



2013 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Regional Semifinals · Duke vs. Nebraska

Ted Constant Center · Norfolk, Va.

Sunday, March 31

POSTGAME QUOTES – Duke

Joanne P. McCallie, Duke Head Coach:

Opening Statement

What a basketball game that was. A lot of grit, a lot of defense. Nebraska is an excellent team. They're very well-coached. They play great defense. I think we played very good defense, and we did today. I think that was the difference for our team. Some of the stops we made, I thought, were very critical, and to hold a Nebraska team to 45 points, that's a very good thing for us to do. We came back on the boards. We had been down on the boards all game long and managed to get up by one there. Sometimes the offense isn't as smooth and defense and rebounding really has to take charge of what you do as a team, and I think at this time of year, in particular, as teams are more physical and talented, that sometimes show up. In regard to Lex (Jones), I thought her nine rebounds were incredible. From a guard position, for her to get that active on the glass for us, that was really, really key. Very, very helpful indeed for her to do that. Elizabeth (Williams) getting her blocks. Seven blocks is a pretty amazing stat, along with her rebounds, trying to get her to attack more on offense and do things there, but it's the complete game that matters most. The defense, the rebounding, the blocks - that type of thing which is great for us, and Tricia [Liston] again with her eight rebounds and, offensively, was very confident, understood what was happening in the game, and really made some great choices. So, it was a good game for us and a great one to learn from, and we're excited to move on from here.

On whether or not 11 shot attempts are too much for Richa Jackson:

Maybe she took them in the wrong order. You know, it's interesting that you're talking about offense here. We have two players that have never been in this situation before – Chloe Wells and Richa Jackson – they were 2-of-17. If you take that out, everybody else is pretty much fine. Exception, Elizabeth (Williams) wasn't as efficient as she wanted to be. I think, sometimes, you have to realize that it's a new experience for some people and they've gotta learn how to play. You mention Richa. Richa's problem was she played from the outside-in. So, here she is, they're leaving her open. It's one thing when you command on offense, it's another thing if you react to what somebody else is doing. So she reacted to being left open and took whatever shot instead of just getting in the flow of things. Richa's a great player. I have no concerns about that. She has to go through that. She has to learn from experience, and she learned a great deal of lessons, today, in that regard.

On what allowed Duke to close well in the first half:

I ran a few things better but, mostly Lex (Alexis Jones) taking charge on some clear-out situations in particular. She's got her eyes up as a point guard. She's looking for every option. We emphasized to her that it might be a good idea to take what's right in front of you and she did. Came out of a timeout and she got a lay-up immediately. Lex is a great player. She's one of the best guards in the country of any age but she's having to sort out things. This is her first go-around in the tournament. Nebraska defense is a good defense. They're a really good

team. They know how to defend so their help-side was really strong and lanes open and close quickly with them, so she had to read a lot of things. We were trying to help her and help the team spread the floor and show a little patience. For a while, there it was one pass, shot, and we'd just chuck it, and the ball was coming back the other way so there was a lot of up-and-down going on with not a lot of scoring, which will lead you to that kind of game. Usually, when you're going up and down, teams are scoring.

On Duke's ability to mix defenses vs. opposition:

I'm really proud of this team, in that regard. Defensively, we did mix it up and our team, those gals, they did a great job. That's a great defensive effort. It's not just a good one, it's a great one. They kept themselves in the game despite difficulties in quick shots and that was one of the things we talked about. The multiple defenses – we played a lot, and I hope it was confusing because we were trying to be confusing. I just thought everybody – Richa (Jackson) was great, Chloe (Wells), Lex (Alexis Jones), Tricia (Liston) getting her rebounds, posts eased blocks and things. I thought they did a very good job there.

On importance to win despite facing adversity in games:

Well, my gosh, it's important to just advance, number one. You've seen everything that's gone on in the tournament, both on the women's and men's side, so advancing is a blast. At this time, somebody had mentioned we hadn't played a great game yet. It's about time we do. I'm looking forward to it. We've had to gut some things out and handle things differently, but I think there's a time to cut loose. You're a really special team when you can play that kind of defense and cut loose on offense as opposed to playing that kind of defense and have it cost you offensively because your legs fatigue or turnovers or whatever else is going on. So we're trying to be that kind of team that can defend that well and then take care of things and we have in the past, but we're also playing different teams now too, so that's a new challenge.

