

**March 6, 2010**



Wichita State – 65  
Illinois State – 61

An interview with:



THE MODERATOR: The Illinois State Redbirds are with us. Coach Tim Jankovich will start with a statement on the game then questions for the two student-athletes.

COACH JANKOVICH: Hard-fought game to say the least. Really, really proud of our guys' effort. The only thing that comes to mind for me was how disappointed I am for them that the tournament did not turn out as we had hoped, particularly for the seniors because it's their last go round.

We've got a group of seniors that certainly deserve to feel the joy and excitement of what it's like to play in the NCAA Tournament. But we just came up short.

**Q. Late in the game you hit a couple of big threes. Could you maybe take me through the last minute or two of the game where you stepped up and started to hit some big shots?**

LLOYD PHILLIPS: I was just trying to win the game. My teammates found me. When your teammates find you, you're supposed to hit shots, but it wasn't enough.

**Q. Osiris, can you talk about your hand a little bit? You had it wrapped early in the game? You took the wrap off. How much did that affect you in the game today?**

OSIRIS ELDRIDGE: It was pretty sore. I went up for that block last night and came down on my elbow and wrist and sprained it. Just tried to play through it and do the best I could tonight to just be a play maker and try to play defense. I guess that's the type of things you've got to try to play through when it's crunch time like this.

I am just disappointed we couldn't get it done tonight. But we fought at the end of the game and rallied pretty hard and put up a fight. I'm proud of all the guys that helped us and thank Coach Jankovich for being here these last three years. If it weren't for him and the coaching staff we wouldn't have none of this.

**Q. Would you credit your one point in the second half to the soreness of your hand or the defensive approach?**

OSIRIS ELDRIDGE: I wasn't trying in the second half to try to force anything, try to find my shot. But I was really trying to get to the basket more. I didn't want to take any jump shots because I felt how sore my wrist was and it just wasn't feeling right. I couldn't get there because the team was helping on the defensive end. I was just trying to do what I could.

**Q. You cut the lead to 1 point i four different times in the second half. Can you talk about not getting over the hump and what affect that had?**

OSIRIS ELDRIDGE: We had so many chances to go up and tie the game, even mishandle the ball. Made some minor mistakes, but that's how the game goes. You fight so hard and just can't get over that hump. But I think

everybody played their heart out tonight and you can't discredit no one for the effort they put out tonight.

**Q. When you picked up your fourth foul, it kind of swung momentum. Can you talk about how big that play was?**

OSIRIS ELDRIDGE: I just tried to be as aggressive as I could guarding them. I had to slow it down a little bit and just play a little bit less aggressive and it kind of slowed me down. But it just wasn't the same as having leeway to be more aggressive and stuff like that.

**Q. After losing to UNI last year in the championship game in overtime, can you talk about how much it would have meant to you to have the rematch with them?**

OSIRIS ELDRIDGE: It felt great. You know, it's sad that we lost tonight, but that's how basketball is. Coaches did a great job of preparing us in the short time we had for this game. But we fell a little bit short. It would have been great feeling, playing UNI tomorrow in front of a lot of people just. We just came up short.

**Q. Can you talk about your free-throw struggles during the game? You shot 53% the entire game and 40 in the first half.**

LLOYD PHILLIPS: We just missed them. It's a part of the game. In games like tonight, you've got one possession, two-possession games you've got to have those. You've got to be able to come up with them. It wasn't one guy's fault, it was all of our faults.

Maybe the guys that didn't get a chance, maybe we didn't inspire them enough. Maybe we didn't give them enough motivation to feel good about themselves and go up there and knock them down. But it's not their fault. They just missed them. You miss shots. That's how the game goes sometimes.

But we still had chances. Even after all the free throws, turnovers, we still had chances to win the game. We just couldn't get over the hump.

OSIRIS ELDRIDGE: Kind of what Lloyd said, I think we just walked up to the line and were thinking about it a little too much instead of just walking up and putting them down.

