

March 5, 2010



Wichita State – 73
Missouri State – 63

An interview with:



THE MODERATOR: As mentioned, the victorious Shockers are with us first. They have a date in the second semifinal game tomorrow. They'll play the winner of the last quarterfinal game between Indiana State and Illinois State. We'll ask Head Coach Gregg Marshall to start out with a statement on the game. Gregg, please?

COACH MARSHALL: Anyone that saw the game, and obviously you guys did. That was just a tremendously tough, well-played basketball game I thought. It's unfortunate that any team had to lose. They did a great job. They were shooting well, and competing so hard. But our guys finally caught a break in the last minute or two. Clevin made a couple of great plays. And the one we found Garrett was a seal the deal type of play. Great players make great plays and thank God I have these guys with me.

Q. What did you feel was the turn around in the last three minutes of the game itself?

GARRETT STUTZ: We started making plays, and D-ing up a lot better throughout the game. At times we felt like we were half contesting, but really buckled down and rebounded the last couple of minutes. Of course making free throws always helps.

Q. The drive and the pass off to Garrett, take us through that play.

CLEVIN HANNAH: I think Toure' made a bad cut. When he made the bad cut, I pump faked and got one of their players in there and I drove down the lane. I saw the big guys coming along, and I got to him and he finished.

Q. Can you talk about the challenge of playing against Ricks? It seems like a real duel when you guys get together?

CLEVIN HANNAH: He's a heck of a player. He's a lot stronger and athletic than I am. He just makes it tough on me for the whole game. I just stayed with it, and I couldn't lose my confidence after he took it from me. I just made big plays down the stretch.

Q. You were 8 for 8 from the free-throw line. How big is that in this close of a game?

CLEVIN HANNAH: In this close of a game, every shot's big. But to get up there and knock those free throws down is even bigger. You've got to do that in close games, and I stepped up and I knocked them down. So did my other teammates.

Q. Staying calm in a game like this where there is so much back and forth, what kind of a challenge is that? It's enough Missouri State's trying to work their stuff. But to stay calm and collected, how tough was that down the stretch and in the game?

CLEVIN HANNAH: Coming out we knew it was going to be a brawl against those guys. They're so tough and physical. We know they're going to make runs and shots sometimes, but we've just got to stay composed and stay calm. We lost our composure in a couple of other games

...when all is said, we're done.®
ASAPsports

visit our archives at asapsports.com

Wichita 3-5-10 postgame.doc

and we lost those games.

We just know we've got to stay calm and composed. Everybody plays within themselves and makes plays down the stretch, and we did that.

Q. Garrett, your view on that play when Clevin gave it to you for the three-point play at the end.

GARRETT STUTZ: I saw him going for the offensive rebound, and I couldn't see him at all. He's a little guy. He disappeared and the ball hit my hands.

Q. You outscored Missouri State 12-4 in the second half in the paint. How much of your game was it to pound it down low?

GARRETT STUTZ: It's been a point of emphasis the last couple of games. We started going away from it, and our shooting percentage went down. We fell into a shooting slump. But ever since then, I think it's helping the whole team out.

J.T. DURLEY: Yeah, it's good for us to get paint touches, especially when me and Stutz are in at the same time. Usually we have a mismatch on the inside. Because, we're two good block scorers.

Q. The big play drives away and you blocked the shot and Toure' ended up with the intentional foul. Take us through that play?

J.T. DURLEY: The play before that I think I got beat on the offensive rebound and I was fighting for position. I still had to have my eye on the ball when I was fighting, and he stumbled and threw the ball up. And I timed it, you know, good for a block.

Q. You're into the semis. How does that feel?

J.T. DURLEY: It's definitely big time for us since we didn't make it to the semis last year. We've got to come out and play our game. Play as hard as we can, and hopefully we can get another win and keep playing until Sunday.

GARRETT STUTZ: It's nice to get the first win and try to carry some momentum over into tomorrow and take it on Sunday.