On waiting for results to meet Coach's expectations:

It's not a matter of expecting. It's the whole story. We lost Chelsea Gray. That's an All-American point guard. I'm sure she had something to do with our fluidity on offense. We have injured players who have never been here before. You can't expect things to be this good-looking. 90-, 80-point games in the NCAA Tournament. Look at the men's side, for God's sakes. Incredible scores. It's not what it's about. We don't want to be pretty, we want to advance. We want to advance. We want to find a way to keep going and I hope we can play our best game ever next game or whatever, but the reality is you just gotta control what you can control on the floor and it's tough, because these teams are really good. I don't think any team is gonna let you go off and score a bunch of points. Based on what I can see, what's left in the tournament, you've got some pretty great defensive teams. So we just gotta be tough enough, strong enough, to push through anything and that's a sign of a championship team.

On low number of free throws despite defensive-type game:

I don't know what to think of it. I do know early on that we were just chucking, so nobody could foul us. They wouldn't have time to foul us. I mean, the ball was already up. But, funny looking thing here, those free throws. We like to get 25 a game and all I can say is I hope that in the next game we can get more, earn more, do a better job there, but I think that's really strange.

On challenge of facing Notre Dame Tuesday:

They're just a great team. They're very, very balanced. Obviously, everyone knows about (Skylar) Diggins and all of her great, creative abilities and all those things that she can do, but I have found them to be a very balanced team. Everybody can contribute. They play great defense. They rebound. They can score a lot of points. There's been some games where

they've scored very little points, fewer points. They're just a very, very good team, and I haven't had a chance to look at them this year. We played them in the Islands down there. They're just a really good team. They're obviously, kind of the Team of the Year, so to speak, relative to their success against Connecticut, their success in their league (BIG EAST). They're just a very, very good team, and very, very well-coached.

Alexis Jones, Duke Guard:

Q: What kind of concerns do you all have when you are used to hanging 80 points on opposing teams and today you only scored 53?

A: It is not really much of a concern to us. We know our shots are going to fall eventually, so we try to focus more on the defensive side of the ball and just let our offense come to us.

Q: Late in the first half, you all were grinding pretty hard on offense and were not getting a lot done. Then it seems as though you took over by taking more shots. Did you take that upon yourself or did your team say anything to you to motivate you?

A: It was more of a team thing, because we talked about getting the lead and putting the ball in the basket.

Tricia Liston, Duke, Guard:

Q: If you knew beforehand that you all were going to shoot 33 percent and only score 53 points, what would you have thought your chances would have been today?

A: We set a defensive goal at the beginning of each game. Our goal today was to hold Nebraska's offense to 50 points. Based on that, I would say we were going to win it if we got our defensive stops. Either way it was going to come down to the other side of the floor. Being able to get stops and then come down the court and create shots was going to be key for us.

Q: How hard is it to be in a game, 10-12 minutes in, where you all are still looking for your stride?

A: It can be frustrating at times, but that is where our defense comes in. If we are getting stops, we will at least be head-to-head during the game. It is definitely something we need to focus more on and learn from. We need to learn how to handle the ball a little bit better and know when to slow it down. We must learn to settle down and wait for the right shot, especially when some of our shots are not falling. Having defensive stops will help us back it up so we can execute our game plan.

Elizabeth Williams, Duke Center/Forward:

Q: No one attempts a free throw until 6:41 in the second half. Was that more of you guys settling for jump shots or is that more of you all taken shots that were being giving to you?

A: Our shot selection was not the greatest today. We definitely could have penetrated more in the first half and have gotten a lot more paint shots. We were not really drawing contact until late in the second half.

Q: How was it like playing in your hometown and getting seven blocks? Also, how did you all turn around the rebounding in the second half?

A: It was great! It was nice to be back in this environment. Besides my family, there were a lot of fans from Durham, North Carolina as well. It was definitely a good experience. During halftime, rebounds became our main emphasis. In a game like this, where we weren't scoring a

lot of points, we knew that defensive rebounding would make a big difference. We kept that in our head.

Q: Being three games into the tournament, do you all believe you have played up to your potential?

A: We have had our shooting woes which definitely showed today, but our defense has gotten better each game. To me, that is very important. We will have games where we are not always getting the ball into the basket as well as we can. However, we must hold the other team below their average which will ultimately be better for us.