**Q. Can you reflect on your four years at ISU for us?**

OSIRIS ELDRIDGE: It's been great. Since my freshman year I experienced a little

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success. So I mean I can honestly look back and say that I accomplished a lot. I'm proud of what I've accomplished. Just want to say thank you to everybody that had a part of it.

**Q. I know it's soon after the game and a tough loss for you guys. Is it going to be tough gearing up for a game and possibly the NIT this year?**

LLOYD PHILLIPS: It is tough. You want to play in the big tournament but, that's a part of me and Dinma's job. We've got to get everybody fired up again to play. If we're not fired up and ready to play, that's our fault, the older guys.

It's the younger guys and the new guys that haven't done this before. They've been a great group of guys. They've worked so hard and came to practice every day ready to play. Came into the game ready to play. The older guys we've got to inspire the guys to come back and get back up again and keep playing.

**Q. Lloyd and Osiris, it seems like the defense had issues especially in the first half. Was that unexpected? How did that affect things tonight?**

LLOYD PHILLIPS: We kind of expected it, really. There is not too many guys in our league that can guard Dinma one-on-one. We played man and we've been doing a good job of giving them the ball and spacing around them. But we kind of anticipated a lot of zone. In the first half we were kind of squared up a little bit, but that's my fault. I'm the point guard. I have to bite down and handle the pressure and not turn it over. I think I had four turnovers in the first half, so I was probably more sped up than some of the new guys.

But they played great defense. They got after us and sped us up a little bit. We couldn't really get the ball inside to Dinma like we wanted to and that hurts us when we can't really play to them.

OSIRIS ELDRIDGE: Like Lloyd said, we played a little sped up throughout the game, but also we just had some good looks we couldn't knock them down. They had a lot of good looks inside that just didn't go. And we just credit them for the good defense they played. We just couldn't get some of our shots to go down.

**Q. They've run that play and had a lot**

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**of success with it. Were you expecting it or surprised?**

COACH JANKOVICH: Which one?

**Q. The home run play that Graham Hatch got the lay-up there.**

COACH JANKOVICH: Yeah, we said it at every time out that they were going to go long. I was expecting it sooner actually. We were in a situation where we were desperate and we had to try to force them to throw it up for grabs with the guy on the ball. So we talked about that. We talked about that every single time out.

**Q. You guys got to within one numerous times and didn't get over the hump?**

COACH JANKOVICH: I thought that was a great question, by the way. That was the entire second half how many times we had a chance to change the psychology of the game and we were not able to. You only get so many of those chances, and we felt we kept knocking and knocking and knocking.

Never could take a one point lead to even change the whole feeling of playing from behind and that type thing. That was unfortunate. But definitely, we were all feeling that on our bench.

**Q. Especially after you ended up making the run towards the end of the game, can you talk about how important the Garrett Stutz rebound, offensive rebound, on the missed free throw by Durley ended up being?**

COACH JANKOVICH: Yeah, it was pretty big.

**Q. Being down by ten with a little less than a minute and a half to go and getting it back down to as close as one or two, what does that say about your team?**

COACH JANKOVICH: I feel when you lose a game like this and you reflect back, this is when you realize how much goes into an entire season. This is when it all hits you. This is when you realize how much heart and soul everyone in your organization gives for a long, long period of time.

Through that a team is formed and a chemistry or lack there of, and a work ethic and a pride in the program, or not. I'm really proud of this team. I think we've become a very good basketball team.

And the last minute and a half, I think, demonstrates some of the intangibles that this

team has developed overtime. I thought that from my perspective, as badly as you always want to win, truthfully sometimes you win and you played less than your best. You gave three-quarters effort, and you played with some selfish thoughts. I don't see any great victory in that.

But what I try to always judge from our team is all the things that they can control: Their effort, their energy, their togetherness, their fight, their toughness, all those things. I thought we did all of those well enough to win tonight, every one of them.

I was very proud of our team. The only thing is we didn't shoot free throws well enough. That is really the story of the game.

