

2008 NCAA® DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Greensboro Coliseum • Greensboro, NC

Monday, March 31, 2008

CLOSED PRACTICE QUOTES – GREENSBORO REGIONAL

#2 RUTGERS

HEAD COACH C. VIVIAN STRINGER

On what UConn did against Epiphanny Prince to shut her down in the schools' second meeting this season:

"She was never allowed to do what she wanted to. I don't even know if they played box-and-one or triangle-two at times, but she was a lot more uncomfortable than she was the first game."

On how much Essence Carson will guard Mia Moore:

"Probably a lot. She's the only one that has the size, I don't think that's any secret. She's probably the best one for that role."

On the UConn-Rutgers rivalry in the grand scheme of women's collegiate basketball:

"I'm happy to be a part of anything that's a rivalry and something that is good for women's basketball. I think a rivalry is when you can't predict the outcome of the game. UConn happens to be in our conference, and I aspire to be the best in our conference and I think UConn does too. I think that as many rivalries as we can get in women's basketball is good — whether it's Maryland and Duke or Tennessee and LSU and within our conference Rutgers and Connecticut. I like to be a part of a rivalry because it means we are willing to be tested against the best and I like that. Whether we're on the top or the bottom, I like that feeling. As many rivalries as we can get (in the sport) I think is the key. Unfortunately people are not as intelligent basketball fans in the women's game as they are in the men's game. Fans tend to be bigger fans of North Carolina, Tennessee or Connecticut. I think the real test of a fan is when they come to see the women's game no matter what."

On Kia Vaughn's drop off from the first two NCAA Tournament games to the George Washington game:

"She's not taken a step back. The fact of the matter is she's been backwards the whole year. She just showed up — but she really had it within herself the entire time. We just had to make some adjustments offensively with what we did. Kia Vaughn is fine. We've got to do a better job of giving her the touches and getting out of her way."

On difficulty winning tournament games with a star offensive player...

"Magic Johnson came to visit our team one day and he looked at Matee and said, 'That girl can finish it and your business is to know how she has to have it before she has it and that's what a point guard does.' That's what Candace Parker (of Tennessee) and Maya Moore (of Connecticut) do. They really are phenomenal. I think Geno is one of the first people to credit these players. He did that with Diana (Taurasi), too. He does a brilliant job on his offensive execution and he doesn't just take it all upon himself. You speak of these ladies as what they do for the decade; they aren't just one-year players. She (Maya Moore) is going to make things interesting for the rest of the country and for women's basketball."

On winning a regional final (in response to Geno Auremma's comment that it is the toughest to win)...

"Yes, I think it is the toughest game to win. It's a tough game and it should be. It gets harder each year, each team, each step you take. We need great rebounding and we need to move the ball and execute and go to the boards. We have to stop the transition."



On if tournament games at this time of the year can be any 'fun'...

"It's not misery. I'd like to have fun. But you're strained. I was never comfortable in that game (Sunday against George Washington). We knew what we had to do offensively, but I couldn't believe what I was seeing.

"I'd love to smile, but I think it's foolish to smile during a game - this is serious."