



2016 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

First Round · Albany vs. Florida

Carrier Dome · Syracuse, N.Y.

Friday, March 19

POSTGAME QUOTES – Albany

Katie Abrahamson-Henderson, Albany Head Coach

Opening statement:

"I was very very proud. I just asked them at halftime if they were quitting. Because it's not over, it's never over, and we've been in a lot of tight games like this. We played Tennessee, USC and our conference championship game were all tight games. I just say to them all the time it's never over. We can score in numbers, and I think the biggest thing was six minutes left in the game when Shereesha fouled out and the mood changed, everyone just got really serious. I said, 'Imani, you need to step up, and Erin you need to hit some threes. Everybody needs to step up for Shereesha, because Shereesha Richards does not want to go out like this.' I felt like at the end we were playing for Albany, for the Great Danes, but in that last six minutes they were playing for Shereesha Richards. I am so proud of them, they fought like warriors, they were fearless, and we always teach them as women to stay powerful and keep fighting because there is so much adversity in life. You just never know what is going to happen, and we just did a good job down the stretch making shots. I thought Florida got a little tired, and we just kept pressing and we are a team that never gets tired. The Great Dane nation is really pumped up, and it is just great to see."

On playing time for Richards with foul trouble and final result:

"So hard. They (Florida) put Williams in and she had two fouls, it is just really hard. Next game she (Richards) is going to be much smarter because she got one ticky-tack foul that she shouldn't have got. It is such a gamble to put her out there, because she's so aggressive and wants to go for every rebound. If you can't get the offensive rebound just let it go, I told her, because she just wants to go after everything. I kept pausing and waiting, and then she picked up her third, probably bad coaching. But, I knew Imani would step up in this game. What won the game was Florida averages 78 points per game, and we held them to 59 points. Our goal was 56 points. It was our defense, it wasn't necessarily Imani scoring so many points. We held them down below their average and that's huge. I saw games where they scored 80 or 90 points and our defense really did it. I was joking, but Erin was picking people at the top of the press and they were trying spin moves and everything. I was laughing the other day because Erin's feet were moving so fast and she was wearing her new yellow Nike shoes. But, I told her she must have been wearing Nike shoes on your hands because you got so many steals. Erin played superb defense in the last part of the game, and her three steals were huge."

On Forster's performance:

"They were all over her in the locker room after the game, so proud of their little freshman. She's not little, she's big and strong. It is kind of a joke because we tease her for missed layups, but the layup that was biggest in her life she made. I am assuming that for her sister, Julie Forster (former UAlbany player). She played some great defensive minutes and boxed out really hard for us. She's a really smart player and prevented people from getting

in the lane, but I really saw her concentrating on boxing out. They (Florida) had 18 offensive rebounds, which I felt was just a little too much. She just did a great job, her and T-Jo (Tiana-Jo Carter). They were playing paddy cake with each other and made a layup, which was awesome because sometimes they do that in practice. I know so many stories of those two missing layups, that finally it paid off.”

Focusing on next opponent (Syracuse/Army):

“Right now when I walk outside. I want to do this for them, and Shereesha deserves it. We already played Army, so obviously we know a lot about them. We know plenty about Syracuse. I am just going to go out and watch it, and I get the rest of today and tomorrow to prepare for it. That is awesome for someone like me who is a game planner. We will have two good days to get ready.”

Erin Coughlin, Albany Guard:

On team’s emotion when Richards fouled out:

“Shereesha has done so much for us in every game that she plays, and we just knew that we had to do something for her and get her another game in a UAlbany uniform.”

On Florida’s late run with Richards out:

“At that point we were just focusing on defense and one stop at a time. I think that games we’ve played, especially the last one against Maine was close. You have to take it one position at time, and we just had to carry that mindset into this game. We just kept saying that we know what they are going to do and we know they are going to push it, make or miss, and we just have to stop the ball. We just kept our focus in every huddle, and kept saying that we were going to get the next one, it’s alright. I think that is really what carried us throughout that time period.”

Shereesha Richards, Albany Forward:

On fouling out –

“A lot of emotions I am not going to lie. A lot of the calls were ridiculous, I am not going to lie. Just a lot of emotions when I got out of the game, because I wasn’t there for my team and I knew that they needed me. They stepped up and did a great job and I am so proud of them.”

Imani Tate, Albany Guard:

On team’s emotion when Richards fouled out :

“On the court, we just banded together and played hard for her.”

On Florida’s late run with Richards out :

“I think our defense led to our offense and we started playing harder. They (Florida) didn’t shoot as many threes as they would have liked to and as they kept missing shots we got rebounds. The offense carried over and things started opening up for us.”

On her performance in the first every win for the program in the NCAA’s:

“I really didn’t think anything of it, it was just another game in my mind. I just had to go out and play harder because Shereesha was out, as a result I really didn’t think anything of it.”

Cassandra Edwards, Albany Guard:

“What was the mindset when she (Shereesha Richards, Albany Forward:) picked up her fifth foul with 6:18 to go in the game?”

“Erin and Reese are seniors and this whole season has been dedicated to them. When she got her fifth foul, we couldn’t hang our heads. We said ‘We have to do this for her’. No matter what, we have to buckle down. Stay poised! Control the ball, play defense, do the little things, box out, finish layups! That was the mindset, just do everything for them.”

“And Imani Tate, what were you thinking watching her doing her thig out there?”

“Honestly, I would say it’s like Imani is on the playground. When we plays big teams, that’s when she shows up. Same thing with Duke, same thing with West Virginia, Tennessee earlier in the season. These are the games that she decides that she wants to play. She capitalizes, she’s an amazing player and she showed it today.”

“Now can you keep it going? You can enjoy this tonight and come back for the second round.”

“Oh yeah. When we were yelling in here we were saying how we weren’t content with just the first round. This is the year that we make history so why not get the second round too?”

Tiana-Jo Carter (#33) Albany Guard/ Forward: Center:

Can you describe the emotions of what you guys are feeling right now?

“It’s just unbelievable. I don’t even have words to express the feelings that we’re feeling right now. We’re just so happy and excited and we’re excited for the next round.”

“When you guys go out, down fifteen at the half, what were you thinking? What did Coach A tell you girls to get you to fight back for the second half?”

“During halftime she just came in and she said that we were playing scared and we were. That we needed to go out this half to do it for Erin and Reese and that we needed to go in there strong. We couldn’t let anybody make us scared so we had to go out there strong and that’s what we did.”

“Speaking of playing for Reese, when she fouled out with 6:18 left and you guys are still down, from there what was your spark? An eleven and zero run right after that and closing on 15-2 to take the lead.”

“Reese is a phenominal player. She does everything for us and she never fouls out or gets in foul trouble so when she fouled out our team came together and we said ‘we’re going to do this for Reese. We’re going to get out there and we’re going to play strong for her.”