So many times when we had the opportunities to possibly take the lead and change the game, we missed free throws. And I would never, ever blame anyone for that because I can tell you if there's one thing guys are trying to do out there, it is make a shot when they get a shot. When they get a free throw, they're trying their hardest to make it.

Of all the things you can control, making a shot in basketball is the least thing you can control. So I feel so good about them. I felt great about the character they showed. And even though it looked insurmountable, it almost wasn't. I think that to me was a little about our team in a little microcosm.

**Q. You were able to bounce back from a pretty bitter defeat last year in a championship game to play a pretty good game in the NIT. Would you expect that same resolve after this wound kind of healed?**

COACH JANKOVICH: Yeah, I would out of this team, absolutely because of what I just talked about. What I think they're made of and how far we've come, the pride that they have in each other and the program. Definitely, I think we'd bounce back and be thrilled to compete and raise our game.

I wouldn't think it would be very good if it was tomorrow afternoon, but, you know, time will heal this somewhat. I also want to say, in case no one asks, Osiris downplayed his wrist. And in no way -- we lost because we didn't score enough points -- but Osiris deserves a lot of credit. His wrist is very swollen. We didn't even know if he could literally take a shot today to bend his wrist. He can bend it forward, but bending it backwards.

For you great shooters out there you know

you have to bend your wrist backwards to do anything with it. He didn't know literally until warm-ups if he could even take a shot in the game.

And then during the game, of course, he somehow managed to throw a couple in, but played with tremendous courage. I want to say that because I don't want people to think that that was him with a healthy hand, because that was not him with a healthy hand.

And I felt very badly for him that his last chance, you know, it just seemed so unfair that his last chance at getting to a NCAA Tournament had to end with a wrist that was painful, swollen and not as functional as he would like. I really take my hat off to him watching what he was doing out there. And he's such a great, great competitor. But, I don't want people to think that that was a healthy Osiris.

**Q. Garrett Stutz emerging over the last few weeks, how does that make WSU more difficult to deal with?**

COACH JANKOVICH: If you've got a seven-footer that can score double figures every night you're in pretty good shape. You can ask Northern Iowa about that. He's certainly come on and been a real force and a real factor.

Obviously that kind of size is tough to deal with when someone gets their game put together, which he obviously has, and I think that's made them -- he's a different player than we saw earlier, without question. So, it's definitely made them a much -- it gives them one more difficult ingredient. They have many talented players, many. And that gives them another tough match-up for you.

**Q. Osiris was at ISU when you came. But can you talk about the three years with him and what he's meant to this basketball program?**

COACH JANKOVICH: Well, you know, Osiris in the three years I don't think anyone would say anything. But he's had a huge hand in all the success that we've had. He's had a huge hand. If I'm not mistaken in the last three years we may have won, I don't know, it might be the winningest -- close to the winningest period in a three year period. He's had an awful lot to do with that.

On top of that he's shown a lot of people in our program how to really compete. The thing I love about him the most. And believe me there's days when I wanted to kill him because he's a pretty free spirit on the court. I've always tried to

give him a ton of freedom. That's the way I chose to coach Osiris from day one, and sometimes, you know, that's not been perfect.

But when you really look at it, you know, as good a talent as he is, as great a talent and as great an athlete and all that, but what he is best at to me is a winner and competitor. He's found so many different ways to help his team over the three years that I've been here. You know, I'm going to miss him dearly. I'm going to miss Dinma dearly. You guys all know that. Just can't fathom going to practice without Dinma there and Osiris because it's been a long time.

Lloyd, I want to say this to you, you may not write about it, but Lloyd makes coaching even more meaningful. Because he was a guy that I think it's well-documented that I didn't care for his personality all that much last year for a lot of reasons. And one year later as a senior, he became someone I loved being around. I loved to coach, I loved his attitude.

He's going to blame himself. He didn't even shoot a free throw for gosh sakes and he's blaming himself for free throw shooting. That's where his mind is at.

