



# 2018 Southern Conference Basketball Tournament



## No. 7 Samford vs. No. 10 Chattanooga

March 2, 2018

### Chattanooga

#### **Coach Lamont Paris**

##### *Opening Statement*

"I thought our team really competed and played hard and defended. We made enough good decisions that we were able to hold on and win at the end. I can't say enough how hard they competed...which made it fun to watch."

##### *On performance this year*

"I don't know, we've had our ups and downs throughout the season. I thought that this was the time we overcame adversity the most."

##### *On performance of the overall team*

"We had more guys play well at the same time than we have all season. That was great to see. I know that this team is good enough to win when we play like that. It's one thing to play hard at a high level but we have to perform...when we perform like that, we have a good chance to win."

##### *On carrying over today to tomorrow*

"Tomorrow is a new day. The best thing about it for the guys is that they played well, which will always make you feel good about the next one. I think it's important to have success. We have to come out and fight, claw, and scratch."

### **Junior Makinde London**

##### *On his focus entering the game*

"Coach challenged me, for me it was just doing your job when I had to and to just make them and that's not always scoring the ball. That was really my main thing and it worked."

### **Sophomore Rodney Chatman**

##### *On how he felt coming back*

"I had a good warmup, I wasn't 100% but it was good enough to where I could play. My adrenaline started running so I felt good and performed well."

### Samford

#### **Coach Scott Padgett**

##### *Opening statement*

"I thought we got off to a really good start. [Chattanooga] called a timeout and regrouped a little. They did a good job of taking away the roll on our pick-and-roll in the latter stages of the first half. We made some adjustments at halftime, and offensively, I thought we did some good things in the second half. But where we did struggle offensively, is that we turned the ball over. We had 10 turnovers in the first half when we tried to force some things. In the second half, we shot 17-for-30, but we did not make any 3-pointers. We were trading a 2-pointer for a 3-pointer because [Chattanooga] made six in the second half. We made a little run when we went to the press [defense], but we could not come up with that one big play to get us over the hump."

##### *On the end of the season*

"It was a frustrated ending to a frustrating year with the injuries and sicknesses. I wanted for this group of seniors to go out on a better note. They all gave this program an opportunity by coming to [Samford]. Most of these guys committed to us when our high was 13 to 14 wins in a 10-year period. They gave us an opportunity and took a

chance on us. Last year, it paid off with 20 wins and taking a step forward. With the injuries and adversity we had this year, our margin of error was a lot smaller and we were not able to overcome all of that. I really appreciate what this senior group has done for us. I think we are going to be really good moving forward, and it started with this group.”

**Samford senior guard Demetrius Denzel-Dyson**

*On his message to the future of Samford basketball*

“Come in next year and put it all on the line from the beginning. This year, we put it all on the line, but we had injuries. Be a team from the beginning to the end. It is going to end fast because my years went by fast. Come in and fight like every game is your last game.”

**Samford junior point guard Justin Coleman**

*On the fight of the team*

“Even though we had injuries, we had a lot of people step up. We just did not pull it through at the end. But moving forward next year, it is going to make us grind a lot harder and remember the times that we lost. I think it is going to be good for us moving forward.”