

2025 Southern Conference Women's Basketball Tournament
Game 2 – Mercer vs. Chattanooga

Chattanooga

Head coach Deandra Schirmer – Coming into this tournament, we talked about relying on our defense. We always say defense wins championships, and whether shots are falling or not – and in a tournament atmosphere, sometimes it's hard to hit shots – we thought that our defense was going to carry us. I really feel like that's how we won the game today. We held them to a scoreless seven minutes in the second quarter, and that's where we were able to bust it open and control the game. I think that Mercer deserves a lot of credit. They were fighting to the very end, and in the third quarter they obviously came out ready to go. We've got to do better at being locked in for the entire 40 minutes. But that's tournament basketball ... No matter what the score is out there, it's a tournament game and it's win or go home. I think that's the mindset we have to have going into every game, no matter if we're up by 20, down by 20 ... no matter what it is.

Student-athlete Karsen Murphy – I wasn't a part of that team, but I've been in a championship program before, and we're very much capable. I don't think we really feel that stress, because if you haven't noticed, a lot of people have doubted us from the beginning, and I think we're just coming out with something to prove. Like, you guys all look down on us, and now here we are.

Student-athlete Brooke Anya – Like Carson said earlier, we're Chatt and watch out. I definitely have that chip on my shoulder coming in. I'm a reigning defending champ, back-to-back. But also, Chattanooga as a program, if you look at how many championships we have won – no matter who's on our team, who's on our roster – we have big, big shoes to fill. But also, we can't come in with that pressure either. It's one game at a time no matter who's on the roster. I mean, we got picked sixth this year. We've got something to prove.

Mercer

Head coach Michelle Clark-Heard – First, I want to give a lot of credit to Chattanooga. Survive and advance is what it's all about and they did that today. I just want to talk about these two amazing young ladies sitting next to me and the rest of the team that made it through (this) season. I told them that the one word to describe this team was resilience. And as a head coach, I'm super proud of them, because through the injuries, through the adversity, through everything, they showed up every single day. I was really proud of our third quarter. I think we came out and we fought and we won that quarter.

Student-athlete Ashlee Locke – This was my fourth year within Mercer women's basketball, and I've truly grown up in this program. It's really taught me about who I am and who I want to become. ... I don't think that I will ever forget any moment – good or bad.

Student-athlete Nahawa Diarra – I'm really blessed. That's my fourth year (of college basketball), but my first year at Mercer and that was a big opportunity for me as a player, as a person. I'm international too, so the opportunity Coach Heard gave me this year – how much growth as a person, as a player, as a person – I'm just very grateful to be here today.