Q. Talk a little about your game today and why the offense was working well to get you those kind of shots?

GARRETT STUTZ: Like I said, the last couple of weeks, the coaches have been telling

everyone we've got to work from the inside out. And that's when the shooters are going to get open and we draw double teams and bring it to the foul line more. I think it's been working a lot. We've been trying to establish an inside game with me and J.T. You know, things just kind of clicked. We got into a little rhythm and it worked.

Q. During a game where it goes back and forth so much, could you talk maybe about how you guys were able to stay focused and maintain your composure down the stretch?

J.T. DURLEY: I believe it is two tough teams going at it. I think the tougher team came away with it tonight. It's kind of a mental thing, I believe you know. It's mental toughness when it's going back and forth and grinding out possession after possession.

Q. Guarding Weems is kind of a different role for you. Talk about trying to do that as opposed to guarding at the post?

J.T. DURLEY: It was a tough match-up for me. But I stepped up for the challenge. Coach asked me earlier can you guard Weems? And of course a player wouldn't say no. But with him shooting the ball so well, he's a great player. He's a forward that can put the ball on the floor well and create offense for us.

Q. What three very close games with Missouri State. Tooth and nail, what is the difference. You won all three, what is the difference for Clevin and Garrett?

CLEVIN HANNAH: I think it's coming out and getting a great start first of all. We came out and won that one on the road. I think we had an okay start at home. When it is two good teams going at each other, you've got to be ready to play. Just mentally ready and focused and make the plays down the stretch.

Q. You picked up your fourth foul. Did you have to change your game at that point or not?

CLEVIN HANNAH: No, I stayed confident and kept playing defense the way I could and just stuck with it.

Q. Your team did an excellent job on Creekmore tonight. Was that a point of

emphasis going into tonight's game?

COACH MARSHALL: Missouri State's got so many weapons. They've got four that can get 20 points, Weems, Leonard, Mallett, and Creekmore. I thought our big guys did a good job one-on-one. We were able to give them hell when we came off the perimeter. He dribbles it the second time and you're the big guy, you're not doing your job. The first one, if you can get it, get it. I thought we helped on defense. We gave just enough doubt in their minds with their bigs with our digging that they didn't know when it was coming and from where.

Our big guys did a great job. Garrett Stutz is growing up before our very eyes. Four blocks. I'm pretty sure that was a career high for him. He was a force with his hands up and being a one-man blockade around the basket.

Durley did accept the challenge with Weems. I thought he did a good job on Creekmore, but he was also having to guard the perimeter which he hasn't done. But that's our best on offensive lineup without a doubt.

Q. I asked the players what the difference is between these two teams. You were able to win all three games against them, but it certainly doesn't fit into a 2-7 seed does it?

COACH MARSHALL: I said this earlier, and it Bears repeating. If this Missouri State team is a 7 seed that means you've got a good league. They're getting top 25 votes for four or five weeks in a row in December. They win at St. Louis, they win at Arkansas State, at Arkansas - Little Rock. They beat Auburn. Their only loss before they went into conference was a road game in overtime at Arkansas and they lose to Northern Iowa. We're the first team that was able to go in and beat them on their home court.

I've got a tremendous amount of respect with their players, and their coach does a great job. And the breaks will eventually go his way. They're tough, they play hard. They've got great shooters.

I can't believe they're 7 for 18. It seemed like they were 16 for 18. When Pickens hit the one toward the end, I'm thinking will they ever miss? It seemed like they made every one for me.

Q. With 24 wins now, do you feel like your team has done enough at this point to get into the NCAA Tournament? Or is this a tournament you need to win in order to get into the big dance?

COACH MARSHALL: I think we need to win it. I've grown up in the Big South for nine years. One bid league. So I cut my teeth on that. I was fortunate enough to win it a number of times. So, we have a team that's capable of winning this tournament and that's our goal right now. We don't leave it up to anyone else. I like to control what I control. The controllables that we can control as a team and that is win the tournament. It is not up to a committee or anyone else for that matter. We're in.

We've got a lot of work to do, but that is the answer. I've told my team we need to win this tournament. How many games we win if we fall short, that will be left up for the experts, if you will.

