

# QUOTES | GAME #8



**NO. 4 NC STATE 79, NO. 5 SYRACUSE 63**

## NC STATE WOLFPACK

**COACH WES MOORE  
MIAH SPENCER  
KODY BURKE**

COACH WES MOORE: Again, I just couldn't be prouder of this group of kids. They've done this all year long. It's not good for the head coach and the heart, but sure is nice when you have a happy ending.

So again, I think we were down 10, 38 48. We talked about at halftime how Syracuse probably had an advantage in the first half, having already played a game and gotten the jitters out of the way. But we felt like in the second half we maybe could take advantage of that by being well rested. Probably the delays probably didn't hurt us any either.

Kody Burke, what can you say, 21 points, 16 boards. Keisha Gatling, obviously career day scoring wise. Breezy Williams coming in off the bench. Miah Spencer, a freshman here. Just so many people stepped up. Len'Nique Brown playing about the entire game, having to handle the ball against the press.

So just a great team effort and couldn't be prouder of them.

Q. You were down 48 39 and then scored 25 of the next 26 points in and around several power outages, which you said didn't affect you. What turned the game around?

COACH WES MOORE: I'm not sure. I thought defensively we did a much better job in the second half of trying to take the 3 away. They've got some great shooters on that team.

The first half I think they hit six 3s, we had to really do a better job there. And then offensively we got it inside. Obviously Keisha is hard to guard down there. And when you've got people like Kody and Miah knocking down shots on the perimeter a little bit of inside out, it makes it tough. But, again, I think we did a nice job, too, on the offensive boards, and went and got some easy points.

So, again, just a great second half.

Q. It may be a little early, but do you have any kind of an injury update for us?

COACH WES MOORE: Not really. The x rays and everything they've done so far has been good. I know they're going to do an MRI just to be safe. But hopefully, whether it be tomorrow or in a couple of weeks when we play again, hopefully we'll get her back out there. But, you know, right now, nothing definitive.

Q. Obviously Keisha, Kody, and Breezy had great games. Sometimes seniors just decide we're not going to have it end today.

COACH WES MOORE: Right.

Q. Is that your experience, that it makes a difference to have seniors at tournament time?

COACH WES MOORE: There's no doubt. But Miah is a freshman and she handled it pretty well, too.

This team, they've done this all year long. They've been so many times against ranked opponents, they could have hung their heads and said this just isn't our day, and they keep battling, they keep fighting, they hit a couple of shots and get a couple of stops and turn the game around. I've been very blessed to be a part of it and get to go along for the ride.

Q. Kody, how inspiring was it to get the academic award right before the game? How eager were you to play and win this one today?

KODY BURKE: The award was definitely a surprise. I had no idea, I was lining up for the National Anthem. And they told me to go to the half court to accept your award. That was a big surprise. It definitely motivates me.

# QUOTES | GAME #8



## NO. 4 NC STATE 79, NO. 5 SYRACUSE 63

When I waved to the Wolfpack fans, see how we had their support, that definitely fired us up as well. ACC tournament time is time for us to make a statement in the postseason. This win definitely helped.

Q. A lot of freshmen when they come into this venue, it's an intimidating experience the first time. You came out hit your first three. How did you settled down so quickly?

MIAH SPENCER: Just knowing that my team is very confident in me and I'm confident in myself and the coach and Kody and my teammates push me every day in practice. I knew I was table to knock down shots when I came into the game.

Q. Question for Kody and Miah, Kody especially being the senior, if Keisha is not able to go tomorrow, obviously you had 5 or 6 minutes today to learn what that's like. What are you thoughts about going forward?

KODY BURKE: I'm so confident in my team, because there was a long stretch where Keisha wasn't in the game and we had people step up to the plate. As you see, Breezy Williams had a great game.

Defensively, as long as we play defense I feel like our offense will come. So I have more than enough confidence.