POSTGAME QUOTES – Nebraska

Connie Yori, Nebraska Head Coach:

Opening Statement

A game that baskets were hard to come by for both teams. We didn't get to the foul line. I thought they did a good job on our dribble penetration. A lot of the shots we took, particularly in the second half, I'd take again. I didn't think our shots were as good in the first half, but I thought in the second half, we got some really good looks that we couldn't seem to cash in on, and Duke did just enough offensively to win the game, but you gotta credit what they did on the defensive end. Their defense was good. They mixed defenses, they kept us off-balance, we couldn't get a rhythm, but we also had some pretty good looks in the second half that we'd take again, but unfortunately it was one of those days and we had our chances.

On Jordan Hooper's status and her reaction to it:

Ankle injury. Don't know the severity of it right now, but Jordan doesn't fane injury. When she's hurt, she's hurt. My reaction is we just gotta have other players do some things. We were still in the ball game. We still had our chances. Eight point game, enough time to get back in it. Obviously, losing Jordan is not ideal but you still gotta keep playing.

On what to do when shots aren't falling: what can be done about it or do you just take what you can get?

I think it's the latter. They're zoning us. We tried to get some interior touches. At times, we did. At times, we turned it over a couple of times trying to get it inside, but we had open looks, particularly by Lindsey [Moore]. We go 1-for-15 from the two best shooters on the team. Jordan took some tough shots in the first half, but her looks in the second half were really good and Lindsey's looks throughout the game, particularly in the second half, were good. You gotta live with that, and we don't have an interior scorer like some folks do on the low block that you can just go to and get an easy one. You gotta rely on penetrating the zone from the middle of the floor with passing. We did that, but we just couldn't make the shot.

On turning the second Sweet 16 experience in four years into continuity:

Recruiting. Just gotta keep recruiting and have quality players in your program. Recruiting the right kids for our program, kids that wanna play hard, that are smart and play together. Keep recruiting those types of kids. That's what we have now and we'll continue to recruit.

On what accounted for momentum shift going into halftime:

They continued to mix defenses. I thought we were off-balance. I thought it was easier in the second half to get the shots we wanted than it was the first half, because it's in front of our bench. Second half, well, first half, we got a little out of flow, and probably didn't get as many

good looks as we'd like. You gotta give Duke a lot of credit. They run their 3-2, 2-3 (zone), they run their man, they're gonna trap out of it, they're not gonna trap out of it. They really do keep you off-balance, so I think a lot of the credit goes to them.

On Nebraska's defensive play vs. Duke:

I thought we did a reasonably good job of following our game plan. We helped off the kids we needed to help off of and we left (Tricia) Liston a couple times, which hurt us, but I would've taken 53. You know, giving up 53 against Duke? They're averaging 75 (ppg)? We did a lot of things right, defensively. I thought our kids followed our game plan and we didn't make a lot of mistakes. We just lost the game on the other end.

Lindsey Moore, Nebraska Guard:

On the teams tough shooting performance today:

Obviously, we struggled. I think we are a better shooting team than we showed, but our talks in huddles and on the floor were to just keep shooting. We were getting good looks and we liked our shot selection, so we just had to keep shooting and hopefully they would start falling for us.

What did Duke do defensively to affect your team's shooting?

They did a good job mixing up what they were in defensively. It took us a little while to recognize if they were in a 3-2 or 2-3 zone. We did not handle their changing of defenses very well.

On finishing career at Nebraska:

Playing here at Nebraska has been an unbelievable experience and one that I will never forget. It has definitely been the best four years of my life. It was so exciting to be a part of this program. We have had some good teams and we have had some not so good teams. Having a coach like Coach Yori to play for is awesome, because she always challenged me to be better.

On why her shots were not falling:

Everything felt the same as normal. I did not feel like I was doing anything different than what I normally do; they just were not falling tonight.

On how the team responded after Jordan Hooper went down with an injury in the second half:

I definitely think that Meghin Williams and Katie Simon stepped up. They came in and gave us great minutes, and battled with Elizabeth Williams inside. It is hard seeing Jordan going down. It is something that, as a fan of Nebraska basketball, you do not want to see happen, but I definitely think that they players that came in for Jordan did a really good job.

Emily Cady, Nebraska Forward:

On what Lindsey (Moore) meant to the team and what it will be like without her:

Lindsey (Moore) brings a lot of energy and it is going to be sad to see her go. We are really going to miss her. She brings a lot of emotion and fire to the team. You can tell how much we will miss her by how emotional I am right now.