



2016 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

First Round · Notre Dame vs. North Carolina A&T
Purcell Pavilion at the Joyce Center · Notre Dame, Indiana
Saturday, March 19

POSTGAME QUOTES – North Carolina A&T

Tarrell Robinson, North Carolina A&T Head Coach:

Opening Statement...

"I was telling my ladies how proud I am of them, for getting to this situation. Nobody understands our journey, and to be able to play one of the best teams in this country. For the returning players, I told them to remember this moment because we are going to be back here. I thought Notre Dame dominated the game from beginning to end. They display some of the best selfless basketball that I have seen. They had 20 assists at the half — that's how I want our program and our young women to play. I'm proud of our seniors. This isn't a sad moment to me, I got here for the first time as a head coach. Now I know what to expect and now the young women that are part of this program know what to expect."

On the battle in the paint...

"The 52 [points in the paint] for Notre Dame doesn't surprise me, but the 18 [points in the paint] for us does. They did a great job with everything. It starts with Aprill McRae. They doubled her. We missed some shots but I think we also made some bad reads. I don't think Aprill was getting the ball where it needed to go. They sped us up. We expected that, we talked about that, and we dealt with it all year, Aprill getting double teamed. We had some shots we didn't make and we had some bad decisions as well."

On playing against former colleague and current Notre Dame assistant coach Beth Cunningham...

"It was phenomenal. We have been texting since the ACC Tournament when the bracketology was talking about possibly us — or whoever won our conference tournament — coming up here [to South Bend]. We did win and I texted her some more and we were able to grab some dinner together and catch up on old times. She did see CC [Christina Carter] and Aprill [McRae]. Coach Cunningham is a mentor of mine and I

am a fan of everything Notre Dame women's basketball is about and it started with her and spending time with her at VCU and that's what I try to instill at my young women at A&T."

On whether the lack of offense was do to Notre Dame's defense or their missed opportunities...

"I'm not going to take anything away from Notre Dame, but I think there were a couple of factors: their defense, the environment — us not having been there before and not understanding how crazy it is in this arena — and I thought our girls weren't in it mentally. I know they wanted to play hard and wanted to show up. But when you are playing one of the best teams in the country you've got to be rolling on all cylinders and we weren't today."

Aprill McRae, North Carolina A&T (Center):

On Notre Dame's defense and forcing them to take many outside shots...

"Well, when they doubled me I just had to, I couldn't make my moves like I wanted to so I had to kick the ball out and we just shot it if we were open."

On coach's comments about the team having a better chance next year...

"I mean I agree 100 percent with what he said. I think that next year they'll be more ready and know what to expect and not wondering because it hasn't been done since 2009. They will have more sense of what they need to do to get here."

On visiting with her old coach, Irish associate coach Beth Cunningham, from VCU...

"Yea I did. I got to visit with her and see how she was doing."

On what it was like to see her again...

"It was awesome. Of course everyone would want to see old coaches that they had before, and she was my old head coach so it was great. Nice seeing how she was doing and everything."

Dana Brown, North Carolina A&T (Guard):

On Notre Dame's defense and forcing them to take many outside shots...

"I believe that if we would have knocked down those open shots that we had it would have been a different ballgame."

On the cause of the bad shooting...

"I think it was our shooting. We had a lot of open shots, just didn't knock them down."

On the 17-5 run by NC A&T in the fourth quarter and the reason behind it...

“I think once we really settled down, unfortunately it was in the fourth quarter, but once we settled down we were able to play our game and we see now what it takes so I believe that when we come back next year we’ll be ready.”