



2009
Northeast Conference
Women's Basketball Championship

Presented by esurance

Semifinal Rounds
William H. Pitt Center
Fairfield, CT
March 8

#3 Saint Francis (PA) 73, #2 CCSU 62

POST GAME QUOTES

March 8, 2009 / Semifinal Two

Central Connecticut State Head Coach Beryl Piper

Opening statement...

It's a disappointing loss for us. It's hard to express your feelings in a game like that. Give credit to Saint Francis (PA). They shot the ball so well from the free throw, 19 for 21 from the line is an incredible stat. To our kid's credit, they didn't give up. They played hard the whole time. Both Saint Francis (PA) and our team improved a whole lot this year and in both games during the season (two CCSU victories), the games were battles. They won it today but we played with a lot of heart, playing with a lot of young kids.

On how many shots Saint Francis (PA) had ...

CCSU got off 70 shots and that says a lot about their defense. For them to take 70 shots and for us to only get 54, that's a huge stat. If we get more shots off, we win the game.

On defense in the playoffs ...

They really locked us down. Defense, that will be a goal for us as we grow as a program. One goal for next year – we have to want to be one of the best defending teams in the league.

CCSU's Shontice Simmons

On scoring drought midway through the second half ...

We were a bit hesitant because they put a lot of pressure on the guard spot making it tough for us to get into our offense. We were forcing shots because by the time we got the ball across halfcourt, there was only 15 seconds on the shot clock.

On the nation's biggest turnaround ...

It's a good feeling especially being a freshman. I've learned a lot and this playoff experience, I think I got caught up in it a little but having Jhanay and other who have been here, they've shown me the ropes a little bit and how to handle things.

CCSU's Jhanay Harris

On scoring drought midway through the second half ...

They had great defensive pressure and just like coach said, they had a great free throw shooting percentage

Saint Francis (PA) Head Coach Susan Robinson Fruchtl

Opening statement...

It was a great game today. We lost two tough defensive battles to CCSU during the season. They were both physical games. We're probably a little quicker overall but I thought we showed great poise and composure down the stretch. We hit our free throws. It was one of the better free throws outings of the season. We got the shots in the offense that we wanted going down the stretch. I thought our shot selection was good and we got some defensive rebounds when we need them.

On taking care of the ball ...

We only committed eight turnovers. That's a season low for us. Anytime you take care of the basketball in the playoffs, that's to your advantage. I thought our quickness overall gave them some difficulty. We some kids step up. We've been balanced all year.

On playing a solid game ...

We can be tough to defend when we play together and take good shots. We wanted to pressure the basketball and use our quickness to our advantage. It just came down to tough team defense. We played some zone down the stretch to throw them of a little. We've played tough man-to-man defense the last three or four games and to win a championship, you'll have to play tough defense. We're young. We have no seniors starting and we have five freshmen but we've played a tough schedule like we'll always do. Even when we played Cincinnati, Virginia, we could see our team getting better.