



# 2017 Southern Conference Basketball Championship

presented by General Shale



**No. 1 UNCG 76, No. 9 The Citadel 67**  
March 4, 2017

## **UNCG Spartans**

### **Coach Wes Miller**

#### *Opening statement*

"It just want to give a lot of credit to [The Citadel head coach] Duggar [Baucom] and his team. From a results standpoint, they didn't have the type of year that they wanted to have in the regular season, but he had them playing their best basketball down the stretch. We knew that when they won last night, we were really concerned about them because they are playing really well and had won three in a row. And secondly, we knew they were capable of making a ton of 3s. So even though we thought we had some advantages, the 3-pointer can equalize things. They came out and did that tonight, and they played with a lot of energy. They were really darn good, and they made it tough for us."

"For us, it's just about finding a way [to win] this time of year. We really responded in the second half. We were a little out of sync in the first half. Defensively, we had a lot of breakdowns, but I thought our guys really responded [in the second half]. Our seniors really led the charge for us. It was a team effort with multiple guys going to the glass. The backboards were a huge factor for us today."

#### *On pulling away in the final five minutes*

"I thought it was stops that really gave us a chance to push our lead. The zone was big for us because we were having a tough time getting to [The Citadel] shooters in the first half. We felt like with the zone, we could cover the 3-pointer just as well, hopefully a little better. Our defense was more of a catalyst for us than our offense was [down the stretch], but when the ball went in, that was a good thing, too."

#### *On the team's senior leadership*

"When you have experience, and you have seniors who are your better players and they are about the right things, and they share the same values that we share as coaches, it's going to lead to good results. They have been through the battles in the Southern Conference, and they have been in this conference tournament before, so we know these guys know what it is going to take. They did a great job getting our team to respond and getting our team to refocus."

## **UNCG redshirt senior center R.J. White**

### *On controlling the paint*

"Offensively, they aren't as big as us, so if I could get inside, I knew they were going to double down, which is great for a kick-out opportunity. Defensively, we they are a really good 3-point shooting team, so we made sure to make them drive, because for most of the game, they could not finish against our bigs."

## **UNCG senior guard Diante Baldwin**

### *On controlling the tempo of the game*

"It is very important [to control the pace] because they pressure a lot, and I had to try not to give up too many turnovers, which I had more than I would have liked. I just wanted to control the pace and get everybody involved, so that we could all get in a rhythm. At first we came out and got in a bad rhythm, and we came off-balanced. So for me to get in the lane and make passes for [my teammates] to hit shots was big."

## **The Citadel Bulldogs**

### **Coach Duggar Baucom**

#### *Opening statement*

"Congratulations to coach Wes [Miller] and his guys. I thought our guy played great the first half, but in the second half, they played better. Credit to them."

#### *On matching up with UNCG*

"They're big, long and athletic. They've got shooters too. Our first half, we did a great job of balancing them, but the second half, not so much. In the second half, it wasn't so much our defense but our offense. I couldn't tell you the last time we scored 28 points in a half."

#### *On bringing back a young team*

"Eight of our top nine players are freshmen and sophomores. I enjoy those freshmen. I have the Freshman of the Year. The future is bright and we're exciting. We have three signed that I know can play and two committed that could help us out. We're thrilled about those guys coming in. Our three seniors, this is the most games they've won in a season. They had never had a season where they won 12 games. I know they were glad to have those freshmen come in and help them. They bought in from day one. They've been fun to coach. We'll use this as a learning experience and come back next year."