



2017 Southern Conference Basketball Championship

presented by General Shale



No. 3 ETSU 79, No. 1 UNCG 74
March 6, 2017

ETSU Bucs

Coach Steve Forbes

On the second half

"We had to use T.J. (Cromer) as a decoy tonight. He just came off a game where he had 41 points. Tonight, he had unbelievable patience. I knew it would come to him. I think the dunk to start the second half gave us some momentum, and then it was on."

On the tournament experience

"I think it's Johnson City South. I was just blown away by our fan support. They've been unbelievable all year long and they made a big difference in the game. Asheville is a beautiful city. I think we're 6-1 here, so we'll keep coming back."

ETSU senior guard A.J. Merriweather

On how it feels to be going to the NCAA tournament

"I feel incredible. I just thank everyone that gave us a chance and believed in us. We stayed together and we got it done."

On the fan support tonight

"It wasn't a surprise. I knew they were going to come out. They've been supporting us all year. I thank them."

ETSU senior guard T.J. Cromer

On how it feels to be going to the NCAA tournament

"It's a blessing. The Lord blessed us to be in this predicament and now we have the opportunity to 'go dancing.' It's the best feeling in the world right now."

On the fan support tonight

"We have the best fans in the SoCon. We've been saying that all year. Our support system made it feel like a home atmosphere tonight."

UNCG Spartans

Coach Wes Miller

Opening statement

"I'm just really hurt for our kids right now. I'm really hurt for our seniors, most of all, R.J. (White) and Diante (Baldwin). As I told them in the locker room, I wish there was something I could say or do to make it better, but this one really hurt. It's going to hurt forever, I think. I give those guys [ETSU] a lot of credit. They were quicker to the ball in the second half. They made a lot more plays at the rim than we did. I thought we got the ball downhill quite a bit and couldn't convert on it. That was mostly because they made plays on it. They made some tough shots. We forced them into some tough 2s and they knocked them down. You have to give them credit, but I do think the biggest difference were the plays at the rim and the loose balls. I was trying to get our guys in position for good things to happen. I think I could have done a better job there. I

was really proud with being down 12 with a short time to go and we had chance to tie it with 2.5 seconds. That just shows the fight of this team.”

On UNCG's Diante Baldwin and R.J. White

“The first two or three years were really hard in this job. I was at a coaching clinic and a guy got up to speak and said, ‘There are two types of coaches; those that are humble and those that are about to be.’ I said, excuse my language, ‘Holy [expletive], that’s the truest thing I’ve ever heard because I’ve been humbled.’ Every time you want to give in, it was guys like Diante Baldwin and R.J. White that keep you pushing and coming to work. They’ve changed our program; the standard and the culture. They’re family to me. I love them just like they were my blood.”

UNCG senior guard Diante Baldwin

On finding solace in the good regular season

“You can’t really think about it right now because it’s kind of numb. Plays keep playing over and over in my head of things we should have done or shouldn’t have done.”

UNCG redshirt senior center R.J. White

On finding solace in the good regular season

“This one hurts, but we can’t take away from the special season that we had.”