

# Tulane-Memphis Post-Game Quotes

**No. 1 Memphis 97, Tulane 71**

**February 20, 2008**

**Fogelman Arena**

**New Orleans, La.**

## **Tulane**

**Head Coach Dave Dickerson-**

### **Opening Remarks:**

“We just got beat by the best team in the country. And it’s a difficult loss but as you put things into context they’re ranked number one in the country, haven’t lost a game in our conference in almost a year and a half and we have a long ways to go to catch up with them. But I thought our guys played hard for 40 minutes and in the last 10 minutes competed. For us, I mean, this is tough because not only are you looking at getting beat by the #1 team in the country but it’s our fourth loss. And we have to try and get back on track and back to our winning ways tomorrow at practice. The guys that were on the floor the last 10 minutes; I loved the way they competed. I loved some of the things I saw from our players. I think we have a chance to turn things around.”

### **On what impressed him the most about Memphis:**

“Their confidence. This is the first time we’ve had 3,700 people here and our students and fans did an unbelievable job of coming out and supporting us. But it seemed as though Memphis wasn’t rattled by that because they’re the toughest team on everyone’s schedule. So they are a very confident group. They’re as confident as any program in the country. North Carolina and Maryland and all those other type programs don’t have anything on them as far as confidence. And their swagger is unbelievable.”

### **On the bottom line of the game:**

“Memphis is good. They’re athletic, they’re quick. They have some of the best players in the country in their program. We lost to them by 27 points, but the thing that we have to do is get this game out of our system. I don’t want to make this a praise-fest for Memphis. They’re the number one team in the country. They came in and played well tonight, but I’m more concerned about practice tomorrow. We need to get our swagger back and make sure this is a special season for Dave Gomez and the rest of our seniors.”

### **On David Gomez:**

“Dave has been our go-to guy and he’s been relentless with his approach to the game as far as carrying us. I feel bad as a coach because Dave is one of those players that you’re going to coach once in a lifetime. I wish we were better around him. We’re a one-dimensional team, but hopefully with the emergence of Kris Richard and Johnny Mayhane and those guys help give us an inside out game that can help Dave be even better than he is right now.”

## **#21 David Gomez-**

### **On if it seemed like they were overmatched:**

“Their athleticism and size inside was definitely a factor. I really don’t think that it took that much away from us to where we felt like we couldn’t do anything. I think there were instances where we didn’t give our best and complete effort. And that’s one of the things I’m really disappointed at because I really think we could’ve gotten more rebounds and loose balls.”

### **On what makes Memphis tick:**

“They are a great transition team. And they do a good job of capitalizing on turnovers. I feel like they did that to us quite a few times tonight and that’s what really hurt us.”

## **Memphis**

### **Head Coach John Calipari-**

#### **Opening Remarks:**

“What our whole idea was to come out defensively and really, really play and pressure and get ourselves in a frame-of-mind that we needed to be in. What I asked them yesterday was to each of them sign a piece of paper and tell us 3 things that they would or that they could be counted on to do in this game. I haven’t looked at them yet, but I asked them to write three things down. I was really, really worried about this game. The ego game that we play Saturday, because that’s what it is, it’s an ego game for everybody. Them, us. Everybody in the state, it’s an ego game. That game has been played up to a level that I can’t even begin to tell you. And I was worried they’d come down here and they would not be focused or have an interest or the distraction of that would effect and it didn’t. Now I’ll watch this tape and then I’ll get ready for that game.”

#### **On if he thinks Chris is playing his way into Player of the Year discussion:**

“He should be. I mean he had 20 at half. Let me tell you I got on him on about three plays. Then I looked at the stats and I went ‘oh my gosh he had 20 and I’m all over him about three plays.’ But this thing for us, the whole team has to perform. It’s important that our inside guys do what they have to. I mean, these guys scored on us pretty much at will inside, and we’ve got to be better than that. We out-rebounded them by four. But we gave them 13 offensive rebounds. Now what I do like is how fast we played and we only get 11 turnovers. I mean, we’re taking care of the ball. We’re executing pretty good and shooting it at a pretty good clip. We missed a bunch of three’s and Doneal (Mack) went in and made a couple. It was a good game for us.”

