

2008 Conference USA Men's Basketball Championship



Press Conference Quotes Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Tulane 48, Marshall 47

Tulane Head Coach Dave Dickerson

"This was a really good win for us. Just the fact that we haven't played well lately. I thought our guys have done well the last two weeks, just staying with the season and playing hard and still trying to win. And, like I've said before, I've known a lot of teams that would have given up over the year, but our guys haven't. Just a complete reversal for our last game against Marshall about 10 days ago at our place, where we had the lead going down the stretch and got a little tight and they made all the plays at the end and won the game on a last second shot. So, just a complete reversal and give our seniors credit for sticking in there and Asim McQueen coming off the bench, those four points were as big as any points he has scored in his career.

We kind of lost our defensive energy toward the end of the conference, and really worked hard the last few days to try to get it back. A lot of defensive problems at the end of the year came because we didn't rebound the basketball, and we worked on that. We talked about it a lot and our guys did a great job of really playing great team defense and help defense. And, Donny (Donnavan) Stith was sick last night and got an IV before the game and got one of the biggest rebounds of the game, then got that last block to seal the victory."

Sophomore guard Kevin Sims

Can you talk about how close you guys were to packing the game in at the end?

No I don't think we did at all. We were on an eight-game losing streak, but I just felt that we came out as a team and that we played with the best effort in a game and that we had a chance. It took us awhile to get it back, but we did.

Senior forward David Gomez

Talk about how they seemed to bring a lot of double teams against you, and keep you from being much of a force on the offense end. Can you talk about how frustrating that was for you tonight?

It was pretty frustrating. I thought they did a great job of doubling me. It was like every time I turned around and had the ball, there was somebody in my face. I tried my best to get it out of there. I know I had a few turnovers but I feel like I got the ball out to the open guards and I feel like we stepped up and made plays when we needed to.

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Marshall Head Coach Donnie Jones

"We struggled to score. The last five minutes of the game was very similar to what we did this past Saturday at Southern Miss. We had a chance up eight with the ball. We had some good looks and we just weren't able to complete some shots. I thought that really could have taken it over the hump. Give Tulane credit, obviously they made some big shots and made plays.

I was proud of our guys. I thought we defended well enough to win the game. It hurt us when Tyler Wilkerson went out with an injury. That's just been the story of our season from an injury standpoint. We are playing Taurean Marshall out there. I think he has blown his knee three times in the last three weeks. He just keeps giving us great minutes. He keeps it simple and makes great plays for us. It's been tough for us just having a guard make plays down the stretch and we just really haven't had that. I'm proud of the team. They have accomplished a lot this year. We had our first winning season in seven years here at Marshall. I think we just ran out of gas down the stretch. Give Tulane credit. Dave has done a good job rallying his troops down the stretch. Losing seven or eight in a row and coming back and getting a win here tonight. "

Junior forward Markel Humphrey

Markel you had seven points in the first half only two in second half, what was going different for you?

"I took good shots. The ball just wasn't going in, but when I got the ball Tulane was playing one-help defense. So I was trying to make everyone better. Some shots don't fall but you just have to play through it. On the defensive end you just have to keep playing hard."