



**America East Women's Basketball Championship
Semifinal No. 1: No. 1 Maine vs. No. 5 Hartford
Postgame Quotes**

MAINE

Maine Head Coach Richard Barron

Opening Statement:

It's been a long time since we've seen Liz Wood not score, and she sure played hard. We didn't make shots, which was obviously one of the biggest differences in the game. We took 72 field goals to their 44 which showed we played with a lot of energy and passion. Most of the shots we got were good looks but we couldn't make them. They got into the bonus pretty early in the second half. We took a couple charges that were called blocks; if those go the other way those are possessions that come back to us. Instead they scored on all those possessions, so they were very good at capitalizing on our turnovers today. We couldn't get over the hump today but I think Hartford was a great team and Cherelle Moore played like one of the best players in the league, which she is.

It's tournament basketball. Less than 24 hours ago we were playing without any practice or shoot around. We're getting up early in the morning to watch some film then were back on the court playing again. We were in the same situation as Hartford, which doesn't take anything away from their win today but it means in the game sometimes it comes down to who is able to make plays and who can make their first couple of shots. We couldn't get to the free throw line or convert on our open shots today.

Final Statement:

We'll take advantage of our time we have off now. I'm certainly disappointed in the outcome of the game, however, this doesn't take anything away from our sense of pride and how much our players have accomplished and how hard they all worked so far this year.

Maine Forward Mikaela Gustafsson

Overall thoughts:

I think we needed to be more patient. I took an early shot because I found myself open when I could have found a better look inside at the basket. We fought hard and cut their lead down to 3 or 4 at times but we couldn't get over the hump.

Maine Guard Sophie Weckstrom

Overall Thoughts:

It's a team sport. If one or two of our players go down with foul trouble it's up to the rest of us to step up for them. We needed to keep attacking the basket. We didn't have any free throws in the 2nd half, which is a big key to the game. I feel like we are a team that feeds off of each other so if our shooters aren't hitting shots in the beginning, others will follow with rushed shots.

HARTFORD

Hartford Coach Jennifer Rizzotti

Opening Statement:

It's every coach's dream to see your guys playing in their last tournament and leaving everything out there on the court. I can't say enough how well Cherelle played on both ends of the floor, the clutch shots Amber has been hitting all weekend, the minutes Shanise has given us off the bench and everyone else who made contributions to help us win. It makes me really proud that they took this tournament seriously and believed in themselves that they had a chance to win it.

On Shutting Down Maine Guard Liz Wood:

Out of respect for Liz, we put a lot of effort into our defense. We said coming into the game that we can't have both 31 and 42 go off on us. We did a great job yesterday of forcing New Hampshire to shoot the ball from 3 and today Maine took 34 3-pointers. If they made 15 of them, we might have lost. Our game plan was to beat them in the paint. Our guys did a great job of clogging up the driving lanes and helping in the paint to force Liz on the perimeter more. She's a great player and is very difficult to guard but her shot wasn't on today.

Final Thoughts:

Regardless of our seed we're going to have to beat good teams to win this tournament. We knew that our path was tough and that we're going to play well. Whoever our opponent is on Friday we'll be ready for.