



2015 BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

SPOKANE REGIONAL

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY, HOST



March 28, 2015

AN INTERVIEW WITH:

DUKE

THE MODERATOR: We'll begin with an opening statement from coach and then take questions for the student-athletes.

COACH McCALLIE: Thank you. I tell you, I'm really proud of the two women to my right here. It's been a remarkable season in many, many ways and what they have accomplished together as seniors is just incredible. It's just incredible.

I just don't know if there are too many teams that could face what we faced, the schedule that we faced, and do some of the things that we did.

Ka'lia has transformed herself into a wonderful point guard, never playing it, really, but learning how to play it. More importantly, a wonderful person, who is the heart and soul all the way and going to have an incredible future professionally. And I can't wait to hear about it.

Elizabeth has been the All-American that she is for our program. She's been a rock. She's truly the embodiment of what a student-athlete is all about. Not enough is written about that. I guess it's not sexy enough. Premed, great grades, a person who is doing all the right things.

And then of course blocking a whole lot of shots and doing other things on the floor. So, again, I just -- it's been my pleasure to coach these women and to learn from them and to go through so much hardship together with them.

I would take them anywhere and I would take them in any fight. So I'm just absolutely so proud of them. That was a tough game and we fell short, no question about that. But I think at this time it's important to talk about how did we get here to begin with. Why are we here. We're not supposed to be here, technically, if you look at what happened to our team.

But Ka'lia and Elizabeth and Jenna and Amber, kind of made up their minds and guided the team. And for that, I'm very, very grateful and they sort of showed -- it took Duke women's basketball back to a place where it needed to go. And where it took Duke women's basketball to a place basics and focus and grit.

And we're never going to forget the lessons that they brought, because those lessons are going to be applied. And they will be applied in a way that maybe we will have more guards or something, but we're not going to let go of the foundation for what they represent and who they are. And Duke is a special place.

Duke women's basketball is so much better because Ka'lia chose to be a part, as well as Elizabeth. And so we're very, very proud and that's really the only thing I can talk about right now.

THE MODERATOR: Questions,



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please.

Q. Elizabeth, and both of you, Coach did mention your professional careers. Elizabeth, can you maybe look forward a little bit and maybe the prospects of playing here as a Storm draft pick in Washington, say?

ELIZABETH WILLIAMS: Oh, wow.

COACH McCALLIE: They want to keep you.

ELIZABETH WILLIAMS: It's kind of hard to look forward right now, but I think -- it will be exciting to play here. It's a great state. We have had a great experience here. So, I think that I've learned a lot throughout my Duke career on and off the court and hopefully throughout my professional career I can bring some of that and some of the leadership from Ka'lia and from are Coach P as I move forward.

Q. Ka'lia, but for both of you. How did the game unfold compared to your game plan, what you guys wanted to do? How did you feel about what you did and what Maryland did to offset some of the things you did?

KA'LIA JOHNSON: I think that Maryland did a terrific job of being the aggressor in the first half and it kind of set us back a little bit. But once we made up our mind that we were going to attack and jam the ball inside like we always do, I think we put them on their heels and we just needed to keep that going for a full 40, not just 20 minutes. We have been talking about playing a full 40 all year and when you don't, you don't get result that you want.

ELIZABETH WILLIAMS: Yeah, I would say the same thing. I think that when they got those threes early we just didn't adjust very well and then we finally

shut them down. But we just were so inconsistent in the second half, that's what hurt us.

Q. How hard is it to put together a complete 40 minutes with your roster as limited as it has been?

KA'LIA JOHNSON: I don't think that our roster has anything to do with it. I think every girl has done a great job of being prepared. Like Coach said in her opening statement, we have had plenty of adversity. We have risen every time that we have been thrown something. So I think saying that our roster has something to do with that is a copout statement.

But I just think that we have to come ready and have it in our mind that we're going to play a 40 minute game every game, no matter who is going to play.

ELIZABETH WILLIAMS: I would agree with that. I think that everyone just has to bring something. It can be one thing, it could be taking a charge, blocking a shot. I think that we don't always do a good job of doing that for a whole game. I don't know if it's necessarily our roster size, but I mean it's just something we didn't do very well.