Q. For the last minute and a half to two minutes of the game there were about three players on the floor that were dealing with four fouls. What advice or strategy did you tell them to avoid getting the fifth foul?

COACH MARSHALL: I was so amazed that Clevin Hannah got the fourth foul on that loose ball that I didn't acknowledge that. He didn't have four fouls in my book, and he's going to be out there anyway at that point. Hatch, we were massaging his foul trouble all second half. And who else had it? I guess Durley. I don't know when he picked up his fourth. I guess it was on the checkout when Creekmore got the inside position. At that point, you go with your best you players. We're doing offense and defense with Ellis and Stutz. But we had to win the game.

It seemed as if we couldn't get a break until the last couple of minutes and they started coming.

Q. Following up on Bob's question, you professed your respect for Missouri State. But what is the separation? When you have three games the way that you did that were so tightly contested, what gives Wichita State the edge to win three times in very similar games?

COACH MARSHALL: I've talked about this before and I've talked to Cuonzo about it, and I mean this as everything I say is a compliment to him because I hold him in such high esteem. But I mentioned to him when he took the job -- because we hit it off immediately -- that his situation that he was inheriting was very similar to the one that I had inherited the year before. So, I had a one-year jump on him.

My best players that first year were my seniors, Matt Bryer, P. J., and Phil Tomlinson. And after that there wasn't a number of quality players.

He inherited the Lauries, and Wade Knapp, and a couple of other guys. The good news is he had Weems, sitting there red shirting, and he had Fuehrmeyer and a couple of other guys. But I said you're going to probably be pretty good that first year, which he was. And the second year, which is this year, I thought there would be a drop off because he lost all those guys. He did a good job because he's ahead of where we were. He was 17 and 20 and still going to play in some postseason play. He's one year ahead, if you will. Our guys have had one more year of experience in this tournament.

Q. Garrett seems to be enjoying how he's contributing and getting more confident. Talk about what you've seen out of him?

COACH MARSHALL: He should be enjoying it. He's really playing well. He's a great kid. He works extremely hard. He's a wonderful teammate. An awesome person and a good student. Good things happen to great people. I don't care where you look worldwide. You can go to Avatar, you're not going to find a better individual than Graham Hatch.

Q. First off, how do you build off this very hard fought victory? And could you victory and could you talk about Indiana State and Illinois State?

COACH MARSHALL: I hope to go out and watch some of it in a short bit when we're done here. It's just an opportunity now. It's another opportunity to improve as a basketball team and improve our tournament resume and win the Championship.

It's the first of hopefully three steps. It's not going to get any easier. You've got a great 3-6 match-up coming up. We've struggled with both of them. They're good basketball teams and Indiana State's now healthy. I just want to go watch it, and try to figure out the best way we can to be successful tomorrow afternoon.

Q. Is there anything that Garrett Stutz can't do?

COACH MARSHALL: I don't think he's invincible. I don't think he can fly. Let's see, I don't think he can win a Gold Medal in sprints or high jump for that matter. But he is a shooter. He's a pretty good rebounder, now he's blocking shots.

He's a passer, a wonderful teammate and he's a leader. He's one of the most vocal kids in our program. He does a great job. He cares so much because he's just that type of person, and we're blessed to have him.

Q. What was the routine tonight and before you find out your opponent tomorrow before the game?

COACH MARSHALL: The routine tonight. The guys are showering, hopefully getting out there to watch the first half. As soon as the first buzzer ends the first half, they'll get on a bus to go home.

The coaches and I will continue to scout. There's pizza in the locker room. I'm sure there is a banquet back in the hotel. I want them to eat as much as they can and sleep. Get off their feet. We have a quick turn around. I'm sure Dominik and Matt will make sure that happens and tuck them in tonight. Get up early tomorrow morning.

We know these teams and they know us. There is no secret at this point in conference play.

