

**March 7, 2006**



An Interview With:

## **KANSAS STATE**

COACH PATTERSON: Well, I thought it was a really well-executed basketball game by our team defensively. I really appreciate the intensity that we brought to the floor, real high level of accountability on the strengths that KU brings to the basketball floor and I thought that gave us a chance to be competitive. Both of these two, **Lehning** and **Hamlin**, obviously really established early in the basketball game that they were going to be factors for us offensively. I thought that was absolutely huge. **JoAnn** did a great job of running the floor. **Shalee** stepped up and just did a great job as always, distributing, but more than that, I think looked for scoring opportunities when they were afforded.

And all of that was just I think real big to us getting off to a good, aggressive start in the basketball game, which we knew would be critical because of the emotion that Kansas would be playing with, with **Hallman** and **Kemp** obviously as seniors in their last **Big 12** tournament, and just the fact that this is a great rivalry game. And so I was really proud of the overall defense first and foremost that we brought.

**Q. Shalee, would you talk about wanting to more of an offensive floor early?**

SHALEE LEHNING: Individually?

**Q. Yeah, scoring-wise.**

SHALEE LEHNING: I just wanted to come in and contribute in any way I could. Tonight they were tagging off on me a little bit, when I made that first shot it gave me confidence. I just tried to take whatever I could, and they were actually falling.

**Q. Did you feel disrespected at all early when they were letting you shoot?**

SHALEE LEHNING: No. That was just a part of their defense. They were just, you know, helping our post players, which shows that they were doing a great job, but at the same time, that left me open, so I just shot it.

**Q. JoAnn, talk about the post game, the physicalness, it looked really physical out there tonight but looked like you all kept your composure?**

JOANN HAMLIN: Yeah, it was pretty physical. All of our post players did a good job of keeping tempo and everything. We did good job, we're both good players and nothing dirty goes on down in the post.

**Q. Scoring has not been your forte throughout the year, in these last two games against KU, you've come up with big points, is that something they are doing defensively or you're just falling into your own as being a scorer right now?**

SHALEE LEHNING: I think it's a bit of both. Like I said the opportunity was there for me to take the shot and so I did. It's not the fact that it's KU. Just that I'm coming into my shooting technique and a little more confidence that I'm willing to take the shots.

**Q. Talk about what makes this group a dangerous team facing Baylor tomorrow night.**

SHALEE LEHNING: You know, we just have a lot of players that are willing to step up. We have a lot of depth. On any given night, you know, different people step up and we have our inside game that's really doing a great job of creating a big presence and that sets up for the outside. When we transition and hit shots and stuff, we can be pretty tough.

**Q. This is your first Big 12 tournament and first postseason game and**

**both of you guys were on your game from the start, JoAnn, you didn't miss a shot, four blocked shots, and career-high for you, Shalee. Can you talk about your feeling coming in, sometimes it can be an intimidating tournament, did you guys feel that at all or what were your emotions?**

JOANN HAMLIN: Well, actually I was really nervous before the game. But once you get out there, you know, and the ball goes up, it's just you get into a flow and all your nerves go away and you just put all you have out into the court. We really wanted to put everything we had out there and we really didn't want to go home tomorrow.

SHALEE LEHNING: Definitely it's a remarkable feeling. This is a game we love. There are some nerves before the game, but at the same time, we use it as positive motivation to give us energy and enthusiasm coming in. To win our first **Big 12** tournament game is just a great boost for us.

**Q. JoAnn, you're going against one of the best post players in the history of the Big 12 tomorrow, can you talk about what you guys try to do to slow her down, if you can?**

JOANN HAMLIN: Sophia is a great player. That's one thing you can try to do is just slow her down. She's going to make good shots and she's going to make great moves. She's All-American. We just have to be active on defense and see what we can bring tomorrow.

**Q. Can you explain Shalee erupting tonight, is that something more you wanted from her game or something she has not shown so far this season?**

COACH PATTERSON: It's just part of the evolution of her as a point guard. As we have wound down through this last quarter of the season, I think if you were to watch film, you'd notice that she had become more and more willing to think a little bit about taking the shot. And as teams began to really not play her, you know, it just became a more significant and important element to our offense.

I think in the first three-quarters of this season or maybe even 3/5ths of the season, it wasn't necessary. You know, you've got a great point guard running a very, very young

basketball team, second leading rebounder on your team, one of the nation's leaders in rebounds and assists, actually second in the nation in the combo there. And so there's only so much you want to bring to the table.

In the meantime, you are running the show and we just felt like it was part of the evolution for her, you know, and as Shalee has demonstrated all season long, she understands the game and as she has begun to understand the significance of not being guarded, she's assumed a greater sense of needing to be a scorer. It's always been more about need and not necessarily a gap or a hole in her game. It's been part of the evolution.

And at the same time, I think she's gotten better as a shooter just like hopefully a lot of our younger players have. I think we've seen that with **Gipson** as well, and with **Zanotti**, as well.

