

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

**CLOSED PRACTICE QUOTES – GREENSBORO REGIONAL
#2 RUTGERS**



MATEE AJAVON – SENIOR, GUARD

On whether the Rutgers players approach the UConn game with the same anticipation that Tennessee seems to when ever they play UCONN...

"Any time you are able to play teams of that caliber, Tennessee and UConn and obviously, we have the LSUs and the teams of that sort, there is a certain level of excitement that you get that you're able to compete against the best. So yes, we feel the same way."

On the biggest problems that UConn will present and how the team will go about attacking them...

"UConn is a very intense team and are very aggressive. As far as attacking them, our players will just be out there playing together, utilizing our post, and getting everyone involved."

EPIPHANY PRINCE – SOPHOMORE, GUARD

On difference in UConn's defense on her in the second match-up...

"They were making sure they knew where I was (in the second game). I didn't have as many shots in the rotation like I did in the first game."

On the difficulties in keeping her friendship with Kalli McLaren and Tina Charles from UConn...

"It's not difficult at all. Off of the court, I love them to death. But on the court, if they don't have the same jersey on that I have on, then we are not friends."

On whether they are in touch with one another following their games against one another...

"When I lose a game I don't really talk to anyone."

ESSENCE CARSON – SENIOR, FORWARD/GUARD

On importance of defense...

"In this game, you will always have to play defense. When your offense is off, you can still come out and win a game with defense. The most important thing for our offense to do tomorrow is make sure we know where everyone is and score in transition. We have to box out and attack the boards on both ends, and stay within ourselves."

On the difference between the first and second games against UConn...

"In the first game, we came out with that fire, that energy. We really got out there and tried to establish the tempo from the start. The second game was total opposite. We let them attack first and they pretty much got us on our heels."

On whether or not Rutgers/UConn is the best rivalry in women's basketball...

"I guess. I mean, you guys are the fans, the audience. We just go out and play. Both teams like to go out and compete and both teams want to be the best. It is a great rivalry."

On the initial gut reaction and emotions on Selection Monday when UConn was announced as the No. 1 seed and Rutgers as the No. 2...

"Obviously, we were really excited for the path that was ahead of us. We always know that it is a road that is going to be tough. We felt that we played a great schedule and that it prepared us very well for anything that would be placed before us."

On whether any confidence has built from being in the same place as last year with the same challenge...

"It's a great memory to have, but we also have to realize that tomorrow's game is another season. It's a totally different season. We have grown a lot. I'm pretty sure you have seen that throughout the year. We understand that in order to have another 40 minutes, we have to earn it. So we are just ready to go out there and play."

KIA VAUGHN – JUNIOR, CENTER

On UConn's strength...

"Defensively, they're great. They are a great offensive and all-around team."

HEATHER ZURICH – JUNIOR, FORWARD

On whether it is good for the tournament that there are no Cinderella stories, just top seeded teams...

"I guess I'm kind of surprised that there are no Cinderella's right now. Everyone is just competing, playing hard, and that's just how it ended up - the one and two-seeds. I guess the NCAA did a pretty good job with the rankings."