So what ends up happening with your senior's -- we were here the other day, and the three seniors were here -- and you realize that you know the hard part is you spend all this time and investment and you get so close to them. They become young men, and you have to say goodbye to them. I'm just unbelievably appreciative of all three of our seniors have given us.

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THE MODERATOR: The victorious Shockers are with us. As mentioned, they have a date in the championship game tomorrow afternoon at 1:00 P.M. We're going to have Coach Marshall open up with a statement, and then questions for the three student-athletes from Wichita State.

COACH MARSHALL: It wasn't a see-saw affair like yesterday, but in many ways it was a similar game. It was a very physical, tough game against a very good team, and that's what you're going to get. I am just very pleased to win and to play another championship on CBS. It's been a long time coming for the Shockers and for me personally the last couple of years. Now we have that stage. So we're looking forward to the opportunity.

**Q. For the three players, they got within one point of you four times late in the game. Two points a couple of times. But you never relinquished the lead. What kept you from giving up the lead?**

DEMETRIC WILLIAMS: Well, defense. We said defense a lot. So when it got that close we just kept our composure and grinded out and executed our plays. Luckily we kept the lead.

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TOURE' MURRY: Learning from games earlier in the year, we had games in the same situation that may not have worked out the same way as the game tonight. We just learned from it, and just growing with experience.

We came out with a big time stop on defense, and on the offense we had big time players step up and make big time stops, and that's how we kept the lead up.

**Q. Can you comment on just the mono-a-mono element of this game? The give and the take. It wasn't for the faint of heart I guess is what I'm trying to say.**

TOURE' MURRY: Definitely, two great teams going at each other really tough. We have great players on our team and refuse-to-lose attitude. We wanted to go to the championship. That's been our goal all year and we finally made it.

GARRETT STUTZ: We knew nothing was going to be handed to us. We had to reach out and take it. They felt the same thing. We have two good teams going after the same goal, it's bound to happen.

**Q. Can you talk about the home-run ball to Hatch for the score? Garrett, you had a particularly good view, probably not wanting to be there, but talk about that.**

GARRETT STUTZ: Yeah, when we were in the huddle we talked about that being an option, and it's a readout of our press break. We made the right call. Graham made a great catch and great finish.

TOURE' MURRY: That's been our go-to play all year. That play worked for us it seemed like every time we ran it. We feel like that play can build us to the next step and get us some points when we do that.

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COACH MARSHALL: I'm going to say we said first of all you have to have trust in players to make plays. I'm not the smartest coach in the world, but I've got a lot of faith in these guys. I told Toure' if it wasn't open, we had plenty of timeouts. I'm not sure how open it was, but he made the pass and Graham made the catch and the lay-up. Like he said, big time players make big time plays. Those were two guys hooking up. We were having a hard time with the pressure. It was probably not the most wise call to make, but we needed to get the ball down on this end for a while, and we eventually did that.

**Q. You started the game with eight of the first ten points for your team. Can you just take me through how you were able to carry that early load for your team, please?**

TOURE' MURRY: My main thing is to just come out aggressive, you know. I knew that Osiris was going to come at me, so my thing is to come at him and get him in foul trouble a little bit. That's their best player. When he's not offensively in the game it's tough for him to score. So my main thing was to go at him and get aggressive, get momentum.

**Q. I know you played the option, but what did you see that made you throw it?**

DEMETRIC WILLIAMS: Well, I kind of seeing down the floor at who was getting back. And both the big men came forward and the defender was playing with him. And Graham Hatch, I know he can grab the ball because he's an athletic player. So I just threw it, and hopefully he'll make the catch because I just trust him.

**Q. You guys have Osiris Eldridge the conference's leading scorer to one point in the second half and eight points overall. Can you speak to your game plan going against him?**

DEMETRIC WILLIAMS: Main thing was to come out and make him shoot contested shots, because he's a very good shooter. When he shoots the open shots, usually he makes them. So my main thing was just contest. And I know my teammates are going to help me when I got picked off by someone. It was all team effort, and we did it.