THE MODERATOR: All right. We'll dismiss the student-athletes and take questions for coach.

Q. You guys made that run early in the second half, got within one. Did you feel like you just needed to get the lead and maybe it could have snowballed from there or were there other things that Maryland kind of did from then on out that you guys struggled with?

COACH McCALLIE: Well, it's a



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long game. It's just a lot of minutes to a game that you have to play. I thought we fought hard. Obviously Maryland did some very good things, hit some shots and got some transition and things of that nature.

We just didn't play a good game of -- to be out-rebounded, we have been out-rebounding everybody all year. It just wasn't a great game for us. You have to give credit to Maryland, they're a very good team. They have a lot of guards. A lot a lot of guards, we didn't. That was a big problem.

Q. Looking back on the season, what stands out as some of the highlights from making it this far?

COACH MCCALLIE: There have been many highlights. Look at our schedule. Basically had South Carolina beat and lost on that funny play at the end.

You look at all the teams, this team beat Kentucky, Louisville and Oklahoma and North Carolina twice. I just think that this team's body of work is incredible.

I know Ka'lia didn't want to make an excuse for the roster, but, yeah, we had a roster problem. Injuries to Oderah and Lynee killed us. That was brutal.

But just Becky hitting that big shot, that was pretty funny for Albany. That was a great game.

We played well at Mississippi State. A lot better than we played against Maryland. And that's too bad.

Q. You mentioned that the seniors -- where do you feel like they have left this program as they take their next step?

COACH MCCALLIE: Well, I think we're very fortunate to draw so many student-athletes at Duke. And I think where they left it was showing the chemistry, the grit and the intangibles that it takes to be successful.

Although we fell short in this tournament, they have a lot of those characteristics and I think that is something that's a legacy that they can pass down as new players come in and yes, we have a lot of guards coming in next year and a new team forming and all that.

But they sort of passed down the return to grit because they had to be a certain way to have any of the success that they have had this year.

You don't want to lose that. That's what makes it at the highest level. That's what wins championships at a national level. So they leave quite a legacy. Academically as well, they're great student-athletes. Academically and athletically, they really kind of send a message. I think the younger players get it. So it's going to be really interesting to see how they take it back up for example, Azura, Amber coming back for another year, Kendall, and so forth.

Q. Where does that Maryland team stack up with some of the teams that you've played this season?

COACH MCCALLIE: Very similar to a lot of them. The ones I mentioned on our schedule. The Louisville, Oklahoma, Carolina, Mississippi State, they're just right in that group. I think in women's



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basketball there's a monarchy right now and one team really can't be beat and everybody else can beat everybody. And that's how I feel about it.

Q. Obviously a tough loss. I'm asking this open-endedly on purpose, but what would you, if anything, have liked to have done better during the game to get a better result?

COACH McCALLIE: Just the whole first half concept of being stronger and tougher and not -- I really thought that we have had shooters before, some incredible shooters. The lack of focus on Mincy was a real problem. I didn't like that. The rebounding. We had two offensive rebounds at the half. You're trying to get 25 for a game.

So the lack of energy, aggressiveness, that's what I would have liked to have seen. I don't know what the result would have been, but I know that that would have been how we needed to play.

Q. The word that comes to mind when I was watching Elizabeth throughout this whole game was just Miss Consistency. Is that the one word that you would use to describe her entire career or just growth?

COACH MCCALLIE: Yeah, I just think she's been incredibly consistent like a rock out there and also though so willing to change her game. She's become a lot better ball handler and passer. This year she's had to play more inside and out and I think her game is just really actually starting. Now at the collegiate level with female student-athletes I really think they're just getting started upon graduation. I think that they really, if you look at what Chelsea Gray is doing professionally or Tricia Liston, they really

get going after graduation, just with their age, their maturity, their bodies, everything about it really speaks to later and I think Elizabeth has an incredible career because she will start hitting that high post J more consistently, she will start playing around with a three-point shot more, she will have more ability to really train in a way that perhaps she hasn't been able to.

THE MODERATOR: All right, thank you, coach.