

**2009 General Shale Brick
Atlantic Sun Basketball Championships
Mercer Bears vs. Stetson Hatters, March 5, 2009, First Round**

Mercer Bears

Coach Janell Jones

Opening statement

“I thought that we had a tremendous team effort, We didn’t start out, We started out a little tight. But these two young ladies, I just told them in the hall that they came out and we’re fearless. I think Ford made the first bucket and LaToya got us going. And once we relaxed that’s how our defense. We played both ends of the floor very well.”

On the depth of the team:

“I think the depth of the bench can determine how far you can go in a tournament cause you never know what’s [going to happen]. I thought tonight our bench did an outstanding job. I think that this is the most points that our bench has ever scored. At one point I think it was 44. I haven’t seen the stats. I think it was huge in the win tonight. We were able to give everybody quality minutes. You had not to overextend this and in the confidence of other girls playing in this. Even the other girls are freshmen. Getting in to play in a tournament championship game and being able to get that experience on the floor is huge. I don’t know when it will pay of but it will pay off somewhere.”

Courtney Ford

On being so cold starting out:

“We knew we might come out with jitters, and such a big game but were on a mission so we’ll pick it up.”

LaToya Jackson

On playing ETSU tomorrow:

“It’s gonna be exciting. We know they’re a good team. We know what they do. They know what we do. So it’s just gonna be a battle.”

Stetson Hatters

Coach Lynn Bria

Opening statement:

“We got off to a great start, and you know helped the team out, and they got very very hot. They shot the ball very well. Mercer to me is the most improved team in our league. In fact, in my vote, I voted Coach Jones as coach of the year, because they have had the biggest turnaround. They have a team that is very hot right now. I felt like we did a pretty good job on the perimeter. I feel like they hurt us a little bit inside.”

Sharnesha Smith

On the wave of baskets made by Mercer:

“We started out very well in the game with them. We had a mental breakdown both on offense and defense. The zone kinda slowed us down a little bit and took advantage of us. But they got their momentum by knocking down shots and patched up to holes. We tried to fight back but they just kept knocking down shots.”