

# QUOTES | GAME #11



**NO. 6 NORTH CAROLINA 73, NO. 3 MARYLAND 70**

## **NORTH CAROLINA TAR HEELS**

**ASSOCIATE COACH ANDREW CALDER**  
**ALLISHA GRAY**  
**DIAMOND DeSHIELDS**

ASSOCIATE COACH ANDREW CALDER: Again, as always, thank Coach Hatchell, gave me a nice little pep talk today about playing Maryland. I wish the best to Maryland in the NCAA playoffs. Again, they're very talented and very well coached. Best of luck, especially to Alyssa Thomas, she's an outstanding player. I thought we did a very good job of shrinking the floor tonight, to not give her as many driving holes as she normally gets, and still be able to rotate back out to the 3 point shooters.

Outstanding job by Carolina on the defensive end. Offensively we did some more things today. Again, you see the talent of Diamond DeShields going in the post and taking advantage of her outstanding skills also in the post. She's not showed a lot of that this year, but she showed a variety of moves tonight. And Allisha Gray hitting another double double is very big for this team. Especially the foul shots, we were 16 for 20 from the free throw line. I thought that was very important.

We were very poised down the end, and we just made great plays. Allisha's block on Alyssa Thomas at 33 seconds or somewhere in there, I thought was outstanding. The tip of the shot, anyway. But great job on Carolina's part. Great effort. Great intensity and effort.

Q. Coach, was there much consideration at all after Allisha got hurt last night, was that an issue going into the game? And I want to ask Allisha how she felt.

ASSOCIATE COACH ANDREW CALDER: No, she was tough. They told me there was a great chance she was going to play today. She's a tough, tough young lady, very mentally tough. And we expected her to play tonight.

ALLISHA GRAY: It was nothing major. I'm fine.

Q. Could you just speak as to how excited you are about playing Duke in this venue tomorrow?

ASSOCIATE COACH ANDREW CALDER:

Playing Duke, again, and we've said this before, very talented and very well coached. And we look forward to the next game for a chance for us to showcase our players' skills and a chance to improve. And that's what we're looking for every game, just a chance to improve. We play at 7:30 and the men play at 9:00. How about that?

Q. What was going through your mind when Brittany Rountree stepped up to the line in the last seconds, she hadn't shot one shot all game before that?

ASSOCIATE COACH ANDREW CALDER: We were very comfortable. We thought Diamond would still get open, even though they had two people on her. But Allisha did a great job finding Brittany. Latifah went down towards the baseline and came back, and Brittany slid to the corner, and Allisha did a great job finding her.

We're very confident in Brittany, especially on foul shots at the end of the game because she kind of owns that basket down there. I think she made like six threes as a freshman down there, a high school record, I guess with seven in the whole game on that end of the floor. She's comfortable in the Greensboro Coliseum. We planned for them to shoot a 3 when Brittany went to the line.

Q. Seemed like you and Alyssa Thomas had good back and forth in the second half. How would you evaluate how it went?

DIAMOND DeSHIELDS: My thoughts were just to stay strong. Alyssa, she's an extremely powerful player. For me that was a challenge and that was one of the hardest challenges I think I faced all season. I commend her on that and all the hard work she's put it in season. She's a great player.

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So for me, I just had to step up to the challenge as a freshman you're guarding an ACC player, it was a challenge for me, but I was ready for it. And although she did, obviously, have a great game, I tried my hardest. That's all I could say about that.

Q. You seemed to start off a little slow, you seemed frustrated at the beginning. How were you able to improve your confidence through the course of the game?

ALLISHA GRAY: It was basically my defense. Once I get a couple stops on defense then my offense develops. I really don't worry about because I know my team will score, I just focus on defense and just play my role and shoot when I'm open.

ASSOCIATE COACH ANDREW CALDER: I said put her back in, she's ready.

Let me say the great job that Xylina did when we got the jump ball at the end not allowing Thomas to go left, and then fumbled the ball and then we got the jump ball. Xylina's defense was outstanding on that play.

Q. Diamond, obviously a tough night for Allisha last night, missed the whole second half, sit it out, then for her to come back with a double double tonight, what do you think of her performance?

DIAMOND DeSHIELDS: I'm extremely proud of her. I know before the game started, all day, basically, we've just been talking to each other, we're going to get buckets tonight, and trying to motivate each other. I know she was down last night, had to sit out. And so I tried to say, I got you, I got you.

So today it was just all about confidence for her. And I think I did a good job of getting her ready. Like I said, all day we were just talking about the game, all day, all day. She did a great job. I'm extremely proud of her.