We've got a little advantage. About two and a half hours of rest. Who knows when this next game will get over. I should have called a few more timeouts and prolonged our game. I had a couple to use.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports

ASAPsports

...when all is said, we're done.®

visit our archives at asapsports.com

Wichita 3-5-10 postgame.doc

March 5, 2010



Wichita State – 73
Missouri State – 63

An interview with:



COACH MARTIN: Thank you. That was a tough, physical game both ways. Both teams played hard and Wichita State won it down the stretch. I thought it was physical on both ends of the floor, and the referees let us play. Couple key stops down the stretch, and they played well.

Q. Against Wichita State, the narrow differences, what do you think was the ultimate difference in all three?

KYLE WEEMS: I think all together there were probably nine or ten plays combined in all three of those games that were not necessarily them, but it was just our break downs. You know, started by helping out of the corner, helping uphill. Just a little foul in the bonus, little things like that they got to us.

Q. Go back to last year and just kind of what did you guys learn from last year's experience? Just with the whole season the way the season went and losing the first game here? You guys won last night. What has been the difference between the 20-loss season last year and the 20-win season this year. Where

you guys are going to be in a postseason tournament now?

KYLE WEEMS: We've got six or seven new guys, so of course that helped. You know, and people like myself. And Coach even had another year under his belt, and I think that helped a lot.

Q. How did you view it? You had a four-point lead with five minutes to go. Then they scored two free throws and another basket. Was it a lack of defensive stops that turned it?

COACH MARTIN: Oh, yeah. They were just staying the course of the game. Just minding mistakes and break downs. That's what cost us.

Q. You got it together, that's a pretty good offensive lineup for them. Can you talk about the pressure and challenge of guarding those two offensive players?

KYLE WEEMS: They're both really good players. Stutz is big and strong, so those two together, we did a good job on them. Pretty key moments of the game, we knew coming out that they were going to try to go inside early in the second half and they did a good job of that. For the most part we did a good job on those two.

Q. I'm sure Coach talks all the time about being tough mentally and physically. And I'm curious, three games against Wichita State, you got five halves that are just toe to toe. The first half you played at your place, they pretty much took it to you. I wonder if that first half where they just manhandled you so bad toughened you up for the rest of the season?

KYLE WEEMS: I think we were a tough team without that first half. But it opened up our

eyes and let us know that we can't come in out-talent people. That is not the nature of on our team. Coach demands being physically tough and both physically and mentally. I thought through the course of the season we've done that. But you're right. It opened up our eyes in the first half at our place. Pretty much for the rest of the season, I thought we got back to playing the way we play.

Q. For the two student-athletes, is there any consolation knowing that you guys will play another game this month. Talk about the prospect of being in a postseason game this season or this year?

JERMAINE MALLET: It's an honor. Coach always says tomorrow is not guaranteed. Of course, we came here with our eyes set on one prize and that was to be celebrating around 3:00 on Sunday. But, we felt that we fell short and now the next step, whatever step that is, we're going to compete and battle and stay together.

KYLE WEEMS: It's a learning process for us. We lost, but we've got to get back in the game and finish out the season and we have the postseason or whatever.

Q. You guys have talked about how tough you are as a team. But, you had 16 lead changes. Can you speak about as a team what that says about you and your program?

JERMAINE MALLET: It says a lot. Coach always preaches defense. And that's what we did. We'd break down sometimes, but like on the offense, we moved the ball and got what we wanted and sometimes we don't. When we listen, we do good. We execute. So I think that says a lot about our program, the discipline.

Q. Tonight you were very aggressive for offense and defense. Talk about tonight versus from last night to tonight on. It seemed that you were more aggressive offensively tonight. Talk about that a little bit.

JERMAINE MALLET: Oh, yeah, Coach Martin talked about being on the fence. Tonight was like every other game. We came out aggressive. We were making shots and the guys kept telling me keep going, keep going. That's what I did.

Q. This obviously isn't the first time you've been in a close game, hasn't gone your way down the stretch. Can you find a common

ground that you can put your finger on and why it happened again?

KYLE WEEMS: It goes back to our own break down. It's a tough piece to be. But we've got to stay together and get better in practice. But it's just those little plays. Not boxing out, not getting the on offensive rebound or helping out in the corner, just little things like that that add up to a couple of close losses over the season.

