

**2007 Missouri Valley Conference Women's Tournament**  
**Drake 78, Wichita State 63**  
**Thursday, March 8, 2007**  
**Knapp Center, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa**

**Drake head coach Amy Stephens:** "I'm really proud of our team's effort. We came out of the gates strong. That is something we talked about. We wanted to win the first eight minutes. Wichita State is a good team with a lot of talent. I thought Lindsey (Whorton) was dynamite on both ends of the court. We did the things we needed to do to win the game.

"We're just trying to get better and compete. We talked about that any time you have adversity it is an opportunity to show the character of our team.

"Torri (Runner) did a great job defensively. She is a warrior and tough. Everyone had to step it up. We knew Brandy (Dahir) couldn't play on Tuesday, so everyone was focused in practice leading up to this game. A big key was rebounding. You can't give them (Wichita State) second opportunities. We wanted to do a good job on the boards.

"We wish Brandy (Dahir) could play but unfortunately she won't play anymore. She got sick two weeks ago on the Wichita trip. We thought it was food poisoning. Then she went back to doctor and they did blood tests when they found out what it was mono.

"Southern Illinois is an outstanding team that is well coached and well disciplined. It will definitely be a tough challenge. We will have to play extremely smart and handle their pressure...There is no time to stop and think about the short turnaround. You just have to go out and play. We're at home and anything is possible.

**Drake junior guard Lindsay Whorton:** "I think our team came into the game realizing what a great opportunity it was for us. We competed through the entire season with a lot adversity. The way we competed every night prepared us to get a win, but it hasn't shown up in our won-loss record but it has prepared us for the tournament.

"Coach Stephens encouraged me to let the game come to me. You have to credit the other four players on our team. That is what allows you to feel comfortable if you are missing your shots. It is a great credit to our team and great win

"We realized the game wasn't over at halftime. We put an emphasis on not coming out and relaxing but continuing to attack offensively and get to the free throw line, while also playing well defensively."

**Drake junior forward Lauren Dybing** "When I knew Brandy (Dahir) wasn't going to play I knew I had to step up. I went into the game focusing on defense and rebounding and let the scoring take care of itself."

**Wichita State head coach Jane Albright:** “I was proud of the way my team hung in there and played in the second half. It was pretty obvious that our biggest problem was keeping Wells (center Antoinette) in the game. She does a lot of things besides score.

“You look at the stat sheet and it was a six-point game at halftime if we hadn’t fouled them. When you give a team 15 attempts that really hurt us. In the second half we shot 64 percent from the floor. We executed our offense and played a zone in the second half.

“Whorton (Drake guard Lindsey) is phenomenal player. She hit some tough shots. Points off turnovers continues to be a problem for us but I thought we did a better job forcing turnovers in second half.

“Drake took advantage of playing at home with the great crowd support. Our team didn’t perform this year like we wanted to do...All of us need to get better. Eight coaches were rooting for us tonight because nobody wants to play Drake tomorrow or the next day. We played like we thought we could win.

“We had great effort stats like Kiki’s five blocked shots or McDonnell’s five steals. Kiki’s back is really bad but I’m proud of the way she has hung in there. I’m really proud of her to come in and perform hard.”

**Junior forward Kiki Stevens:**

On Wells getting in foul trouble: “We had to pick it up when she sat down.”

On turnovers: “I thought we were playing too much in a hurry at times and I think they played good defense.”

On back problems: “The back bothered me a little bit but I should be use to that. It is fixable in the off-season.”

On blocked shots: “I just try to do anything I can to lift the team up.”

**Senior guard Lexee McDonnell:** “I was trying to do anything to pick us up.”