

2019 Ingles Southern Conference Basketball Championships presented by General Shale



No. 2 Furman 67, No. 7 Samford 52
March 7, 2019

Furman Paladins

Head coach Jackie Carson

Opening Statement

"I'm just glad to get that out of the way. That's the scariest 7 vs. 2 match-up a coach could face. Samford is an outstanding team. A lot of people say our league is down this year. I think our league is more balanced, not down. To be able to get out of this gym with a win against Samford, especially after the feeling we had last year (a 59-58 first-round loss to Samford), is great."

"Very proud of this young lady to my left (Tierra Hodges). She gave us the spark. I knew we would come out nervous. I wasn't anticipating we'd come out that nervous. She and Jarya Outten came in and gave us an outstanding spark to get us where we needed to be in the first quarter. We're glad to survive. We're going to enjoy it for about 20 minutes and then prepare for our next opponent tomorrow."

On the difficulty of beating a team three times in a season

"I've been thinking about it since we won last Saturday. Samford is well coached. We know they limit possessions by their pace of play."

"We always bounce back. We always have a scary first quarter. We talk about first and thirds all the time. If we have a great first quarter, we're going to have an awful third and then vice-versa. Because (Samford) limits possessions, it's tough to fight back against them. You're going to have to get transition buckets, you're going to have to get offensive rebounds, and that's what Tierra brought to us today. Samford keeps it low-scoring, so it's harder to fight back against them than any other team."

On a spark for the second half of the season

"We changed our defense a little bit and they really bought in and connected to that. It's stifled some people and has created a little bit of an edge. We have great length defensively, especially when we have Sutton West and Kaitlyn Duncan and 'Baby T' – Tierra Hodges, her nickname. Defense is what really jumpstarted us. We always feel our offense will come from our defense, as long as we execute. The defense is what really gets us going and that's kind of changed the second half of the season."

Redshirt sophomore guard/forward Tierra Hodges

On her success vs. Samford (12.7 ppg/12.3 rpg in three games this season)

"I feel like I have a lot more confidence when I play them, given how hard I work and I know my physicality. They're really physical, but I felt like I had an advantage over them. So every time we play them, I try to take advantage of that and today it paid off."