



2013 Ohio Valley Conference Men's Basketball Championship
Game 4 – Quarterfinals – #3 Eastern Kentucky 84, #6 Southeast Missouri 68
March 7, 2013 – Municipal Auditorium (Nashville, Tenn.)

Post-Game Quotes

Eastern Kentucky head coach Jeff Neubauer

"We knew preparing for this tournament that it's about defense this time of year and when you hold a team to 39 percent from the field and 13 percent from the arc, you're doing your job. The other thing we did at the offensive end was attack. We really talked about attacking them. We didn't just want to be a 3-point shooting team. Obviously we've got a lot of shooters. We've got guys who can really shoot the ball, but we want to be attacking. When you shoot 45 free throws, it really does make a difference."

"Eric played really well. When we played SEMO in Cape Girardeau, and that was a great win for us as well, a great road win, but Eric played great there as well. Not only did he have a double-double there, but he almost had a triple-double because he also had seven blocks in Cape Girardeau. For him to play great tonight with 22 points, 10 rebounds and three assists, really important effort at an important time of year."

On Orlando Williams

"For him to recover from an injury and for him to be back out there playing is so fun to watch. Does it help our team? Does it help our defense? Yeah it does. More importantly, to see a young man go down and feel the pain and then rehab and get himself back out there. His teammates really appreciated the effort to get back and I know he's very happy to be back out there with his guys."

On run at end of first half

"We did get some steals there in the middle of the first half and then especially at the end of the first half. We've talked all year about the last four minutes of the half being our time. We were down one [point] at the under four media timeout and we had a player at the free throw line and we said, 'Alright, let's go to the free throw line and take the lead right now and we own the last four minutes.' And then we go into halftime with an eight-point lead. We really have had success there in the last four minutes of the first half and a big part of that is our [defense]."

On Murray State

"I know they've been preparing for as many as three teams, but with us being a higher seed, I'm sure they've spent some time talking about us. We only played them once this year and that's the interesting thing about the bracket we're in is that we were going to play EIU or SEMO. We hadn't seen EIU in two months. We hadn't seen SEMO in a month. We haven't seen Murray State in six or seven weeks. That's a long time. We have had success this year with zero day preps, meaning playing on one day and then coming back the very next day and playing again. We had a tournament to start the season where we played three games in three nights and we won them all. Our team has been through this before and hopefully that helps prepare us for tomorrow night."

Eastern Kentucky sophomore Eric Stutz

"We went into [the game] knowing it would be a battle and a war down [in the paint]. I'm used to being in a physical game every time I go out there, so it was just take the hit, get back up and keep playing. It was nothing new for me. I've been playing with some confidence right now."

Southeast Missouri head coach Dickey Nutt

"Glancing at this stat sheet, it makes you sick to your stomach that they shot 45 free throws to our 18. I credit them for that. They have a really good team. I've said this before that they certainly are the surprise team in the league. They are very good at what they do. They have a lot of good pieces and they shoot the ball well and they certainly are a great free throw shooting team."

"I was very proud of our seniors. I thought Nino Johnson played well tonight. In probably about the last 30 minutes he really got together and played hard and played really well. He played big. I think he is going to be a force to reckon with in the future. He's certainly going to be one of the best big men in the league with Tyler Stone."

"They pushed us out. I thought that we were okay early on because we hit some shots and then when the shots didn't go down then things changed up a little bit. I thought they do a really good job of just denying everything so basically we have to throw it over the top so we were able to get some easy looks. But that wasn't our problem. Our problem was defense. It wasn't so much offensively, it was defense. We just couldn't stop the penetration of (Mike) Dinunno and the play that he has. Then you have a big guy on the inside that's really good and he hits free throws."

Southeast Missouri sophomore Nino Johnson

"First half we kind of got out of synch a little bit with those calls the refs made. We obviously didn't play good defense but we came back. We fought back but as you can see we couldn't bring it in."

Post-Game Notes

Eastern Kentucky improves to 24-8 and advances to play second-seeded Murray State in the OVC Tournament semifinals on Friday at 8 p.m.

Eastern Kentucky improved to 25-18 all-time against Southeast Missouri and ended a two-game losing streak to the Redhawks in the OVC Tournament. Southeast Missouri defeated the Colonels in the first game of the tournament for EKV in each of the last two seasons. Eastern Kentucky has now won 10 of the last 12 meetings between the two clubs.

Eastern Kentucky sophomore Eric Stutz recorded 22 points and 10 rebounds in the game for his second double-double of the season. Ironically his other double-double for the year also came against Southeast Missouri (12 points, 10 boards) on February 2.

Stutz made 9-of-11 free throws in the contest, setting career-highs for free throws made and free throw attempts in a game.

Eastern Kentucky junior Orlando Williams netted 14 points off the bench in just his ninth game of the season. Williams missed the first 12 games of the year, then played in six outings before missing 11 more contests. He returned February 28 at Tennessee Tech. He has scored in double figures in five of the nine games in which he has played this season.

Eastern Kentucky senior Mike DiNunno registered 10 points and five assists for the Colonels. It marked his 26th game this season in double figures and 14th time he has handed out five or more assists.

Eastern Kentucky sophomore Corey Walden posted 12 points in the contest, his 20th game this season with double figures.

Southeast Missouri entered the game leading the OVC and ranking fifth nationally in 3-point field goal percentage (.402) but made just 3-of-22 from behind the arc in the contest, a putrid 13.6 percent. The Redhawks had made 10 or more trifectas in six of the last seven games before Thursday's loss.

The three trifectas was the second fewest in a game this season for SEMO behind two against Central Arkansas and three versus Missouri-Kansas City, UT Martin and Morehead State.

Southeast Missouri drops to 9-11 all-time on the OVC Tournament and 3-3 under head coach Dickey Nutt.

Southeast Missouri was held to 69 points in the contest after scoring 70 or more in 10 of the last 11 contests. SEMO was the highest scoring team in the OVC this season at 74.2 points per game.