

2008 Conference USA Men's Basketball Championship



Press Conference Quotes Thursday, March 13, 2008

Memphis 75, Tulane 56

Head Coach John Calipari

"It's always hard the first game. I was really excited about the way we started and our energy. I screwed them up a little bit by subbing too much. When you are doing this tournament thing, the biggest thing is I just want to know how many guys am I going to be able to play, and we subbed I think 11 or 12 in that first half. But, it probably affected the rhythm of the game a little bit. All-in-all, there was some good stuff. I liked the post presence. I liked it on both defense and offense. I thought our defense was fairly good. We gave up some baskets in the second half that I wish we wouldn't have, but we rebounded the ball. It was a good win. It was a good first game."

"Last year in the postseason, the reason we made the run was because of Robert (Dozier). The other guys did what they had done all year. He just stepped up, and became like a monster. The reason I played him with two fouls, I was like I'm playing you, just go in there and play. Then, I told him at one point just score every time you can score. Just go get yourself going, and I thought he was terrific. We hit some free throws. Again, what about Joey (Dorsey) stepping up and making free throws. What'd he end up making, 4 of 6? That is a big night. We went at him, and I thought he did some good stuff. To play a game when you are playing that fast and to only have 10 turnovers, and you do a pretty good job of guarding, and then the lead is 20 and these guys are just ready to get it over with. "

"Dave and the job he has done at Tulane and getting District Coach of the Year in the NABC, which is a terrific honor, and the teams they have beaten this year. They had a good year."

Question: Can both of you guys comment on the confidence getting going and getting that feeling back.

Junior guard Chris Douglas-Roberts

"I feel that my confidence started with our post presence, because we started out the game going to the post every time, and we got something good out of it. That makes it easier for the guards once we saw playing and scoring in the post and getting fouled, that's where it all started from and our confidence was real high after that. And, that made it easy for us to get out and run. If we don't have a drive, we can always run a post play and score from it."

Junior forward Robert Dozier

"I thought we started the first four of five plays going to Joey (Dorsey), and he either got fouled or made a bucket, so it just opened up driving lanes for our guards, which made the night a little bit easier."

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Tulane Head Coach Dave Dickerson

"I'm very proud of our seniors for what they accomplished since they have been at Tulane. We had back-to-back winning seasons. That is the first time that has happened in a decade. These guys are the second-winningest senior class in more than a decade. You can also say that no other senior class in college basketball history has had to go through what they have gone through. I'm very proud of what we have accomplished in the short period of time we have been together. I wish that things could have ended a little differently, but they didn't. There was no correlation between last night's game and this game. There were 22 fouls called in last night's game total for both teams. And there were 23 fouls called on us tonight. So I just wish we could have had a better situation for our guys. Hats off to Memphis, they are a very good team, great coach, great players. I hope they win a national championship for our conference.

Senior forward David Gomez

Q: Can you talk about your emotions at this point? What are you thinking as you look back?

"I'm disappointed that the season is over for me and the rest of the seniors. I feel we left a mark at Tulane. This is our second year in a row with back-to-back winning seasons. That's something Tulane hasn't done in 11 years. I feel like we have gone through a lot of adversity and I feel like we have come through that. We left the younger guys with something to work towards. And for that I am content and don't regret that."