All credit to **Shalee Lehning**; it's one more element of the incredible basketball she brings to the floor. I've said all season long, I think she's the best play-making point guard in the league, I just think it's part of the total package, and we'll see more of it. I don't think we'll see a lot of 20-point-per-game nights because I don't think we need to. But I think that's just growth and understanding a little bit more about what your basketball team needs from you without losing the strength you already bring. Some players could not have brought that dimension until a year from now, but **Lehning** is that good.

**Q. Just want to commend you for putting four freshmen on the floor. I also want to respond about Gipson and McIntyre, they handled the ball well and got in some good minutes, what made you decide to put them in and give them a lot of play in this tournament this year?**

COACH PATTERSON: I think **Marlies** is one of the great young athletes and players, freshmen in our league in my opinion. We didn't do a great job of involving her offensively tonight as much as I would have liked. I have a great deal of confidence in her, and I think we saw just a little inkling of what she can bring down on the block. She was not as necessarily aggressive offensively tonight, but didn't necessarily need to

be. Again, we did not give her a lot of touches and opportunities.

**Twiggy** I think has in particular over the course of the last four or five games, she has stepped on the floor, she has been a factor offensively, she's done a great job running pick-and-roll offense, staying aggressive with her 3-pointer. Which again, it's interesting tonight because you have Shalee assuming a scoring role and you have Twiggy distributing more and running offense, and their roles are reversed. Typically you are getting 12 or 15 points a night from **Twiggy** and tonight she didn't really look for her shot a lot.

I think both **Marlies** and **Twiggy** were bringing great continuity to our offense. They defended extremely well. I loved Marlies's activity on the board and she is just a warrior in there, and she can go get balls like no one else on our team. Those two did just a tremendous job for us, and it's not all about scoring if you've got other people taking up that slack.

**Q. Talk about the adjustment preparing for Baylor now, where do you go from here for Baylor?**

COACH PATTERSON: They are just fabulous basketball team and we understand that. I think **Sophia Young** is one of the best post players obviously to have ever played in the **Big 12**. I think she's one of the top five ever.

We have our hands full. For us it's just stepping on the floor and bringing a real high level of accountability and attention and effort and intensity to our defense. And then on the offensive end, I'm hopeful that, you know, we can do a good job with their pressure. They are a great defensive basketball team. We know we're going to have to be very good, and you can't string together wasted possessions against a team like Baylor. It's part of what separates them is their great play-making ability. They are very balanced, so that's why they are one of the higher seeds in this tournament. And we know it's a great challenge, but we just appreciate the opportunity and I think again for us, everything will start with trying to generate some intensity on the defensive end.

**Q. Can you just talk about JoAnn, how important it was that she knocked down all her shots and she had the four blocks,**

**seemed like she had a very strong game here.**

COACH PATTERSON: I thought **JoAnn** was huge tonight. You know, she ran the floor extremely well, she was so active against **Crystal**, and I think **Crystal** is a tremendous player; again, one of the best post players the **Big 12** has seen. It amazes me how every night people know they have to defend **Crystal** and she leaves the floor with double digits and almost double-doubles game in and game out, particularly in the last year and a half.

So for **JoAnn** to go in and stay really active with **Crystal** to bang and to deny her some touches I think was huge emotionally for her team and technically. She ran the floor so extremely well. She was aggressive, just that player that you hope can be a great presence.

So for tonight, I thought that **JoAnn** put on the shoes very much like a **Crystal Kemp** puts on for her basketball team game in and game out. **JoAnn** was that player in the pivot that everybody was looking to, to kind of play off of and play around when you needed to and she was there for us.

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**COACH HENRICKSON:** Certainly disappointed with our play and performance tonight and not much different than the game at our place which was disappointing. Seemed to allow us to shoot uncontested shots and defensively they were solid and did a nice job. Two rookies that did a lot of scoring for us, Crystal Kemp and Erica Hallman, besides those two right now we just don't have much offensive firepower as those two. So you slow those two down, there's a pretty good chance we're going to struggle, and in turn it's more magnified when we do not create offense from our defense and allow teams to shoot layups.

**Q. Can you talk about your game tonight, and Kansas State put pressure down low, talk about dealing with that for the second great game and did you do anything in practice preparing for that?**

**CRYSTAL KEMP:** I probably didn't play as strong as I should have, especially out of the double looking for other players. One of those things that I tried to take off-balance shots and I could have been a lot stronger in the double today.

**Q. Erika, it seemed like they had their way on the 3-point line, how much of that was adjusting to the different screens?**

**ERICA HALLMAN:** They did a great job chasing me off-screens and switching screens. They threw a lot of different things at me. I got a couple looks but unfortunately I was not able to knock them down.

**Q. Can you talk about your NIT chances, w NIT, what makes the team attractive?**

**COACH HENRICKSON:** I think it's the team that plays an apply good, good league and handles our games in non-Conference and a couple of games, not the last two counting and a couple one-possession games, we've got a chance for those to go either way. For us, it's an opportunity to play in postseason and we just hope the committee gives us the nod and we would be thrilled with the opportunity quite honestly.

