



Postgame Quotes
No. 4 Rutgers 68, No. 5 SMU 49
Game 3 – Quarterfinals, March 8, 2014
Mohegan Sun Arena – Uncasville, Conn.

Head Coach C. Vivian Stringer
Rutgers

On decision to use the press this afternoon:

"It's do or die—we either pull it out, hold nothing back or we try to wait for tomorrow that may never come. Our mindset is that it's something that we know we can use, and we've used it sparingly, but if we don't understand what time it is when it's championship time, then we never will. We were just counting on people to let us know when they were tired and to make sure that we weren't fouling...I thought that everybody played it extremely well. We stayed out of foul trouble by pressing, and it set a tone that we needed to set going into this SMU game."

On Kahleah's gutsy performance:

"I think that she knows that she can limp today and she can limp tomorrow, but she will be getting out of bed limping tomorrow in New Jersey. It's time to play. It doesn't really matter. Everybody is going to experience injuries and all that—short of just not being able to do it—then that's another story. I'm sure that she's still not at 100 percent speed, but there's no question about it—unless Betnijah and Kahleah are getting big time rebounds and playing at the level that that have been throughout the year, then we're not going to win. They had to be warriors and they were great warriors today."

Sophomore Kahleah Copper

On stepping up defense in the second half:

"At half-time we always go into the locker room and Betnijah always writes on the board the things that we have to fix. We knew that we couldn't let [Keena Mays] do the same thing that she did in the first half. We came out in the second half and just tried to shut it down."

Junior Betnijah Laney

On how they got their offense going:

"In the first half it's always hard to stop and think about what's actually going wrong, so I think that that's what half-time is used for. We go in and we talk about the things that go wrong in the first half and we try to make it up in the second half. That's what we did."

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Head Coach Rhonda Rompola
SMU

Opening Statement:

"I don't think there's any secret about this game. It's definitely the tale of two halves. For me, it's frustrating to see your kids fight back like we did and expend that energy, make a great run, come in the locker room at half-time feeling good about the way that you play, and then come out the second half and we never made a run. We just couldn't hit shots. We missed a lot of free throws—a couple key front end and one and one's. We missed two footers. We could just never get into a groove. Their pressure—they did a good job with their pressure. It took us too long to get the ball over midcourt, but it also took us too long to get into our offense. I think we struggled with that part of it. I told our team afterwards: I felt like we relied too much on Keena Mays. She's got to get open. She's got to hit shots. She's got to bring the ball up the floor. We have to have more players willing to put the team on their back and not just Keena. I think that took its toll on Keena a little bit in the second half on our team.

On difference Kahleah Copper made to the game:

"Copper hit those big shots. She had her own little run—I thought. In our zone, we allowed her to turn the corner. She got herself in the lane. When she turned the corner, we didn't have our top guards in our zone drop to help or double-teaming her. With their length they were able to shoot over us. "

Senior Keena Mays

On changes she could've made to her game:

"Coming out more aggressive in the second half—I kind of waited until the end to put the team on my back. Maybe if I would have just done it a little bit earlier and picked up our defense a little bit earlier, we would've been back in the ballgame."

On defensive changes after the half:

"They just kept tabs on me more the second half after all the first half threes. They did a good job of just talking with each other and finding me on defense."

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