Q. Can you talk about that basket that Stutz had with 52 seconds left with that foul that put them up 4?

KYLE WEEMS: It was big. The foul is just part of the game. But we still had a chance. I thought I made a good play on the ball. And that's the down fall last minute of the game. But give credit to Stutz and his team for pulling out the victory.

Q. A 20-win season this year, could you talk about last year compared to this year? Particularly the vision that Coach had in hiring you and being in the position that you are today to lead young men?

COACH MARTIN: Well, as far as the hiring, it's a blessing and I'm grateful for the opportunity. Missouri State is giving me an opportunity. But as far as the program from last season to this season, you're building the keys, and you have to be able to recruit and identify guys.

It's easy to say let's get a couple of quick guys that can score a lot of points, might have some character issues and that assort of thing. But when you're trying to build for the long haul you have to get the right guys and add some substance to them. The wins will come, but you have to build a foundation first. You don't want a situation where you win a couple and four or five guys get in trouble off the court. You have 15, 20 wins, next thing you lose a couple of guys and you're down to 12. That's not a program or foundation for us.

We need to find quality guys. But as far as the 20 wins when you're trying to be a champion, that's expected. I don't think going into the season I would have said 20, because you don't know what you have until you're with 7 new guys and you go through and Kyle Weems trying to find his way. Justin is the one lone guy that played a lot of minutes at this level. He was a solid role guy. But

I thought our guys came in, competed and they bought what were selling as a staff. That is always key when your guys are buying what you sell.

Q. Any consolation knowing you're going to have more basketball to play? And what about the opportunity to coach in the postseason?

COACH MARTIN: It's a great opportunity for our guys. Especially, when you have a lot of guys. When you have your whole roster coming back, it's good for those guys to get their reps and they'll continue to play together. They hurt after this loss. They felt we came here to win this tournament and we came up short. That's part of that. But any time you continue to play and your team continues to grow, it's always a bonus.

Q. Going back to media day, you said coming into this season there were some things that you needed to work on and learn as a coach. In your second season as a Head Coach, what things did you personally learn this year?

COACH MARTIN: I think the key as a coach is the flow of the game. Understanding your personnel. Understanding your opponent. You can learn a lot against your opponent how they coach their style, how they're calling timeouts, what play they're running. Second time around you know what your opponent is running, and you know the players and the situation. That is the biggest key. We're just actually going through it.

I don't care what kind of program you come from. A National Championship program or things like that. When you look at the history of guys that come from a championship program, they don't have a lot of success. It has a lot to do with you and building the program.

You can go down the track record of the last five teams that won a National Championship and the assistant coaches where they went and got a job and whether they win or lose in games it has to do with you building a program, building a foundation and understanding what you're trying to do.

If you don't have a foundation, you look around the country and you fall short. You have to believe in something. You have to be consistent in what you believe in. It's defense for us. And I thought our guys have gotten better late in the season. What we try to teach is tough. But our guys will be a lot better because they've been through it. And it's not easy when you demand

guys to defend one-on-one for 40 minutes consistently throughout the game and carrying out assignments and it is part of it.

Q. You're thinking three with 7:30 left. Did you know it was that long? Can you talk about that kind of dry spell in a game?

COACH MARTIN: I didn't. As long as we were aggressive, I didn't know it was that long. I thought we were getting good looks and we rushed a come. But I tell guys we're going to miss shots. But you can't hang your hat on that. Square your feet up. Get the ball inside, get the post feed. But I won't say we haven't had a shot in this many minutes because they start thinking about it. For us on the defensive end, that's where we hang our hat. We had three break downs on the defensive end, and that was a part of it. And I think that's part of his growth. He got a foul on Hannah, and he got a one-on-one. That was the play he came off the screen, and Hannah came to the basket, got the foul and the shot fake. And he got it all three times.

It's just part of it. He has to learn. He has to go through it. It's just one of those situations.

Q. Jermaine and Kyle both fouled out at the end of the game. Can you talk about how hard it is to operate at the end of the game when two of your players are in foul trouble late?

