

2007 State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Women's Tournament
Championship Game: Drake 65, Creighton 64 (Overtime)
Sunday, March 11, 2007
Knapp Center, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa

Drake head coach Amy Stephens: "I would like to thank Creighton on an incredible game. Coach Jim Flanery did a wonderful job coaching his team to the championship game. They were well prepared for the game. I have a lot of respect for Jim Flannery. Creighton played amazing defense and for the first 32 minutes they outplayed us and out hustled us. But our kids did a beautiful job at the eight-minute mark keyed by Tori (Runner) who had a couple steals. I guess it was only fitting that we played that type of game. Our team never gave up.

"For 32 minutes I kept saying let's hang around, hang around, hang around. Then the last eight minutes when Tori got that steal it gave us a big lift. Our kids kept believing. We have been in worse situations before.

"I feel for Ally Thrall (Creighton guard who missed two free throws with 6.2 seconds left in regulation). She is a class act and great young person. She comes in during the summer and plays with our kids. It was unfortunate for Creighton and fortunate us. That was huge. We did everything to lose. Nothing has been easy this year, so why should this be easy.

"We had a new life in overtime. We just didn't execute effectively in the last minute and a half before we got into overtime. Creighton played excellent defense. We made adjustments. It's a game of adjustments. It is a chess match.

"We're just going to enjoy the moment. We're going to go with a lot of excitement and represent Drake University to the best of our ability

"The Wichita State weekend was pivotal for us because Brandy was sick but we came from 18 behind and won the game and then won at Missouri State. That game gave us belief and we didn't skip a beat.

"I don't anticipate Brandy (Dasher) to play (NCAA Tournament). Her spleen is pretty enlarged. But she understands the contributions she made to our team. Jordan (starting guard Plummer) and Jill (starting forward Martin) also played a big part of what happened this weekend. They were the spirit. They did a great job of mentoring and being positive.

Junior guard Lindsay Whorton: "Every adversity that we have faced has prepared us. We have players who are resilient. Every player stepped it up for the game. It was a team effort, and it is an honor to have this opportunity. You have to give a lot of credit to Creighton.

"With their press and half-court pressure, they did good job of getting their defense set and not letting us get good looks. They switched on screens which kept us rattled offensively in the first half."

"We have pretty good idea we will be facing a 1 or 2 seed.

"The first time I felt tired was with about 3 minutes left in regulation and into overtime. Both teams were tired. You have to play through that. It shows how hard the game was being played, not that we had to play three games before.

On missed free throws by Creighton's Ally Thrall: "It was a great opportunity for our team. We really tried to lose it as many different ways as we could and when we didn't we had a second chance. I felt for Ally. She was a big part as to why they (Creighton) were there."

Freshman guard Monique' Jones: "I was tired, but I kept telling myself to dig down deeper. There's seven more minutes left, this could be it...we gave it our all."

Sophomore forward Lauren Dybing: "When I heard Brandy (leading scorer Dahir) was going to miss the tournament, it boosted my confidence...We had nothing to lose. We weren't picked to win. We just went out there and played our hardest. It brought us a lot of confidence."

"Adversity helped out a lot. We were ready for the tournament. All season it seemed like something was always going on and everyone had to pick it up. When Brandy (Dahir) got sick there was no doubt in our minds that we could still do it."