**Q. Crystal your last chance to play K-State, what were your emotions after falling behind early and coming back?**

**CRYSTAL KEMP:** It felt a little reminiscent at first, but I think if we would have continued to try to fight and slow up some of their options and play strong defense and do what we wanted to do on offense, we could have played a better game. But unfortunately we just came out and played the way we did.

**Q. With the future of the season up in the air right now, how are you feeling about playing on or not?**

**ERICA HALLMAN:** Well, I definitely would like to play on. We haven't made it to the postseason since we been here so, if we get the opportunity, we just have to make the best out of it.

**CRYSTAL KEMP:** It would definitely be nice to be able to continue to play, especially trying to leave off on a better note than we did these last two games. That's really one of the most things I'm looking forward to.

**Q. Your emotion in the last two games, you feel like you did too much or you tried to do too much?**

**CRYSTAL KEMP:** I don't think we did too much. We probably could have did more as far as getting prepared. But there's really nothing more you can do. You can't teach anyone to have heart and go out there and play

hard, and I don't think we did that today, at least not for 40 minutes.

**Q. What's most frustrating about losing for the second time in six days, and like Crystal said, reminiscent of Thursday night?**

COACH HENRICKSON: It's certainly not executing a game plan and not being -- not having the focus and attention to detail that you need to play at this level, because it's a great league and great coaches and great players. There's not a lot of wiggle room for us and not a lot of wiggle room for a lot of people in this league. Just you're playing teams that are good enough to beat you, and it will be magnified and you'll end up on the wrong side of a 20-point loss if you beat yourself.

So it's a combination of certainly a lot of teams in this league are good enough to beat you that you just cannot come out possession after possession, beat yourself and not being focused on the defensive end and rotating. There's Not too many teams in this league you let them shot layups are going to come out on the other end, and they are not going to let you shoot layups now. Rotate and get to the rim and keep that from happening.

**Q. Is Kaylee just in a slump or are they doing something to take away her strength?**

COACH HENRICKSON: No, I think right Kaylee lacks the discipline to take an off-balance shot. They chased her, we worked on moves to get separation shots and they put her down once. I thought she practiced better the last couple of days. I was disappointed for her. For her to not being able to make that layup, it's just undiscipline. Kaylee pucks (phonetic) like a cheerleader now when she shoots a layup. How that discipline goes straight out, I don't understand it. For a senior, it's tremendously disappointing for her to be that undisciplined with the ball.

**Q. Talk about Kansas State's defense tonight and what they did against you?**

COACH HENRICKSON: Right now, with Kaylee struggling and they are not going to let you catch shooting threes, they are going to

chase you and rag you out on screens. We have to be able to shot fake, separation, use your screens, change your pace, change your speed. With Erica, we run a lot of things with Erica, they do a nice job of switching screens and rotating.

Right now we don't have a lot of separation speed on the perimeter to get some room her. **Crystal** starts a game by not being very strong and not commanding the ball and not great effort up and down, and three seniors, that's going to be tough play this time of year. They have to be better and they know that. But they rotate well and you know, unfortunately played a couple of kids every possession that you don't have to guard.

**Q. Shaquina got some big minutes tonight, what were you looking for in her?**

COACH HENRICKSON: I felt like if she could create off the dribble, for her, she's got some separation speed and can get some room. I thought her first possession, she makes a great pass to Crystal, gets the layup defensively, thinks she can hug and bother a little bit, we get to go in to take the jumper going left for the pull-up jump we need, and that was good. And at times she played well and obviously being able to run her at the point a little bit, and getting Erika back to some offense that we run to give her some green. I like can her athleticism and she played with discipline for us today, which is important for us, and all of these kids. Hopefully we let her play more next week and if not, work like crazy to play better and come back next year.

**Q. This senior class endured a lot of ups and downs; what memories stand out?**

COACH HENRICKSON: I think the three, they have been coachable since they got here, tried to make some changes and certainly wished for their senior year to have gone better. But unfortunately it's not the way the script ended for them. I think they have grown and learned a lot in the last two years about discipline and commitment and what it takes to be successful as a human being, not just as a basketball player. And even if we might have struggled, not have the success on the court that we would have liked for all of them to have, hopefully when they walk away with the

administration and support of Kansas has helped them to understand and be quality people and grow and flourish and have opportunities in the rest of their lives; what it feels like to be part of something very special.

And, you know, also hopefully this group will look back in a few years and not very many years and we're achieving the kind of success that I came to Kansas to achieve and we will do that. And those three kids can look back and say, well, I was a part of that change and I was a part of that process.

**Q. Did you come in with a monkey on your back as a victory that you need to get?**

COACH HENRICKSON: No. The schedule played that out. Obviously we didn't know we were going to play them, but they have a good basketball team. They have some young kids playing awfully well for them that we knew would play well. We thought they would be great college players. There's just so many good teams in this league, it's hard to look at one and go, that one really bothers me more than someone else. All of the teams in this league are good.

**Q. Kaylee's ankle has been bothering her did that factor in tonight?**

COACH HENRICKSON: No, she's fine.