

2019 Ingles Southern Conference Basketball Championships presented by General Shale



No. 3 Chattanooga 72, No. 6 UNCG 62
March 7, 2019

Chattanooga Mocs

Head coach Katie Burrows

Opening Statement

"What a great win for our program. This has been, as we can tell from our record, this has been a roller-coaster year, up and down for us. We left the tournament last year with a bad taste in our mouth and (UNC) Greensboro gave us that. So we were excited to get a little redemption for that, for last year and for last week (53-49 loss at UNCG). (UNCG head coach) Trina (Patterson) had her kids ready to play. Fortunately, we came out hot, so that gave us a little bit of an upper hand. In the second quarter, we stopped moving the ball and that's why we went a little dry. I think the girls recognized that, too, and they did a much better job in the second half."

"We talked about boxing out. We gave up 11 offensive rebounds in the first half and fortunately, they did not connect on most of those. I think we allowed only six in the second half, so we definitely cleaned that up. We'll have to continue that tomorrow. Also, we took better care of the ball today than we have been in the last few games, but we have to clean that up as well. Overall, I'm really proud of our bunch. I can't say enough about these two (Arianne Whitaker and Lakelyn Bouldin) and their effort. I may have played them a few too many minutes, so I hope that doesn't burn us tomorrow. I kept asking if they were okay and they said 'I'm good, Coach,' so I'm thankful for their contribution tonight. And what a really good team win we had."

On Chattanooga jumping out to a 15-2 lead in the first five-plus minutes of the first quarter

"Our kids were very loose this week, which is a good sign to me. They weren't nervous, they were just ready to play, ready for another opportunity. We talked about it before Saturday's game last week: just go out and play the game you've been playing most of your lives and enjoy yourselves. Hopefully, from my demeanor, that carried over in practice. We had really good, productive practices this week. We also focused on getting a ton of reps on shooting. Again, moving the ball and sharing the ball is really what got us those good looks in the first half. And it doesn't hurt that they're shooting it well."

On Arianne Whitaker's presence inside (17 rebounds, six blocked shots)

"Everyone knows Arianne led the conference in blocked shots this year. I told the team, 'Guys, she's cleaning it up in there, but we can't always rely on that because at some point, she's going to get in a position where she can't get that and she's either going to foul trying to help or they're going to score.' But what a great job she does for us. That's one of the areas where she's really grown. She's grown to be a disciplined defender down there. And we're so thankful for that. She just took care of business in the paint and we expect her to continue to do that. And she has that expectation of herself as well."

On facing Furman in the semifinal round

"They're going to come out ready for us. They got us at their place. The first time we played them at our place, the Davidson kid (Furman guard Le'Jzae Davidson) sat out the first half and that would have been a huge difference for them. She's a fireball. That kid brings energy and when she's on, she's on. The keys are slowing her down and keeping (6-3 forward Celena) Taborn from getting deep position tomorrow and boxing her out as well. They've got some really good utility players, some role players. (6-1 forward Kaitlyn) Duncan's one of those kids. She's come up big for them on the defensive end and she, like Arianne (Whitaker), is getting in the paint and helping and cleaning up. So we're going to have to recognize those rotations."

Really and truly, it's going to come down to the defensive end of things, we're going to have to slow them down and not let them get hot."

Junior guard Lakelyn Bouldin

On Chattanooga's quick start to the game

"I think the quick start was crucial to us in a lot of ways. We've been up and down with consistency shooting the ball this year, so that was one of the keys of the game for us to come out hot and really just continue that for the rest of the game. We kind of slowed it down in the second quarter and we can't have that tomorrow. When we're hitting shots and playing good defense, we're unstoppable."

Redshirt junior forward Arianne Whitaker

On UNC Greensboro fourth-quarter comeback (cut Chattanooga's lead to five points)

"They definitely got more aggressive on the inside in the fourth quarter, but I think we handled it well. We started helping each other more."