

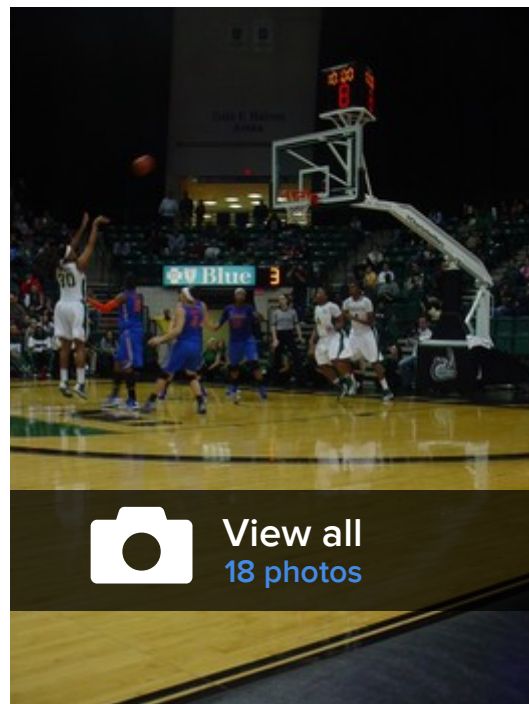
[NEWS](#) / [BUSINESS & FINANCE](#) / [INDUSTRY](#)

# The Sweet 16, NIT Women's Basketball, Charlotte vs. Florida

**March 27, 2013**

11:43 PM MST

Who could have foretold the sequence of events that unfolded? The first score came at the 17:37 mark, by Florida. By 15:52, Florida looked like they were racing away, 8 to 2 over Charlotte. When the 1st half showed 3:19 remaining, UNCC was ahead 25 to 24. However, by halftime, Florida had resurfaced; taking charge again, 34 to 28. In the first minute of the second period, there was a turnover by Florida, a block by Florida, a steal by Florida, a miss by Florida, and then a 3 pointer by Charlotte; the score was now Gators 34 and 49ers 31.



*Photos by Keith McFarland*



Photo by Keith McFarland

From the 18:27 timeframe, until tied 42 all, at 14:14, the difference, between these two titans, was only 1, 2, or 3 points. Florida stayed in-front most of that time, until a three pointer, by UNCC; causing another change in the lead, at 13:51. They held the lead, with the exception of a tie, at 8:57; and then at the 5:58 mark, as Florida briefly reclaimed it, 57 to 56. Shortly thereafter, Charlotte made a three pointer, going ahead once again; but Florida remained feisty, throughout; they did not give up, and tied the game, at 65 all, with 20.1 seconds left, by making the 1st of two free throws. They missed the 2nd free throw, but got the big rebound, which proved to be huge. After a timeout, Florida managed a layup, by Jattera Bonds, winning the game, 67 to 65. And as the victorious coach indicated, to paraphrase: proud of her team's toughness, fight, and resolve; and to sum up the storyline, in a comment from Jennifer George, another of Florida's key players: 'not accepting defeat.'

The largest lead by either side was roughly 5 to 6 points. And it may be fair to conclude: if you were to speak to fans in attendance, they would likely say they saw one hell of a contest; although supporters of the 49ers would have desired a differing outcome. But, on this day, of March 27, 2013, at Halton Arena, the Gators took the prize; an opportunity to advance and play, at least, another game. To further put in perspective, paraphrasing an observation, by the losing coach: these two teams were very much evenly matched, almost a reflection of each other. Yet, in the end, she had to give hats off to Florida, for finding a way to win. The 'Road to the Final Four, NIT style, continues.



### **Keith McFarland**

Charlotte Economic Development Examiner

© 2006-2015 AXS Digital Group LLC d/b/a Examiner.com