

2019 Ingles Southern Conference Basketball Championships presented by General Shale



No. 5 Wofford 75, No. 4 ETSU 66
March 7, 2019

Wofford Terriers

Head coach Jimmy Garrity

Opening Statement

"I couldn't be more proud of our players. To come in here on the road, where we haven't been good on the road all year, in a neutral environment against a really good team. Hats off to ETSU. They got on us early and we didn't play very well. It was really uncharacteristic of us. We want to play fast, but I felt like we were playing in too big of a hurry and got sloppy. They battled back and to be down at the half by just six points, I thought we were fortunate to be within striking distance. It could have been a lot worse."

"In the second half, it didn't start off the greatest. But then after that first couple minutes, we played some really good basketball. We tied it up and finally took the lead, and I don't think we gave it up after that. Down the stretch, they (ETSU) were switching everything and we did a much better job of taking advantage of those switches."

"These two on my left (Chloe Wanink and Da'Ja Green) did an unbelievable job on both ends of the floor. I'm really, really happy for our program and our school. It's been a long time since we've been in this situation and all the credit goes to our players."

On facing adversity and injuries this season

"Adversity is nothing new to this crowd. We've dealt with it pretty much every year we've been here. We don't make excuses. It's next person up. It just goes to show the character of the players we have within our program and within that locker room. They are unbelievable teammates to each other. They play for one another and guess what, they're pretty darn good basketball players. We just got into a rhythm this year, especially the second half. We've just been really confident in our abilities."

On Wanink's and Green's performance in the game and the season

"We've been riding these guys all season long and they don't shy away from it. They're very confident in their ability. Da'Ja has just done an unbelievable job of running this team. She has a high basketball IQ and knows what we want her to do. She knows every strength and every weakness of every player. She knows the plays inside out. She knows what will work and what won't. As for Chloe, I couldn't be more happy for her. She is one of the hardest workers. You come in around 7 or 8 in the morning and she's putting shots up. After practice, she's putting shots up. She works on her craft because it's important to her. And down the stretch, when you need a bucket, she doesn't shy away from it. She wants the ball in her hands. With their confidence, that brings up the level of play for our team and they just feed off of these guys. They're great to coach. They're competitive and they hate to lose. They hate to lose drills."

Redshirt junior guard Chloe Wanink

On how it feels to get Wofford's first tournament game win since 2012

"It felt really good. Coach mentioned in pregame talk that we've been working towards this since summer. It's been in the back of our minds and like Coach said, we've been really confident in the second half of the conference. It feels good to do it for us, but it also feels good to do it for the alumni."

On trailing by 12 points after the first quarter

"We had a few too many careless turnovers with the ball. I think we were a little excited and anxious because we've been waiting for this moment all week now. Da'Ja kept telling us to settle down and play our game, so we just focused on that. And like Coach said, not playing in a hurry, but playing in transition like we've been doing really well. We just tried to settle down and play our style."

Sophomore guard Da'Ja Green

On how it feels to get Wofford's first tournament game win since 2012

"It's been a long time coming here at Wofford. Last year was my first year here. I know with this group that we have, we can really make a difference, and this is just the beginning. I'm so proud of my teammates. I'm glad we could get a win for Marissa (Bayer) in the conference (tournament). She's our only senior and to do it for her is a special moment."

On seeming to have fun on the court, even while game was still in doubt

"I have a strong belief in my team and my teammates. Whether we're up or down, I know we have the ability to put our foot on the pedal and not let up. I told them Cairo (Booker) was the one that had that intensity. I told everyone on the court to get on her back and run with her. We know how to play for each other and that's what we did today."

ETSU Bucs

Head coach Brittney Ezell

Opening Statement

"Congratulations to Wofford. Jimmy (Garrity) has done a remarkable job not only with this team but with this program with the things he's been able to do in a short amount of time. He's a great coach. Our league got better when he came into it, so congratulations to him. They did all the things they needed to do to win the ball game. They forced us into turnovers, they hit big shots, they got a bunch of and-ones off of 3-pointers. They did a good job. We get 17 offensive rebounds, 48 total rebounds, we shoot the ball really well from the 3. The bugaboo for us has been shooting the ball from the free-throw line and then unforced turnovers. So you know just because Wofford played well doesn't mean we played bad. Just because someone else was good doesn't mean we were worse. You can have two really good teams and one of them just has to lose. That's just the nature of sports. I'm really proud of our kids and the fight they've had throughout the season. The things that they've battled through, you wouldn't believe the crap they have had to endure. Even if I told you, you'd think I was making it up. It's amazing. And I told them before the game that they will forever have my admiration. With the schedule they've been through, with the work they've been asked to do, injuries and illness and things that go on that you will never know about because it stays in house. The things that they have to endure and I am proud of their fight, I'm proud of who they are and I'm very proud of the way they've represented our university. One game more and we finish second or third. But yeah, they are still my favorite people in the world and just because you lose doesn't make you a loser."

On the tied turning from the first to the second half

"They hit shots. They hit shots. Normally the second and third quarter has been where we separate ourselves in the last three or four games. What happened to us is that in the first quarter, we were making a very concerted effort on the defensive end. Got into the second quarter and got away from it. We became let me get my shot, let me get this, let me get that and then it went away. We got flat in the second quarter and it never went away."

On the seniors and what they meant to the program

"It's always hard when it's over. It's always hard. But I've said it a million times and I'll say it until I'm completely white in the hair. Which will probably be next year. Britney Snowden is the best leader I have ever coached. Period. That's at the University of Alabama, Nebraska, Northwest Florida, Belmont, ETSU, I would challenge you to find a better leader. You can't do it. Because to be a leader, you've got to be willing to serve. And that's all she does. She's undersized, she works her tail off, she's always there for her teammates. She's the go between the coaches and the players when they hate me and I hate them. And then you have someone like Raven (Dean) and Sadasia (Tipps), who were in the program for four years and bought into something that we really haven't built yet. They bought in. They've grown leaps and bounds. It's been pretty amazing to watch those two. And then you have Lex (Lexus Spears) who comes in and she'll leave ETSU with a master's degree. It's hard to say what we give to them is equal to what they give to us because they give us a lifetime of memories. I'm going to give them a degree and a lot of fun things to hold on to. I know they have a lot of catch phrases of mine that we can't repeat. But I love 'em. It's not a four-year decision at ETSU, it's a 40-year decision. And their shirts that say 'family' and that's not something we take lightly. We said it in the huddle before Nike decided to put it on a T-shirt."