

2009 General Shale Brick Atlantic Sun Women's Basketball Championship

ETSU vs. Mercer, 03/06/09, Semis

ETSU Head Coach Karen Kemp

"I was really really pleased with the way we performed at the beginning of the game on both ends of the floor. Defense was our focus in practice since they beat us last Saturday, and I felt really good about the way we defended them at the start of the game."

"I feel like we have had some good games, but as of late it's definitely the best ten minutes we have played."

"First of all, Mercer, they are a really good basketball team. They are not the same team that they were a year ago, and I think at the first outing, that was in the back of the players minds. As a coach you always say this is a new team, this is a new team, but I don't think we came out when we saw them the first time believing that they were a really really good basketball team. The second time around, we just didn't make shots, and down the stretch we didn't defend."

"Our total focus these last few days was to get out and defend no matter who we play. Then, once we watched the game yesterday and saw how well Mercer shot the basketball, we knew if we gave them open looks, they were going to knock it down, so we had to contest every shot."

"I think energy and adrenaline will carry this team. Our starters have had to play a lot of minutes all year long, so it's nothing new to them, so I feel like just because we don't want to stop playing. We want our team to continue after tomorrow, so we are gonna find it. We'll dig down deep and find it and get out on the floor and be ready to compete tomorrow."

"That's really special for our team, our program, our university to have a team who has made it to a championship game three straight years, so that is exciting for us. When this junior class came in, I knew we were going to be capable of doing some special things for East Tennessee State"

Tara Davis

"Our focus was mainly, not revenge, but we also knew what we wanted, so it made it a lot easier to beat Mercer because they had beaten us twice before."

"We haven't been shooting well, and our defensive game hasn't been as well as we'd like it to be, so we came out, we came ready. Our offense generates our defense, so that was a big part."

Taronda Wiles

"I was just thinking that we needed to keep up the intensity and keep making the open shots and keep the defensive pressure up, and I guess that was my first business to keep everybody amped up so we could keep going."

Mercer Head Coach Janell Jones

“I told the ladies after the game, when we are shooting the ball well and defending, I think that we play hard. ETSU obviously they knocked down their shots. They shot the ball better than we did.”

“They came out definitely very motivated with lots of energy and I didn’t think we were defending early as hard as they were defending us. We were giving them a lot better looks than they were giving us. I thought that ETSU really stepped up their defense tonight. With that pressure we got to the whole we just missed a lot of easy layups early that could have made a difference. We picked up our pressure, but we were playing from behind pressure versus starting out that way.

“I think Mercer has only been to the semi-finals three times in the last sixteen years. They haven’t had a 17 winning season in the last fifteen or so years as well, and I think hats off to these seniors who have been with the program, three coaches in four years. I think people know now that there is a women’s basketball team at Mercer. We’re back , we’re alive. I think we have a lot to build on and have goals to set for our program, and the best is yet to come for Mercer women’s basketball, but it’s because of the foundation that these seniors have laid.”

Dominique Chism

“I feel like a lot of teams go after me and Courtney just because of how we set the standard in conference play, so I expected that, but we had to make our shots, and our shots weren’t falling.”

“We just had to keep picking it up. We knew our shots were gonna fall, and they were just making early shots, and we thought we could get our shots to fall later on in the game.”

Courtney Ford

“I just wanted to come out and get things started again. We came out kind of slow. ETSU is a really good team so we needed to come out here and start something.”

“They came out on defense really well. They were contesting everything, and they were knocking down their shots.”