**Q. Garrett, you played Northern Iowa twice. They obviously have a very good inside game. What have you learned from those first two games that you can take forward tomorrow**

**both offensively and defensively to have an impact on the championship game?**

GARRETT STUTZ: The last game, I watched that film a couple times obviously, and it was a low point in the season for me. I've just got to come out tomorrow and be the aggressor. I can't wait for them to send a punch at me first and I go back at them. I have to come out and really stick it to them.

**Q. Demetric, you hit a big three there kind of late where you looked at J.T. and hit the three. Just take us through that play and what was going through your mind?**

DEMETRIC WILLIAMS: Well, the intention was to get it to J.T. So, I looked at him and seen that Osiris was backing up on me. But, I still wanted to on get it to J.T. Then I felt he was too far so I had confidence to knock the shot down.

**Q. Late in the game with about 1:30 left you grabbed the offensive rebound off a missed free throw that put you up by nine and that turned out to be the difference. Can you take us through what happened on that play?**

GARRETT STUTZ: We have sets with the two guys on the free-throw line. And we communicated to cross and tried to get under the basket. Graham did a great job getting his guy low and he kept it alive. The ball was right above me. I grabbed it and laid it in.

**Q. Wichita State hasn't been to a conference tournament final since 1987. Can you sum up what this means to you individually and what you think it means to the team and the school just to get to this stage to deliver this?**

TOURE' MURRY: I think it's a great thing for the whole Shockers Nation. They've been looking to go to a championship. Since we've been in St. Louis, we've never been. So we're just happy to make it, so we did it for the whole Shocker Nation.

GARRETT STUTZ: It's obviously a tremendous opportunity for the team and the fans. We're really looking forward to it, and glad we made it this far. We have one more game to complete before the true postseason.

DEMETRIC WILLIAMS: It feels really good to be a part of this team and go back to a championship for the Shocker Nation. And bring

the win back home.

**Q. The progression of Garrett, I would imagine nine other coaches in this league are noticing that. What do you think their attitude about that must be?**

COACH MARSHALL: Well, he's an excellent young player. There is a lot of great players in this league. We happen to have three -- I'm sitting up here and if you caught me smiling, I'm happy that we won, but it dawned on me that we have two sophomores and a freshman on the podium here and they all played great basketball today.

So they're probably thinking, you know, I've got to get my 6'10, 6'11, 7 footer. Because if he stays healthy and continues to work with Kerry Rosenboom, our strength and conditioning coach who does a great job, and he's starting to get that edge, and he's always wanted to win. But the gnarliness and the toughness are starting to emerge. I guess he's been around me for a while.

By mean he just is coming. I really don't care what they think right now. We've got to do the best job that we can do for Wichita State. We've got another 7-footer coming next year that's not nearly as offensive minded, but he's quite a man. He can block some shots and rebound.

**Q. You had your largest lead of the game of 10 points, and the Illinois State came back after that. Can you talk about what happened late in the game?**

COACH MARSHALL: They made the shot. I don't have a play-by-play here, and I don't have a photographic memory. But I do remember turning it over one time on the sideline. J.T. Durley said he passed the ball and it was deflected. And they got the ball, I don't know whether it was a missed call or not, but Durley said it was deflected. I think he missed one free throw one time. They missed one for two, and that happens. They hit some threes.

You've got to foul and hope they miss so you can come down and launch threes. Three for two, three for one, three for zero. But we again made 75%.

I think that was the only turnover as I recall. We worked some clock, but they're a very talented team, and they've got a lot of guys that can score, and that's what they did.

