee game I feel like that was another game where things kept changing, so I think we handled it really well."

On her touches late in the game...

"I just figured they were going to find me eventually. Our guards were doing a tremendous job of getting the ball in the basket, and that's what you need to win, so I really didn't care. I just wanted to hold up my end of the barrel, and I trust them and they trust me so I really wasn't worried. I just knew the ball was going to find who needs it. I was not worried."

On the team's comeback...

"I was just out there having a good feeling with our guards. Like I said, I knew the ball would find who it needed to find at that time. I just trust the system and trust the process."

On the crowd support, especially on the final possession of the game...

"Honestly I think plan was just to get the ball. Coach Boyer yelled at me 'GET THE BALL,' so I said 'Okay, I guess that's the plan.' The end was a great feeling, knowing that we went out with a bang here at the CLA, it doesn't get much better than that."

Kaela Davis, Junior Guard:

On her confidence in the fourth quarter...

"I think throughout the game, you have to be positive. You can never put yourself in a position to feel down. I think we just kept our heads down and didn't look at the score and just fought back."

On being aggressive in the fourth quarter...

"I think you have to find the balance and take shots and know when to be aggressive. That was the game plan. Just to come in and be aggressive, attack the paint as much as possible and try to get to the free throw line. Shots weren't falling in the second half as much, so I made an effort to try and get in the paint."