

2008 NCAA® DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
Greensboro Coliseum • Greensboro, NC
Monday, March 31, 2008

CLOSED PRACTICE QUOTES – GREENSBORO REGIONAL
#1 CONNECTICUT

MAYA MOORE, FRESHMAN FORWARD

On being matched up with Essence Carson...

"Essence is extremely aggressive. She's a defensive leader for her team, and they spark off the energy she brings. It's going to be a challenging match-up."

On how Rutgers differs based on the play of Kia Vaughn...

"Kia has good patience, good balance and good footwork. She's the most dominant post player in their program, and she plays the entire 40 minutes. I think we're in for a challenge tomorrow. I think any time their team isn't on, she steps up."

On whether the UConn/Rutgers rivalry is the best in women's basketball...

"I don't think I'm really in a position to say that it's the best in women's basketball. I know for us, it's the best in women's basketball right now. This game coming up for us is the biggest game; it's a game to look forward to. In our world, it's the biggest rivalry right now. There are a lot of teams with a lot of talent overall in women's basketball right now. The game has changed a lot, but you can definitely consider it (Rutgers-UConn) one of the best."

RENEE MONTGOMERY, JUNIOR GUARD

On the team's mentality of trying to get past the Elite Eight...

"We don't think about that because our team is completely different (this year). I feel like we're a lot more confident and a lot more prepared than we were the past years. We've (prepared) the whole season. We didn't wait until the end of the season to pull it together or until the NCAA Tournament to be that team. We worked from the pre-season on to get ready for this game."

On how Rutgers is going to attack a defense that has been difficult to score on...

"They are very aggressive and athletic. That's a really great combination when you're trying to play defense. They have quick feet, so they make up ground when they get beat. They are going to catch up. It's just hard because they cover a lot of ground because they are athletic and long. It's hard to score on a team like that. They know how to use what they have."

On whether Rutgers really considers UConn their personal rival...

"I think so. I think it became a rivalry because it's so competitive. They are always one of the top teams in our conference; I think that's why. Everyone is always so excited to play them. I think it's because of how good they are that makes it a rivalry. I'm just anxious to play."

On whether it adds any to the rivalry being that so many Rutgers and UConn players are friends...

"It's women's basketball. It's a small circle. I know a lot of players on a lot of teams, as do my teammates. It's always going to be that way. When you play a team, more than likely, you're going to know somebody that plays for them. It's good because you see that they have made it. Everyone works very hard when you play Division I. When you get to see your friends play at a high level, it's nice to see them. But when you play them, you are not friends anymore."



KAILI McLAREN, SOPHOMORE FORWARD

On playing against Epiphanny Prince, who is a friend off-the-court...

"I'm not looking at it as me versus Piph or anything like that. It's UConn versus Rutgers and that's how we have to go about it. If we win, great. If they win, good for her. We're both Division I athletes and we know when to be friends. Tomorrow night, we'll be enemies."

KETIA SWANIER, JUNIOR GUARD

About attacking the Rutgers defense...

"The key to really scoring is running our offense and being patient."