**Q. You're playing awfully good basketball after grinding the last few weeks or**

**so of the season. You seem to have caught a bit of a second wind. Can you talk about that generally right now?**

COACH MARSHALL: Well, it's a season. It's a long season. You have seasons. You have fall, spring, summer, winter, they're not all the same. Every game's not the same. Every opponent's not the same. You have highs and lows, and some people want to jump off the bridge, and others try to keep it more even keel. You have good guys that have the talent, ability to shine in situations like this. And this is a different game. Everybody is giving their best. Everybody wants to win a championship in March. Some guys have a little more athleticism, maybe more skill. I'm fortunate to have a group like that.

Northern Iowa's got a group like that, and they've proven it before. This group has not proven they can win a championship yet, but their opportunity is tomorrow.

**Q. You mentioned on the home run ball you wanted to get the ball down the court. Given the previous play you didn't get the ball inbounds, was that more of a viable option at the time and maybe a surprise factor?**

COACH MARSHALL: I think like I said, it was a gamble. I understand that. But I think we did get the ball inbounds if I'm not mistaken the play before. That's where Durley threw the ball into their bench. So I don't know, but I know that we were struggling against their pressure. They were all in. Their chips were in, all hands on deck. They were nine guys and somehow you've got to relieve the pressure. You fill a water balloon to a certain point, and it gets bigger and bigger and bigger and bigger, and sometimes you have to relieve the pressure. So you stick a little pin in it and the water's going to come out. So we were able to relieve the pressure in a big-time way.

Toure's done that. I mean, you've seen the play. In three years we're probably 10 for 10 on it maybe, if not more. It hasn't failed us yet. One day it's going to fail and I'm going to look like a ding-dong. And Graham's going to trip over himself.

He did go to the basket once he caught that ball. He took two or three dribbles and he's getting banged a little bit. He still puts it in the basket. Again, you've got to have faith in your players to make plays. Those guys they hooked up and made a big-time play.

**Q. How important has it been for Demetric to step up and give you what he's given you?**

COACH MARSHALL: Man, are you kidding me? Wow, you could write a story about that. This kid must live for the postseason. I haven't seen him play like this all year. Now he's strung a couple of games together and he was playing well at the end of the season, but you have to grasp your opportunities in life and this is an opportunity for him.

He didn't verbalize this to me, but I could almost tell. I'm not at all insinuating that he was glad that David Kyles was hurt, but there became a little bit of a different bounce to his step once that happened, and he's emerged to fill the spot. And he's filled it quite admirably, if you will. He's a big part of why we won today.

**Q. Getting back to how the team was able to shut down Osiris Eldridge. What was your approach to him coming into the game? And overall how pleased were you with the team's performance. Toure'?**

COACH MARSHALL: Tonight, Toure' Murry had 17 points and he was 6 of 9 from the field. When we needed a basket in the end, I said, everybody get out of the way. We're going to run the "C" play. Give the ball to Toure' Murry and see what he can get you. He got us a big hoop with a pull-back jumper. He's a dynamite performer.

But what people don't see and fans don't understand as much as coaches is the defensive player that he's become. He's the lock-down defender now, and he loves the opportunity to play against guys like Osiris Eldridge who has proven to be one of the best players if not the best and most athletically gifted in this league.

So Toure' Murry did a marvelous job. Our zone, we always knew where he was. And if he was getting shots, by and large, they were contested shots.

**Q. The players were asked what it means to them to finally get to that championship game. What's it mean to you? Is there a sense of accomplishment? I know you have one game left, a big one, but.**

COACH MARSHALL: I'm glad you asked that question because it is a sense of accomplishment. It is a 25th win on a year where we were picked fifth in the valley. It's a chance to

win a championship. I didn't realize it was since 1987, but I trust Mr. Hurdle there.

It's a chance for us to give back. You know, we have a great group of fans. I caught myself just hesitating to walk off the court today because of what they mean to us and me personally and just soaking up the excitement that they were experiencing along with our team. It was great. It was a great feeling. And the best is yet to come.

It's kind of a double-edged sword because it's a sense of accomplishment, but still the biggest accomplishment is right there in front of us. So we've got another game tomorrow, and we've got a great opponent. But we keep battling. And if we keep battling, we've got the horses to give anyone a game:

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