

# 2019 Ingles Southern Conference Basketball Championships presented by General Shale



**No. 8 VMI 96, No. 9 Western Carolina 83**  
March 8, 2019

## **VMI Keydets**

### **Head coach Dan Earl**

#### *Opening statement*

"I'm really proud of our guys. We're continuing to fight, we're continuing to get better, which has been huge for us. We had a tough stretch in the Southern Conference. We gave away a few games where we gave away the lead late. I thought we've been better down the stretch in late game situations. We competed throughout tonight."

#### *On performances of guards Bubba Parham (41 points, 17-18 free throws) and Sarju Patel (22 points)*

"Bubba has shown throughout the year that he knows how to score the ball. He's doing a good job on knowing when to distribute and when to score. He's making really good decisions. Sarju Patel is playing his best basketball, just a phenomenal game from him as well."

#### *On facing regular-season champion and national -ranked Wofford on Saturday*

"They're a tremendous team. For them to run the table against a very good Southern Conference is just phenomenal. It's going to be tough, but we have to go out there and compete."

### **Freshman center Jake Stephens**

#### *On his 3-pointer with 8:20 left in second half that pushed VMI's lead to double figures*

"At the time I didn't think about how big a shot it was. The last two games, I've been missing a few shots. But my teammates are always telling me to keep shooting, so that's what you have to do."

### **Sophomore guard Sarju Patel**

#### *On facing regular-season champion and nationally ranked Wofford on Saturday*

"'We believe.' That's what we've been saying our last few games. When we break the huddle, 'Believe on three.'"

## **Western Carolina Catamounts**

### **Head coach Mark Prosser**

#### *Opening statement*

"VMI played very well. We tried to mix it up a little bit and make some adjustments and they were able to take advantage of those and make plays. We've had very competitive games with them. They came out on top when they have some very good performances, especially by some of their younger players. But I thought we competed. It wasn't the outcome we had prepared for. But that was the outcome by the end. But I could not be any more proud of the young men sitting here and the young men sitting in that locker room."

*On next year and the progress of the team*

"I don't think there's any question. I think the future of our program is very bright. I think that there is an understanding on how to win. I think that comes over time. Somebody told me they think were the best seven-win team in the country a couple days ago. I don't know if that's a good thing or a bad thing. But it comes over time."

**Senior forward Marc Gosselin**

*On what changed over the course of the game*

"Honestly, I think it's in a nutshell how our season's been. We're not disciplined. We aren't focused at times. We go back to talking about how good we are sometimes and I think that as a young team our attention to detail varies. So there'll be times where we're locked in, we're focused, and we're good and we feel good about ourselves. And then there will be countless times where the intensity level drops down, the attention to detail drops down and that's what gets us killed."

**Junior forward Onno Steger**

*On seeing the progress of the team*

"Absolutely. The coaches are in the office day and night. It's unbelievable how hard they work and how dedicated they are to getting us better every single day. The light's huge. There's a lot of light at the end of that tunnel."

**Junior Carlos Dotson**

*On seeing the progress of the team*

"I see the progress. It's just the consistency. You can look at some of our games and see it. Like the games against the best teams in the conference, we play like UNCG and ETSU and even ACC, we played Wake Forest and we played with them. We just play teams down. Like VMI. We weren't hyped enough to play them as we would be UNCG or somebody."