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## **MARYLAND TERRAPINS**

**COACH BRENDA FRESE  
ALYSSA THOMAS**

COACH BRENDA FRESE: I'm proud of the fact that we fought all the way to the buzzer. And I thought our momentum in the second half, you know, if you told me to be able to have a shot with Alyssa with the ball with a 3, it was a great look. That's what you want. I definitely thought it was going in.

This game, obviously, I felt was impacted in the first half in terms of how Carolina came at us really aggressive. We were back on our heels and you spot a great team like Carolina 11 points, you're fighting the entire second half to come back.

We rebounded hard, but obviously a lot of uncharacteristic turnovers that they were able to get points off of.

Q. What do you attribute that kind of sluggish first half, 14 turnovers and you miss 9 free throws and that's something in a game like that that's so important?

COACH BRENDA FRESE: I thought Carolina having a game under their belt, I thought they just came in really aggressive. We needed to get comfortable, obviously new players, we have two freshmen in the lineup. I saw a lot of nerves for them. So we had to settle them down. So obviously it took some time and they were really aggressive and I thought kind of intimidated us to a degree to start the game.

Q. You were talking to the guards during the game, during time outs, during the sluggish start to the game. What was kind of the message to them to get over it?

COACH BRENDA FRESE: Just to relax. I thought Carolina was really amped up. They were very aggressive. And for us, just to try to get our poise under control, stay confident with what we were doing and really just to settle down.

Q. Everybody talks about Diamond DeShields, rightfully so. But Allisha Gray can do everything as well, go inside and get the 3. What kind of problems did she present to you?

COACH BRENDA FRESE: I knew when she got that extra rest time yesterday she was going to be really fresh. I think Allisha is just a tremendous player. She does so many things. She has a really high IQ. Obviously she got a double double. She's just a really difficult match up for us.

Q. Alyssa, you got a jumper to cut it to 71 to 70, and the last sequence, what was going through your mind and the thought process?

ALYSSA THOMAS: Just take it down, transition we were getting back in the game. We definitely had the opportunities but we just didn't come through.

Q. Coach, as the team was coming back in the second half, both Brionna and Alyssa got into some foul trouble, and you had them on the bench for an extended period of time, obviously because of the foul trouble. And during that time North Carolina was sort of able to hold you guys off by getting the ball inside. Did you at any point consider putting them back in a little sooner to negate that advantage?

COACH BRENDA FRESE: You know, there was just different flows of the game. I actually thought at one point in the stretch in the second half our guard play was stopping the clock to get us to the free throw line. We didn't take advantage of shooting the ball well from the free throw line. The way they were calling the fouls, obviously that impacted us being able to play our bigs. We had to put AT inside in a spot that she's never played in before, because of all the fouls that were called.

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Q. Alyssa, you did become Maryland's all time scoring leader today, being first on the list with a program with so many great players. What does that mean to you?

ALYSSA THOMAS: Just a huge honor. We didn't come up with the win tonight, so (Inaudible)

Q. Sort of to follow up on that, for you, coach, to coach someone that does something like that in a career. She's not in a position maybe to appreciate it right now, are you?

COACH BRENDA FRESE: Absolutely. And I know Alyssa will after her career is over. And I know she's not going to appreciate it right now because of the competitor and the winner that she is. She would turn all of that away to get that win.

But, yeah, absolutely. I mean everything that she's meant to our program, to our University and it's only fitting for her to be the all time leading scorer in Maryland.

Q. Outside of the last ACC tournament for you guys, any emotions at all about being in Greensboro one more time?

COACH BRENDA FRESE: Obviously sad for it to be over. Definitely wanted to be able to go further.

But just great memories. Obviously great battles. When you talk about come tournament time and coming down here to Greensboro, they do a first class tournament. So just a lot of special memories will be taken away.

Q. Coming out of the locker room in the second half it seemed like you were making a concerted effort to get the ball inside. Was that something that you thought you could attack in the second half, to chop into the deficit?

COACH BRENDA FRESE: Yeah, you know, we struggled in every area. I mean we needed to have something, inside or outside, when you look at our percentage from shooting the ball from the three, again, with some really wide open looks.

Yeah, being able to establish Bri and Alyssa inside and a higher percentage shot obviously was critical.

Q. Coach, how do you plan to use this loss to prepare for the NCAA tournament?

COACH BRENDA FRESE: Well, you know, as a team if this doesn't motivate you, for us it would be a very quick ending. But I know what kind of competitors we have in the locker room. We'll use the week to get better. We'll use this week to, again I felt like we battled. If we don't spot them the way we do in the first half, we give ourselves a legitimate shot. So we've got to be able to come out and get better in this week week, two weeks that we're going to have before the tournament.

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