

March 10, 2006



An Interview With:

## NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS

COACH BARRY  
COLLIER  
JAMEL WHITE  
MARCUS WALKER  
JASON DOURISSEAU

COACH BARRY COLLIER: I thought our team played really tough-minded and was a hard-fought game and I thought it just kind of came down to some key plays. But those key plays were sprinkled throughout the game really.

We looked at so much in the last minute of these games, but there was effort throughout. I thought our defense was different but it was good. And on the night, I am just so proud of this team because they want to keep playing.

**Q. How does it feel to be the first Nebraska team to be in the Semifinals since 1998?**

JASON DOURISSEAU: It feels great. I mean, we worked so hard for it and we have been through a lot of adversity this year with our local media and everything. It just feels great to get to this point, but we're not satisfied yet. That's one thing we're going to talk about tonight, we have got another one tomorrow. We're going to get ready to play.

**Q. Talk about the two freshman scoring the final 13 points of the game?**

JASON DOURISSEAU: That was huge. They grew up today. **Marcus** Walker and Jamel, they have been playing good all year. This was a big game, on a big stage, and they both stepped up huge when we needed them to.

**Q. What do you remember from the first two meetings with Kansas this year?**

JASON DOURISSEAU: First one was a nightmare. The second one, you know, we -- I think the game was closer than the score indicated, but they made a lot of key plays at key times in the game and they forced a lot of turnovers, so they are a good team. They are young, but they are extremely talented and we have another challenge ahead of us tomorrow.

**Q. Talk about coming in here losing some games and finding this, did you see this coming at all? You guys have been struggling down the stretch. What was it that kind of turned things around for you the last couple of days? Did you see this at all during the losing streak?**

MARCUS WALKER: Yes, throughout the season we have been having a lot of ups and downs. A lot of situations occurred in Lincoln. With coming into this game, winning yesterday's game, gave us a lot of confidence. And with us being able to beat them at Lincoln, gave us that extra confidence coming into this game.

So I think everybody surrounding us in this circle knew we could win just capitalizing on our mistakes and ran our offense right and make sure we do what the little things that makes us win, like hustling, diving on balls and getting rebounds.

**Q. Oklahoma has made of living out of winning 1-point games this year. But you guys beat them earlier by one point. Did that game give you confidence going into tonight?**

JASON DOURISSEAU: No doubt. We watched film from that game today at our meal and we know what it takes to beat a team like that. You got to play tough, you got to battle them on the glass. You got to battle them, possession, for possession, especially on defense.

Like I said, these two guys to my right, they stepped up and they made play after play today. Our entire team, if you look up and down our roster, we have guys stepping up, like

ASAP<sup>®</sup> sports  
...when all is said, we're done.<sup>®</sup>

visit our archives at [www.asapsports.com](http://www.asapsports.com)

Nebraska - 03 10 06

Coach said, throughout the game. It was truly a team effort today.

**Q. Can you talk about *Michael Neal*, the job you guys did on him, no shots in the first half.**

COACH BARRY COLLIER: I thought that our guys' effort in this game on Neal was a real key because we felt as their leading scorer in the **Big 12** games this season, that he was a difference maker and we wanted to try to limit the number of shots that he got and certainly pressure the ones that he did.

For him to have zero shots in the first half wasn't necessarily a requirement, but it sure was a plus. In our -- in their defense or standing up for them, I thought that they made good decisions not to force it down over to him and make him shoot it or that type of thing and they had some other guys knocking down 3s. I think three different guys scored 3-pointers in the first half. So we had to pay for a little bit for the defense.

But our problem in the first half was our offense in that that was a sure lot better in the second.

**Q. You got a lot of defenses in your repertoire. Was it a little different scheme? Did you guys just draw this one up for this game?**

COACH BARRY COLLIER: Not really. It's one of the things we have used. Probably use it again at some point so I don't really want to talk a whole lot about it. But we played different defenses tonight. That wasn't the only defense as well.

**Q. Talk about what this meant to you tonight, your coaches had a little group hug there with about 4 seconds left, you could tell what it meant to them. Talk about KU and the struggles you had with them this year, what it's going to take this time?**

COACH BARRY COLLIER: Well, I think that we're really excited at our team -- our team played hard throughout the game and made plays throughout the game. Aleks really struggled early but he was a big help as the game went on. We had so many other players got in this game and helped us, just the two freshman had been gaining great experience this year and -- through necessity, but also because of ability, they have been in ball games.

As far as Kansas is concerned, **Jason** said -- I think he said the first game was a

nightmare, second game was at least a bad dream. They have had their way with us and they have been a very good team. Had them all over my ballot for post-season honors, and it is a tough, tough matchup. But it's a 40-minute game and it is a new game so we'll certainly be here tomorrow.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports

March 10, 2006



An Interview With:

## OKLAHOMA SOONERS

### COACH KELVIN SAMPSON TERRELL EVERETT KEVIN BOOKOUT

COACH KELVIN SAMPSON: After having been around here for Sunday's game, quite a few times, I can honestly tell you it is a whole lot more fun to be here on Sunday than it is to leave on Friday.

But give all the credit to Nebraska. They are boxing one, and their zones didn't allow to us get into a lot of flow. And when we did, we started making shots and getting a little flow. When we weren't making baskets, I thought our defense was pretty good. Then when we started making baskets, I didn't think our defense was very good at all.

