

March 30, 2008



An Interview With:

COACH MUFFET McGRAW

THE MODERATOR: Your thoughts on tonight's game, Coach.

COACH McGRAW: Well, I'm disappointed for the seniors. They got us here. They got us to the Sweet 16. I thought they had a tremendous effort all year, and it's disappointing to end on a game like this. We played really well in the first half. I thought we played well for a lot of the game.

We had a couple stretches defensively, I think they hit a couple threes, we missed some easy shots, a couple of lay-ups, and it went from close to ten. I thought that was the difference. I thought Bobbitt's threes were really kind of like daggers for us.

Great career for Charel Allen. She did just a great job for four years. It's been such a pleasure to coach her. I thought Becca Bruszewski had an outstanding game, tied her career high. She'll be great for the future.

Lindsay Schrader played well. I think we've got a lot of good players coming back. I think we'll be back. I'm just disappointed for the seniors.

THE MODERATOR: Questions for the student athletes first.

Q. This is for either of you guys. It seemed like on the offensive end it seemed like things were going fairly slowly for a good portion of the game, but when you guys were on defense they proved to be pretty powerful. What was the main difference when you guys were on defense? What was so difficult to stop for them?

CHAREL ALLEN: Well, I mean, Candace was a big presence inside. She's so long and athletic, we just gave up too many points to her. For the most part I felt like we played well on defense. We had a couple mental lapses that we couldn't fix.

Q. Charel, could you talk about how you guys felt going into halftime, going up ahead on Tennessee and where you felt coming into that second half?

CHAREL ALLEN: We felt great. We felt we could play with them. We believed in each other, we believed in ourselves, and we just fought to the end.

THE MODERATOR: We're going to let our student athletes go. We'll take questions now for Coach.

Q. Could you just talk about the game Candace had tonight and to run into that and trying to stop her?

COACH McGRAW: Yeah, I thought she played well. 11 for 18, she scored a lot around the basket. I thought we were probably -- probably should have looked at doubling her a little bit more, especially when she was dribbling. I thought we could have trapped her a little bit more. She's a difficult match-up for us. And I thought we did a little better in the zone than we did man-to-man.

Q. Can you talk about the dynamic they had working with Candace down in the low post? What problems did that present for you on defense?

COACH McGRAW: Well, when we went to the 1-3-1, we could go to the high post but then we need a smaller person in the back line. But I didn't think that was as big a problem as Anosike at the high post making the jumpers. We were giving them to her at the beginning of the game

and she started hitting them, and I thought, we're going to have to change defenses to be able to guard her at the high post, so we went to the 1-3-1 for that.

And Parker, she's going to score no matter what defense you're in when she's on the block. She's a tough match-up inside with her size, and with Erica getting into quick foul trouble, we really didn't have the size to combat her.

Q. Despite the night that she was having, you guys obviously were ahead of them for the most part. Did you have a different plan this time than last time? Did you want to let her do her damage and prevent everybody else?

COACH MCGRAW: Yeah, we were trying to guard the three-point line this time. We didn't really think that she would get that many because we did want to guard her inside. We did a really good job the first half guarding the three-point line. I was really pleased with that. I think they were 1 for 5. That was the key to our game was really getting out in the zone on the wings and I thought we did that for the most part.

Overall, considering the last game we had with them, we've come a long way since January 5th. We definitely got a lot better.

THE MODERATOR: Coach, we're going to let you go. Congratulations on a great season.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports