

liked to say, "It never snows in the Carrier Dome."

For many years, I have said that Coach Boeheim is probably the best recruiter in the United States to get great players to Syracuse, New York, inside that dome on a Saturday afternoon, where I have been many times, sometimes with the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), where Coach Boeheim has 30,000 people on a Saturday and takes down those Big East opponents, people outside the conference, and comes home a winner.

The answer why people would want to go to Syracuse to play basketball is more simple than ever now, because Syracuse is the 2003 National Champion, headed by the longest-tenured coach in the NCAA, Jim Boeheim, and supported by alumni and fans everywhere, including Buffalo and western New York. We believe what Jim believes in, that Syracuse is where basketball ended this year, and it is where it will start next year.

I am proud to add the voice of all of our friends and neighbors in western New York to the voice of the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) as a proud New Yorker, and say congratulations to the team, the staff and university, and most importantly, to Coach Boeheim for a job well done.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that basically a lot of my friends in particular thought that Syracuse was going to lose. After watching Kansas destroy Marquette, they felt if Kansas could destroy Marquette that way, Syracuse has no chance. But they did not realize that Coach Boeheim was able to make adjustments and basically shut down the fast break for the first half because of the fact that he was able to get back, and he stressed it with his team. So as a result of making adjustments, he proved one thing, that he is one of the greatest coaches in the country today.

I think that any time a coach can make those kinds of adjustments and shut down a fast break like Kansas had, that shows that they know what they are doing.

I would like to salute Coach Boeheim for his outstanding leadership and the fact that he was able to make the adjustment and show that coaching is very, very important. I want to salute him for that, and also to say to him, in terms of his players, it is always good if you have players that will respect you and will follow your lead, as his players did. It was very obvious that they listened to him and made adjustments, and as a result, they were successful. I would like to salute him for that.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the right to close.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

I really feel that the Syracuse team was an outstanding team, and it shows what can be done when you work real hard.

I was just comparing Coach Boeheim with Coach Cal Irvin, who coached North Carolina A&T University for many, many years, how he always stressed working hard. When I look at the results of the Syracuse team and I look at the results of the North Carolina A&T team from many, many years ago, I can see the similarities between the two teams, the coaches as well as the players. I think that today means more than anything else.

Al Attles is one of the finest individuals I have ever met, and they tell me, and from what I have seen and heard, that Carmelo Anthony is the same kind of individual. When I look at the outstanding players he had, going right down the roster, I think this is what it is all about today, having players that have character, having players that understand how important it is to follow rules and regulations.

I am hoping that all of the young people in America were able to look at them and see in terms of the type of attitude that they demonstrated in this play that night as they won the championship. They won it with pride. They were proud. They were not people who were always arguing with the referees and arguing with each other. I think when teams work together, it shows what they can accomplish.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all of my colleagues from all across the State who came here this evening to enjoy this pleasurable event. It has been a little time to gloat perhaps, certainly enjoy and bask in the glow of victory.

New York State from time to time has these upstate-downstate differences. Clearly there is no difference here. We have Brooklyn and Hudson Valley and Buffalo and Utica, Syracuse; all of the way across the State, people have been very supportive. The East Regional Tournament was in Albany, and they turned Albany orange. It has been a great run for our school team.

This is a championship season. It is something that not everyone gets to enjoy.

I had a daughter who played on a State championship soccer team in high school, and there is a special feeling that comes from that, not just for the players and the coaches, but for the community, for the people who watched them and suffered their losses and bit their fingernails and turned their knuckles white when they had close calls. This really unified our town.

Syracuse has had this basketball tradition for over 100 years, but we have never gotten to the national championship and won it. We have been there.

We lost to Indiana back in 1987, a last-second shot by Keith Smart. Everybody in Syracuse knows where they were when Keith Smart made that shot. It was a defining moment. But to have this team go back to the Superdome and to see that last-second shot by the Kansas player, Lee, from the same spot that Keith Smart let that shot go from, it just shows there is justice in this world.

The team chemistry was terrific. These young people did not know how good they were, but they found out. The country had no idea how good they were, but the country found out. Their egos did not get in the way. They played team basketball. The coach had them playing together beautifully, and everyone up home is enjoying it.

I wanted to come before the House and take the privilege that I have to share that moment. My family is tied up inextricably with Syracuse. My father was the mayor of Syracuse. He was a Member of Congress from Syracuse. I am second generation. I am from Syracuse.

Somebody said a long time ago that victory has a thousand fathers, loss is an orphan. There are thousands of fathers and mothers and brothers and sisters who are enjoying the heck out of this week. I hope they continue to enjoy it for a long time to come. We may never get a championship season again. We may get one next year, or in 15 or 20 years. The fact is, we have one now; let us enjoy it and thank God for it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the concurrent resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the concurrent resolution.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 142.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

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#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.