COACH MARTIN: It's tough to do. But the thing we tell our guys is you're all on scholarship. You're here to play and perform. Ryan came and gave us big minutes. The guys in foul trouble gave us big minutes. That's what you're here to do. Give us big plays. I don't see us having bench guys that get into the game. These guys produce and perform every practice. And I thought Isaiah did a good job. He'll battle for the start. You don't play seven or eight games this season, and throw it in the tank and say I'll give it up and wait till next season. Those guys continue to stay the course and continue to compete in practice. And that's what you're looking for. Jerome told Mallett I'm going to get that position. When you're building a championship caliber program, those are the things you have to go through and those are the guys you have to have.

Q. Wichita State did a decent job on Creekmore tonight. He was 1 for 7 from the

field. Was that more something they did? Or just inexperience in not getting the ball to them?

COACH MARTIN: I think you have to give credit where it is due. I would have to say it's something they did. If he was open, nobody's guarding him, he'd make those lay-ups. You have to give those guys credit.

For him, getting the emotional rush and the shot, he's playing it, as opposed to playing basketball. I tell guys all the time you can't worry about your miss. If your man's missing, you're fine. But you can't miss your man and he's scoring. Then you should be upset.

It's one of those deals where he has to keep his composure. Of but Isaiah Rhine came in and gave us good minutes. But I don't think we got the offensive block we needed to.

Q. I thought it was interesting last night, you didn't seem overly impressed with the 20 wins. And I was serious about what kind of goals you have for your team. It's easy for them to focus on 20, and you're winning championships and that's the goal.

COACH MARTIN: That's the goal to win a championship. When I took over that was the goal. Not to be just competitive. You want to be a champion. That is the ultimate goal for them. It's a blessing to have 20 wins. Our guys have to understand we try to be the best team in Missouri Valley. That is the bottom line. We have the foundation and the piece to do that. Those 20 wins, we're grateful for it, but our guys are upset right now. The last thing on their mind is 20 wins. They're upset. They don't want to go eat tonight. That's what I want to see as a coach. That's when you know those guys are making progress in the paint and loose games.

But you know, it's grateful and a blessing. That is a credit to the players and the staff. But more importantly it's identifying guys when you're recruiting. A lot of guys can put the ball on the basket, but can he fit into what you're trying to do? Will they go to class every day? And those are the things that you're trying to identify.

Q. I asked the guys about the inability to finish down the stretch. Is there something kind of common theme that you've seen develop over the season and why it happened again today?

COACH MARTIN: Not really. I told our guys when we put ourselves in position, we have

...when all is said, we're done.®

ASAPsports

visit our archives at asapsports.com

to go ahead and win it. Like I said, those key break downs with Nafis Ricks, they have to understand you've got to be solid. I can't yell in your ear get ready, watch the back swing. You have to have the discipline and understand this is what I'm doing. I know what they're doing. This is plan B, second option. The guys understand what they're doing. You have to have the discipline. I've got to contain my guy. I can't rely on the help behind me. I've got to be a weak side, I've got to be off it.

It's tough. One thing about man-to-man defense, you have to be able to trust your guys. You have to know okay when I do this, for 72 years I didn't understand what Coach "K" was trying to do. I was on the high school team, we were playing. I was always faithful going to my back screen making lay ups. And I was guarding my guy. It's not easy. You have to be trustful. You feel like you're on an island. Coach, I'm here.

The thing is you have to be at a certain place at all times and it's not easy. It's quick. You have to understand and make quick decisions because the other team runs an offense, and you have to understand what's going on.

Q. What kind of practice routine do you anticipate during a week in limbo?

COACH MARTIN: For us we'll take a couple days off. It will just be all skill work really. Just a lot of offensive skill work. Things we do all the time to try to develop the offensive skills. I think we're getting it offensively. Making moves off the drill. Penetrating, pitching, jump stop, not turn the ball over. I thought we had a great season. One of the better assist to turnover ratios in the country. That's what it's about. Taking care of the basketball.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports

Missouri 3-5-10 postgame.doc