

# NCAA Women's Basketball Championship: First Four - William & Mary vs High Point

Thursday, March 20, 2025

Austin, Texas, USA

Moody Center

## High Point Panthers Coach Chelsea Banbury Aaliyah Collins Jaleesa Lawrence

Media Conference

William & Mary 69, High Point 63

CHELSEA BANBURY: Yeah, I mean, hats off to William & Mary. They came out ready to play they were ready to execute. They're playing very good basketball right now. Pretty tough to guard.

Shooting the ball at an extremely high percentage and sharing it. Had a lot of catch-and-shoot threes early on. Bella is a great offensive player and caused a lot of problems for us.

You know, we made some runs ourself, but unfortunately we didn't make enough plays down the stretch. But I'm proud of our team. We hung in there in their runs and didn't fold. We came back and we took the lead.

So they had a lot of fight in them today and unfortunately we just didn't make enough plays down the stretch to come away with the win.

**Q. You what are some things from this season that you guys are proud of?**

AALIYAH COLLINS: I'm proud of us honestly for overcoming adversity throughout this year. We had a lot of baby bumps, like every other team does. Just a lot of energy to try to put into working together.

So I am proud of us for the chemistry we ended up coming with towards the end of the season.

JALEESA LAWRENCE: We got here, so that's just amazing in itself. We won regular season and then we just



grew as a team together. It was just so fun playing with these girls. Even if we didn't make it here, I'm proud of them for just showing up to practice every day and working hard and just getting better every day.

**Q. A lot of seniors on your team. Talk about what these girls mean to you and to play alongside them day in and day out?**

JALEESA LAWRENCE: For me, I'm new this year so it was interesting coming in. These girls have been here, other seniors have been here -- well, I guess except for Lo. It was interesting just that dynamic. I feel like I didn't click with everyone at first and as the season went on we all found our groove and I just fell in love with everyone.

So it's been amazing to just meet these girls, learn about them, their personality, and just, yeah, love them.

AALIYAH COLLINS: Yeah, we have a bunch of different personalities. It's so funny seeing how they all clash I guess to say. But the senior squad this year, I think we did good. We led the team and made history for our school. Yeah, didn't end how we wanted to. Should have ended better. But we just need to be proud.

Like we could have done better, should have done better. At the end of the day we can't let that take away from all the accomplishments we made.

**Q. I wanted to know what are your thoughts on the Moody Center and playing in this facility?**

CHELSEA BANBURY: Yeah, it's a beautiful facility. You know, I think -- I'm sure when you're playing Texas and it's sold out there is definitely a different vibe in here.

But it's a beautiful facility. We're fortunate to get to come here and play in it and enjoy all the perks of it.

**Q. Coach, you had a good amount of fans in attendance today. What does that mean to get that support so far from your campus?**

CHELSEA BANBURY: Yeah, I mean, a lot of that goes to



our president. President Qubein has given us a lot of support. He made it possible for students to come out here. You know, without the support of him and the administration, there is no way that that happens.

So I appreciate him for that. We had a lot of parents and things of that nature. A lot of that goes to our president and his support for our teams and athletics.

**Q. Same the question I asked the girls, what are some things you're proud of this season and making it this far?**

CHELSEA BANBURY: Yeah, I am proud that we made it this far, but I didn't just come here to get a participation trophy. We came in and we wanted to win this game and we prepared like we were going to win this game.

Unfortunately, we fell short. But the girls did accomplish a lot. You know, they came together as a group and when we were playing good, we were playing as good as any team I've had.

They're a great group to coach. They have been a lot of fun to coach. You know, Aaliyah touched on it. We had a lot of ups and downs. We dealt with a lot of injuries throughout the season. We have been a player down the majority of conference at some point. The girls rallied and found a way to play together.

We had different lineups in there and they created a lot of chemistry, a lot of love for each other. They've been a selfless team all season. I'm just proud of them for that and truly buying into the "we" over "me." You know, buying into the team and loving each other and being selfless.

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