

**Arizona Women's Basketball vs. #5 Texas A&M**  
**November 25, 2008**  
**McKale Center – Tucson, Ariz.**  
**Arizona Coach Quotes**

**Head Coach Niya Butts**

*Overall comments:*

“I was very proud of the kids. We came and executed our game plan well. (Texas A&M) is a good ball club. They are athletic and well-coached.”

“They're long, they're wiry and aggressive. Our game plan was to dribble-drive and draw fouls in the middle and I think we did a good job of that in the first half. We just have to get stronger and get better at holding on to the ball.”

“Anytime you're shooting 25 percent, it's tough to win ball games, especially when you have 20 turnovers.”

*On late run that cut deficit to 48-44 with 2:25 left*

“Basketball is a game of runs and I think their coach was over there expecting us to make one. We gave ourselves a chance to be in the game. I'm very proud of them for that and we just couldn't finish.”

“You're looking to get defensive stops at that point. Unfortunately, we just couldn't get it done on offense and couldn't hang on to the ball. I can't hang my head for that. We had kids trying to make plays in big situations.”

*On what to take from the game*

“For the most part, they fought. If we play like this against a top-10 team then it means one of two things. It means either we're playing a lot better or that team is not as good as people think it is and I know it's not that. They are a good ball club, so it makes me very encouraged.”

*On team's offensive struggles*

“Our offensive woes are something we're going to have to fix by shooting in the gym with lots of repetitions.”

**Freshman guard Reiko Thomas**

*On good things to take from the game*

“We played hard most of the game and we didn't lose by a ton of points. If we could have rebounded better, I think it could have been close.”

*On the Texas A&M defense*

“I have to give credit to them because their defense is very good. They are tall and athletic and a lot better than any team we've played yet.”

*On the final moments of the game*

“I thought we were more composed. We were running our offensive sets better and playing with a lot more energy on defense. We just made some turnovers in crunch time and that’s what gave the game away.”

### **Sophomore forward Ify Ibekwe**

*On what to take from the game*

“We competed. Maybe not all 40 minutes, but we did. We matched them physically and played tough against them. They were aggressive and we were aggressive right back. I think that’s good for us because it’s something we need to be doing.”

“We learned we have to be patient, hold on to the ball and rebound the ball. We all were mentally ready to win, but we need to transfer that out to the court.”

*On team’s offensive struggles*

“Sometimes we get too excited and try to rush everything. We try to play at the opponent’s tempo, but we need to make them play at ours. We need to learn how to adjust in the game without the coach telling us.”

### **Texas A&M Quotes**

#### **Head Coach Gary Blair**

*Opening statement*

“This was a good ball game for the fans. Give the defenses a lot of credit tonight. I think we won the game because of our depth. Our motion offense which we ran in the second half was the only thing that worked consistently against them tonight.”

*On Arizona*

“Their post players are among the best in the country. They play within themselves and do not take bad shots. That is definitely the key to their team.”

*On his team’s defense*

“It always starts with your point guard play. We were able to shut Arizona’s point guard down and found success. Don’t put it all on her shoulders though. We guarded their wings well, too.”

#### **Senior Guard/Forward Danielle Gant**

*On the difference from first half to second half*

“I wasn’t making my shots in the first half, so I focused in and improved my shot selection later in the game and found success.”