#### **On what has pleased him about his team:**

“That they are first friends and then second teammates. They’re friends first and then they’re teammates second. They really look after one another on the court and off the court and have each other’s backs. That they’re starting to settle into roles like accepting that this is what we need you to do. And they’re all doing it right now. I don’t know what will happen Saturday. We’re playing one of the most talented teams; the most that we’ve ever played in our building. And so who knows. But I like who I’m going to war with.”

**On where he believes they can improve the most:**

“I don’t know. Free throws, we shot 78 percent, so we’re pretty good there. I mean, we won our last game at the free-throw line. I wish we made a few more threes. I wish we made a couple baskets around the goal where we could throw it and just know we’re getting something. But that’s not what we are.”

**On what it tells him about his team that they stayed focused for this game:**

“Great maturity. I wrote on the board again two days ago ‘there’s no such thing as overconfidence.’ I don’t know what that means. What I do know is you’re not either interested, you’re not focused, or you’re distracted. It’s not overconfidence. Let’s just not be one of these three. But I was scared to death. I’m telling you. I had a pit in my stomach all day about this game. And I’m not worried, believe me, about Saturday. Saturday, whatever happens, happens. My pregame talk is going to be ‘Let’s go get ‘em boys.’”

**#14 Chris Douglas-Roberts-**

**On if this game was a little less nerve-racking than last game:**

“Yeah, it was a little less, but they came out and gave us their best shot in a hostile environment. They played great. They played great, but we were a little more deep and that pretty much got us over the hump.”

**On when he started thinking about Tennessee:**

“I just started thinking about them. We’ve got a good one ahead of us. It’s a big one. It’s evenly matched. It’s going to be a good one. We haven’t watched any tape or we haven’t gone over any of their offense or defense or anything.”

**On how he was 13-for-17 tonight:**

“I just came out and played like I have been. I didn’t do anything different. I just came out with an aggressive mindset like I usually do.”

**On his past three games being big games for him:**

“I was just sick before. Before this I was playing well, but when I got sick with the flu I wasn’t as productive. But now I’m back 100 percent and now I’m back to my usual productive self.”

**On if they’re better than last year:**

“I feel that we are. We’re more experienced. We’ve been to elite eights and a lot of teams haven’t been there. That helps us a lot. We know what we have to do now late in the game and in big games.”

**On if because of their last game they were scared of this game:**

“Scared? No, not at all. We like challenges. We’re going to accept this challenge. Like I said, it’s going to be a close game. It’s two evenly matched teams; it’s one against two. We were never scared.”

**On if he feels they overmatched Tulane:**

“I feel that we just overpowered them because of our depth. Like I said they came out and gave us their best shot. And they’re well coached too. But we just overpowered them with our depth.”

**On what was said during their time-out when Tulane went on an 11-point streak:**

“Teams are going to make runs. No matter what the team is they’re going to make runs. Plus they were at home they had their crowd behind them. And they just made a run. Coach just wanted to settle it down and let us know that that’s their run, now let’s make a run.”

**On how Derrick bounced back:**

“Derrick, he’s a freshman. So we don’t expect him to come out every night and play awesome. He’s still a freshman, you know, 18-years old. But we know that he’s not going to be...whatever you call it...a slump...for long.”

**On if there is a lot of animosity towards Tennessee after what happened last year:**

“No, no. They just beat us. They beat us fair and square. It’s not animosity at all.”

**On if they think about the different streaks they have going for them now:**

“Not at all. We’re just taking it one game at a time. Our motto is ‘it’s a one game season.’ We’re not overlooking anybody. We have to come out and play everybody. We don’t pay attention to all of the streaks and the records and all that.”

**On how much they want to be the team to go undefeated:**

“Like I said, we’re not thinking about that. We’re taking it one game at a time and we’ll let everything take care of itself.”