

2019 Ingles Southern Conference Basketball Championships presented by General Shale



No. 2 UNCG 66, No. 3 Furman 62
March 10, 2019

UNCG Spartans

Head Coach Wes Miller

Opening statement

"Wow, that was an unbelievable game. Hats off to Bob (UNCG head coach Bob Richey) and his group. I knew that every time we played them was going to be an absolute war. It was that way all three games. I can't express how proud I am of my team. I've got a special group of kids that refuse to give in. I'm really proud of them, but we're not going to be in celebration mode tonight. We have one more game while we're up here in Asheville. This is what we've worked for, this moment."

On James Dickey's performance (15 rebounds, eight offensive boards)

"He's being modest. We didn't double (Matt Rafferty) once. We buried him down there by himself against one of the best players in this league. We didn't give him any help and he did an unbelievable job fighting."

On this season's two meetings against Wofford and facing them in the championship game

"Their will to compete against us in those two games was greater than our will. In the first game, I was disappointed in our approach. All the things I've talked about that I'm proud about this team throughout the year, it may be the one game all year I wasn't proud of that. At their place, we had a great will to compete. They had a better one. So that's the first thing we need to address. Now they have an unbelievable basketball team. We have a tremendous amount of respect for how good they are. I know this will be a big-time challenge, but I have a bunch of kids who love to compete, so we're not going to back down from it."

James Dickey

On staving off Furman's second half run

"It's nothing we haven't been doing all season. We just stick to the habits we've created in practice and just fight."

On limiting Furman 6-8 forward Matt Rafferty

"It didn't feel that way to me, but we just stuck with the game plan. We couldn't double him so much because they have such great shooters, so I knew what kind of battle it was going to be."

Furman Paladins

Head coach Bob Richey

Opening statement

"First of all, credit to UNC Greensboro. They showed great fight, especially in the stretch. It was a hard-fought basketball game. I thought both teams competed extremely hard and played tremendous defense both ways. They swung, we swung, they swung, we swung, and they got the last one in and unfortunately the clock ran out. But I'm proud of my guys, I'm proud of our team, and I'm proud of our program. Somebody had to win and somebody had to lose, and that was a tough one. But I couldn't be more proud of our fight and couldn't be more proud of what our group has done all year. What a team. What a year."

On his team's second half performance

"It's funny. You play in the tournament and it's quick. It's quick turn times and everybody tries to play it a certain way. So last night we face a zone and then they decided last night to take Rafferty out of the game so we have shots all over the place. Then, you come in today and they're going to play you one on one and basically let him get 40 as long as they don't give up 3s. And we weren't moving. We weren't forcing rotations. They were able to stay hat on hat. We had one assist at half time and we had 24 points. So really it was about getting the ball moving, getting bodies moving, cutting the way we cut and not being stagnant. Yes, break the press. Yes, stay aggressive and then you've got to get them rotating. Then once you rotate, I think all of a sudden you see it. We had seven assists in the second half and scored 38 points. That's more like it for us. But we had to free up our shooters. And to do that we had to get more ball movement and body movement."

Senior forward Matt Rafferty

On his injured hand and his performance tonight

"I don't think it affected it very much. I missed some shots that I should've made and all you can do is go out and play as hard as you can. I was going to play no matter what but I don't think it was a deciding factor in whether I missed or made the shots."

Junior guard Jordan Lyons

On his second half performance

"I think we've built our team on playing hard at the defensive end and letting that spark our offense. We really turned things around this year. We decided as a unit that we're going to buy in on the defensive end and that we're going to use that and let it fuel our offense. I think coming out in the second half we did a great job of that and really focused on that and the offense started to turn around. That's typically what happens for us when we buy in to our defense - great things happen on the other end. So, I don't think it was me changing my mindset at all. I think it was us together just buying into the defensive end. And typically, when we do that the offense kind of just comes with it."