



**Postgame Quotes**  
**No. 9 Cincinnati 76, No. 8 UCF 66**  
**Game 1 – First Round, March 6, 2015**  
**Mohegan Sun Arena – Uncasville, Conn.**

**Head Coach Joi Williams**

***Opening Statement***

"Obviously, you know, disappointed with the way this ended. I thought we had a great game plan, and came out in the first half and got into some foul trouble as we went through our defense. I thought we were very reactive defensively and that cost us fouls and the people that were on the bench we needed in the basketball game – so just really disappointing. I thought Cincinnati did a great job. They hit open shots and made us pay for our poor defense, so that's really the story of the game. "

*On sense of urgency players had coming into the second half*

"We just challenged them. The one up here sitting right beside me [Aliyah Gregory] – I think in the first half she was very quiet, had three fouls and really challenged her and even though she's a freshman to come out and play aggressive. We had absolutely nothing to lose. We had a couple of freshmen out there and this is their first March – first tournament environment, so just really challenged them to come out and play and really get stops. We talked about there is no 23 point-play, so we had to come out really and focus on our defense and rebounding. I thought we did that for a little bit and we had some lapses, but when you get into a big hole like that, you can't trade baskets. We went into a point where we lost sight of the shooters and it hurt us."

*On fighting their way back into the game, but coming up short*

"[We] just made a couple of poor decisions. It was defense. I think one time we left a shooter wide open, and then the possession after we had a turnover, so that kind of took our momentum away a little bit. I think we got within eight points at that point and our decision making was poor. We needed to continue to get stops, and that's what it's all about. That kind of hurt us. I thought we fought hard in the second half to try to come back, but it was almost too little too late."

*On switching strategy towards the end of the game to make stops*

"Well it was tough. That's just a call you don't know because somebody could pick up a fourth foul and then it's hard to do. We talked about at what point we would do that. It worked for a little bit. We got some opportunities, and we just couldn't take advantage of them."

*On season takeaways and what she will build on going into next season*

"We'll certainly build on our young players. I think the future is bright with Aliyah Gregory, Fifi Ndour, [Zykira] Lewis. We've got a couple of players that got hurt five games into our season and a freshman and sophomore that really would've helped us. We signed a really good recruiting class, so we are really excited about who we have coming here – the future of the program. We have a lot of work to do, but it's exciting knowing that these guys have a year under their belt and the ones that were out injured got a chance to really grow and learn even though they couldn't play. They saw a lot and I think learned a lot from that."

**Freshman Guard Aliyah Gregory**  
**UCF**

*On playing in her first postseason game*

"It was exciting. It's a different experience being able to play in that kind of environment. It was disappointing that we couldn't get the win that would've been ultimately the goal."

*On how tournament play has prepared her for the future*

"The loss is definitely going to fuel us. It's going to give us the motivation we need in the offseason to make sure that something like this never happens again."

**-- AMERICAN --**