MIAH SPENCER: Just keep playing defense, getting rebounds, boxing out, doing little things that count. We'll be fine.

COACH WES MOORE: It beats the alternative.  
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## SYRACUSE ORANGE

**COACH QUENTIN HILLSMAN  
BRITTNEY SYKES**

COACH QUENTIN HILLSMAN: Obviously everybody who watched the game can see it was with Gatling and without Gatling. She's an unbelievable post presence. And she did a very good job of getting deep post position in the second half. She just did a great job and Wes did a great job of getting the ball inside to her. I thought we did a good job of making her taking two and three dribbles to score.

Just give her a lot of credit. She came up big. Because if she doesn't do that, we win the game. Have to give her a lot of credit and give NC State a ton of credit for just not laying down at halftime, being down and come out and played hard, and that's why they had the season they had. They play hard and did a good job.

As far as our kids, just really, really proud of our effort. We have a young team and a lot of young players. And sometimes we get a little unorganized in situations, but they keep fighting. And that's what I like about my team. We really compete at a high level.

So overall I'm really happy with our effort. Great conference tournament. It was great to be here and obviously going home a little bit earlier, taking a whole lot of clean clothes home, so that's not good. But just very happy to be here. Very happy to have a chance to compete against some great teams and great coaches.

Q. Coach, I'm sure you felt good about your team when you were up 48 39. It's about a 9 minute span of clock time, and I think probably a lot longer than that in real time with the power outages, before Briana Day got the field goal that was the first. I think it was about a 20 1 run. What took place with your team during that span?

COACH QUENTIN HILLSMAN: They went to their four out. We were prepared for that. We knew they were going to go four out and try to punch and throw the ball inside. We really felt that we could do a pretty good job of getting Gatling out of the paint, making her take two or three dribbles to score. I thought early she got very good deep post position and we talked about doubling at some point. We talked about shrinking the floor. We didn't double it, but we did shrink the floor.

She made a lot of one catch and shoot opportunities inside. It was more of her taking two dribbles, missing it, they get an offensive rebound. A lot of things went wrong during the stretch.

The biggest thing that went wrong is we didn't score. If we continued to score being up 7 it would be a different ballgame.

Q. As a follow up to Bob's question, did they change things specifically during that 25 1 run that took things away from you?

COACH QUENTIN HILLSMAN: We got shots. We got shots that we didn't make. We did a really good job of getting to the paint, getting shots, we had 10 turnovers, we got plenty of shots. We took 70 shots. They took 63 shots. We shot 26 percent, they shot 45 percent. If we shot 40 percent I think we would win the game. We would have stopped scoring.

Q. Brittney, what do you hope to learn out of the ACC tournament to take to the NCAA tournament play?

BRITTNEY SYKES: We learned a lot from our first ACC tournament. We enjoyed our time here. We're in a competition in a tournament of great teams. And to face them, I think we're well prepared going into the NCAA tournament in postseason.

Q. Coach, you have a lot of depth, why didn't you foul Gatling more?

COACH QUENTIN HILLSMAN: I think you get into a situation where you look at our stat sheet and Shakeya Leary had four fouls. And Briana Day was in the game, she had two fouls. And as you're playing Gatling, you don't

# QUOTES | GAME #8



## NO. 4 NC STATE 79, NO. 5 SYRACUSE 63

want to get into a total fouling match with her. We could have fouled her, we could have double downed, we could have fronted her.

It was really about her scoring. I really believe that. She had a monster second half, no doubt about that. But it's more about us not scoring. We don't throw the ball inside and say we just start fouling people.

They did a very good job keeping us spaced out. I've got to give Wes amount of credit, making sure his team understood what the game plan was the second half. It was obvious; go four out, get her inside, throw the ball to her. So we give her a lot of credit.

This is not what we do, we don't just throw the ball inside and start fouling and take our best scorers off the floor and play a player that can't score at the other end. We can't afford that.  
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