

2008 NCAA® DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
Greensboro Coliseum • Greensboro, NC
Tuesday, April 1, 2008

GREENSBORO REGIONAL FINAL
#1 CONNECTICUT vs. #2 RUTGERS

HEAD COACH GENO AURIEMMA

Opening Remarks:

"I think that the reaction when the buzzer went off, the reaction from the players on the floor and the players on the bench, that's something I wouldn't be able to put into words and I wouldn't be able to do it any justice if I tried.

"I don't know how many Final Fours this is for us – nine? The first one – because it was the very first – in 1991, was great. It was improbable. The one in 1995 because it was monumental – the team of the century. This one, for some reason, feels different. This one feels pretty incredible."

On the fact that he was smiling when Maya Moore kicked the ball out of bounds...

"I was on a roll. I was faking everything else. So, I might as well fake that. I was trying really hard to stay in the mindset that everything's alright even though I know that it's not. Even though we can't get anything to drop, they can't miss. I thought when Maya stole the ball, then dribbled it, then kicked it twice and then finally it ended up out of bounds, all I could do was laugh. Just when it looks like might go up four, we might go up five, we might go up three - it's just not going to happen. It's just going to have to be a lot harder than anything else is. That's happened to us this year. So yeah, it was pretty funny. I'm still laughing about it."

On whether the way they won this game is more rewarding compared to the other ways they have won in past seasons...

"I think so. In some instances you know going into the game that you have a team that can't lose unless we play horribly. The fear is that you are going to play terrible because of the pressure of going to the Final Four and that the other team is going to make every shot. So that has always been my biggest fear. In this game, if you don't play to your ability, if you don't play to your potential, you lose the game because you're playing against a good team. With this particular team, what's really gratifying is that too many pieces have to fall just right. Three of our perimeter players had to play 40 minutes. We don't have all of the answers to every question like we have in other years. We struggle at times just like other teams struggle. But this particular team didn't necessarily get to the Final Four on talent, and the experience of having been there, and having three or four college All-Americans. This team got there on a lot of the intangibles that make you appreciate coaching. I've talked a lot at this particular tournament about mindset and attitude, a certain look that you have to carry into this game to overcome the deficiencies that we might have. How far they have come as a group makes this probably the most rewarding one of all."