This game, as I have said many, many, many times, it's a simple game, but we have got to get back to putting both ends together at the same time. Sometimes we play defense. Offense isn't very good. Sometimes our offense is pretty good, then our defense isn't what it should be. We have got to find a way to get back to playing both ends of the court. And getting off to better starts.

I am still trying to figure out how to get us off to a better start. Last four, five games, it seems like we're playing uphill too much. And eventually that will get you. It got us tonight.

**Q. We were just talking yesterday about how great practices have been. You felt like you had the best two practices of the entire season this week. Are you shocked of the result now?**

KEVIN BOOKOUT: Yes, I am. The way we have been practicing really doesn't

**ASAP** sports

...when all is said, we're done.®

visit our archives at [www.asapsports.com](http://www.asapsports.com)

emphasize on how we have been playing. The coaches have done an outstanding job of getting us ready. It's just as players we need to take care of business.

**Q. How are you going to do it? You have got perhaps one game left, unless -- I mean you are running out of time on your career, as is Terrell, so what do you think -- is this perhaps the worst basketball you are playing this year or have you been in these kinds of funks before that you think you can get out of?**

KEVIN BOOKOUT: We can get out of it. It's just a matter getting our minds right and doing it. We can't sit here and point fingers or nothing. We got to take care of business.

Next game, I mean, it could be me and *Terrell* and Taj's last game. So if you don't get off to a good start, if you don't hit them out first, they are going to be with you all game.

**Q. You guys have come out on the winning end of all these tight games here down the stretch. What did you think tonight was the difference in another tight one that didn't go your guys' way?**

KEVIN BOOKOUT: Just didn't make the plays at the end. Those four straight one-point games they won, we always seem to come up with that loose ball or that shot to win the game. This game right here it was their turn and they hit the shot and they made the plays.

**Q. Terrell, the look in your eyes, are you more hurt, embarrassed, what are your thoughts?**

TERRELL EVERETT: I can say I am hurt more because I really thought -- I agree with Kevin on our practices and stuff. I thought we would just come out and fight more tonight. I am just -- I don't know.

**Q. We hear the words "sense of urgency" a lot in sports. It seemed like tonight it may be it wasn't there. Is that fair?**

KEVIN BOOKOUT: No, it is not, because this program, the *Oklahoma* basketball program is built on playing hard and tough and

competing every possession. That's why I came here was the rough-and-tough attitude Coach **Sampson** brought into this program. We got great program for us to come out here and lose in the first round, that doesn't go well. We're supposed to win these games. We're supposed to win the **Big 12** tournament. That's how we play.

**Q. What do you think, Coach, did your team lack heart tonight? Or was it just a bad -- I heard you talk about the one-half good and one facet and not the other, but looked like in the second half no stops, they doubled their point total, and you looked like you were going to upset by lack of effort; true or false?**

COACH KELVIN SAMPSON: Well, I think that the boxing one and the zone has a tendency to get you back on your heels. I don't know, it's just -- tonight was a little bit of an ambush. I didn't see this coming. Texas game, you know, 30-something plus games you are going to lay in the egg occasionally. Texas game -- but tonight was surprising. If we had played this game at 3 o'clock on Monday or 3:30 on Monday or 4 o'clock on Wednesday, I just didn't see this one coming, we're going to have to regroup.

But you are right, if we can't find a way to get this turned around, you are right, probably going to have one more game. But if we can get somehow carry over from practice to the game, then this team is capable of getting the tournament and winning.

**Q. A lot was made of the four-game winning streak with the one-point victories over a quality opponent. Did those victory maybe mask the problems that you guys have been having lately? Have you felt this team has been in sync the last three, four weeks?**

COACH KELVIN SAMPSON: No, you are probably right. I don't know that we have -- we had a stretch there where we played at Kansas, Baylor at home, at **Oklahoma** State, can't remember who we played right before that or after, but we had a stretch there where I just thought we were playing well.

For this team to win at a high level like we have done a lot this year, we have to be clicking. We don't have -- we're not as quick or as explosive or athletic at the guard position, because you see tonight they were a little bit quicker than we were. And then the junk

defenses, they were running, you know, we -- we found stuff that was working against it and was making shots. The offense wasn't the problem. Problem was, like Bob said, we just weren't getting any stops there in the second half.

I mean, you have got to find ways to win with defense when -- we beat **Oklahoma State** at home. We got down by 9. We didn't win the game because -- until we were making shots, we were making stops. We just didn't do that tonight. That's where we're a little bit confusing and confounding.

**Q. Because of the Texas game first and then this loss, how much damage was done for the NCAA selection?**

COACH KELVIN SAMPSON: We have to wait and see. You are asking a hypothetical question. I don't have a hypothetical answer. If you ask me something more specific I will answer it though, be glad to.

**Q. Your team started off the year leading the country in rebounding margin in the last 8 to 10 games. Seems like you have out-rebounded more than you have ever been since you have been coach at Oklahoma. Is that effort or something else that's going on?**

COACH KELVIN SAMPSON: That's hard to say. I mean if you look at the -- look at the way we started tonight. We were down 7-0, then we come back and we're up 4 at halftime, so we have to out score them 11. Then we come out the second half and you emphasize, you emphasize, talk about, talk about. But we have got to get off to a great start these 4 minutes.

We had games where we've been really good at the start of the game. We have had games where we have been really good to start the second half. But looking at the start of the first half and the start of the second half, obviously there's something there that we have got to find a way to correct.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports