



2010 BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

FIRST/SECOND ROUNDS
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, HOST



Monday, March 22, 2010

UALR

Press Conference Quotes

UALR Head Coach Joe Foley

Opening statement:

"Naturally, we are just proud to be here. There's no doubt about it, I thought our kids played an exceptional ballgame. I thought defensive-wise it was one of the best games we have played all year. I thought that showed you what kind of heart they have and determination they have. These two young ladies (Asriel Rolfe and Shanika Bulter) handling the press last night did an excellent job. They worked their tails off and I thought when Niks (Bulter) made the three-point play on the drive, it pretty well won the ballgame for us. That was the turning point in the game. It is a pleasure to be with these young ladies, be with this team and to able to have the opportunity to play against Oklahoma and play in front of a great crowd, I'm sure."

On if beating Oklahoma would be considered an upset:

"Yep, playing here on their home-floor, and as good as they are, I think we will have to play a pretty good ballgame. It's not a five or six out of ten or nine out of ten, but in one game anything can happen and I think that these kids will give it a good shot. If we play well, play smart, it will give us an opportunity."

On specific matchup problems for UALR:

"I think Robinson is a tough matchup for any team in the country. She is one of the best point guards in the country. I have watched her play AAU ball now a lot. I've always said she's one of the quickest guards I've ever seen. It all starts with the point guard. Anytime you've got somebody like that it's tough, naturally. That's what you should expect playing at this stage in the tournament. Everybody's going to be pretty dang good. I think she is just one of the best point guards I've ever seen."

On Oklahoma's post presence, in particular Abi Olajuwon, and the challenges they present:

"I can tell you she's a strong kid, but no more than the kid from Georgia Tech. I thought we did a good job inside last night. We'll have to do an even better job tomorrow night. Again, she is a great post player. But like I said, just about everybody you see at this stage is going to have a great post player too."

On the success of the program since he has arrived:

"That was the challenge I accepted and I wanted because I thought Little Rock could be a special city because you don't have all the pro-teams and things to compete with. Arkansas is kind of like Oklahoma. You put a winner out there, everybody loves a winner. I thought that it was a city that if you start putting a winner on the floor consistently, they will get behind just like I think they will and have started to do. That was the vision I saw and I wanted to be a part of. I knew it would take a while. I'm a coach that is going to recruit 99 percent freshman. So I knew the first two or three years were going to be pretty tough. I told the athletic director that when I took the job that it is going to take a little while. I said 'Once we start having consistent classes of junior and seniors then we will have a program. I think that has shown in the last four years we have won over 20. I think that once you start getting juniors and seniors up into our system then they have been through the motion offense and man defense and it takes a while to learn.'"

UALR Junior Guard Shanika Butler

On tomorrow's matchup with Oklahoma:

"The biggest thing is probably going to be about guard play. They have quick guards. Also, they have big players inside. Really, they have an all-around game with the posts and guards and we are going to have to stay focused. The game yesterday is behind us and we won, but now it is time to get focused and get ready for our next game."

On what brought her to UALR:

"It was a great feeling on the visit and it felt like another home. Knowing we were going to be away from our hometowns and the team chemistry was really good. I love everybody on the team and I like the city of Little Rock, too."

On her game and how it has translated to the college level:

"Back in high school it was like I was the go-to person. It is a different kind of game in college. When I came, the coaches said 'Everyone has a role on this team.' Over the years I have kept getting in the gym and working on something. I think defense was something I really tried to improve on since high school and make it a big part of this team."

On matchup with OU guard Danielle Robinson:

"I think she is going to bring speed, quickness and she is a smart player also. I think playing against (Oklahoma State guard) Andrea Riley was a good thing to kind of get ready for another Big 12 matchup. I really haven't played another guard like her, except Andrea Riley, and I'm just ready for the challenge."

UALR Junior Guard Asriel Rolfe

On what brought her to UALR:

"When we first came UALR was on the up-and-up. We knew coach Foley was a good coach. He had a good record at Arkansas Tech and he basically said if we work hard and we played together as a team and took direction we would get to these big games one day, and that is basically what has happened with what we have done."

On Shanika Butler's game:

"She is so strong. Like that layup she made last night. The big girl was all over her arm and she still made it and I've seen her do that countless times throughout the season. It never ceases to amaze me of some of the shots that, she not only gets up, but she makes the bucket after she gets fouled."