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**Patriot League Women's Basketball Tournament
Postgame Quotes
Semifinal #1: Bucknell 60, American 52**

American Head Coach Melissa McFerrin

"First of all I want to credit Bucknell. Their game plan really worked for them. They started in a zone and that could have been where some of our starters suffered. I think the game we had was lost in the mentality with which we established in the first half. I don't know that it was an X and O issue. I think it was just hesitancy on our part. Obviously I couldn't find an answer for that."

(Ref.: facing Bucknell's zone)

"We have had some success against the zone, but that is typically when we hit shots. We had trouble scoring and going one-on-one in the post. I think it was that combination that created some hesitancy on our part."

(Ref.: Getting open looks but not finishing)

"I don't know if there was something that I missed as a coach in terms of the mind-set of the kids. I thought in the second half we were back to feeling like ourselves. We just couldn't buy a basket in the second half. I did think we got some open looks, just like we did in the first half. When I look back, we had some one-on-one looks and shots in the post that we really wanted, but we just didn't convert."

(Ref.: What did Bucknell show you today)

"They didn't show us anything today that we didn't expect. I have to say that getting off to a slow start put a little bit of doubt in our mind in the first half. I'm proud of our kids. I thought we played hard in the second half. I thought we were going to win that game. Even when we were down, I knew in my heart we were going to win it because I trust these kids. I'm a little disappointed that we weren't able to do that."

American junior Talicia Jackson

"It's just like coach said, I think in the first half we kind of got cold feet a little bit. From the first half to the second half, I thought we were much more aggressive. That's how we should have been in the first half."

(Ref.: second-half run)

"I knocked down some shots and that sort of got things going. Knocking down shots makes things easier and picks up your intensity on the defensive end, which it shouldn't, but that's how I felt in the game. Again, we went on a run but then I looked up and they were back up by 13. I thought we played hard throughout the second half, but just needed to make a couple more plays."

(Ref.: special year cut short)

"It's really tough. After everything that we've done this season, not to get what you played so hard for is hard. There's eight or nine of us that may have another chance, but for our three seniors this was it. They've made so many contributions and won't get another chance."

(more)

Bucknell Head Coach Kathy Fedorjaka

“I am excited but it’s one game at a time. Like I’ve said, our disappointment last year was a great motivator. We sat on a very difficult loss to swallow after last year’s tournament. I told our kids coming in that they really have a chance to finally make that game a positive for Bucknell history. I just think this team is really determined and has great chemistry right now, and we’re just taking it 40 minutes at a time”

(Ref.: Team finally being healthy)

“Being healthy is certainly helps. When you have a player with (Amanda) Brown’s talent level, that’s a pretty significant factor in our game. I think that Brown, coupled with the loss of (Lindsey) Hollobaugh, now you’ve lost your scorers. You need another player to step up. Kesha Champion has had two double-figure games in this tournament already. I think the maturation of our young kids and our tough schedule really helped out.”

(Ref.: Defensive performance)

“I think what they do best is getting teams on their heels with their defensive effort. That really allowed us to control the glass, get shots and try to get good looks at the basket on the offensive end.”

Senior guard Kesha Champion

(Ref.: What was different between first two meetings and the semifinal)

“We just wanted to come out and play our game. During the first two meetings, myself and Hope (Foster) struggled a little bit and we didn’t have (Amanda) Brown in the game. Our focus tonight was to come out and play Bucknell basketball and we did that.”

(Ref.: Last year’s first-round loss carrying over)

“It was a great motivator to stay focused. Last year, we peaked a little bit early heading into the tournament. This year, we’re peaking at the right time. These three games are very critical. Anything can happen in a tournament like this.”

Freshman forward Joyce Novacek

(Ref.: What motivated you during today’s performance)

“Like everyone was, I was really pumped up after yesterday’s game. I was just getting good passes and making layups. It wasn’t doing anything extraordinary. My teammates just got me the ball.”

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