



**2013 Ohio Valley Conference Men's Basketball Championship
Game 6 – Semifinals – #2 Murray State 82, #3 Eastern Kentucky 73
March 8, 2013 – Municipal Auditorium (Nashville, Tenn.)**

Post-Game Quotes

Murray State head coach Steve Prohm

"First of all it was a tremendous atmosphere out there. I thought it was a great atmosphere. I really appreciate our fans getting down here and supporting us. We beat a very, very good basketball team. You look at the top four teams that played tonight – Tennessee State and Eastern Kentucky – two really good teams. I think it showcased tonight how good our league is. I'm extremely proud of our guys. Eastern beat us up pretty good early in the year and our guys did a great job of responding. Our seniors had great leadership and now we're 40 minutes from our goal but we've got to beat a tremendous team to get there."

"I was proud of Brandon [Garrett] and Latreze [Mushatt]. We challenged them at halftime because that spot, the 4-5 spot, was hurting us a little bit in the first half, but we scored off our defense, got to the basket and Isaiah [Canaan] made some shots and then Dexter [Fields] missed a wide-open three that could have put us up 16 that really could have almost put it away. Our guys were really focused. I've got great kids. Through all the great wins and all the tough losses this year, these kids haven't changed who they are or what they're about and that's why we're playing tomorrow."

"We just changed a lot of the things we did offensively and then we adjusted a little bit defensively. They are a good offensive team and they spread you out so they did make shots and they shoot the basketball so well from the free throw line and from the field. We did a great job in the second half for the most part of defending them. They got some tough loose balls but I think our offensive execution was really the difference."

**Murray State senior Latreze Mushatt
On his second-half dunk**

"They opened up the lane. It was my chance to drive and I just had to finish. No matter what it was I just had to finish. I didn't want coach get on me if I missed it. It felt good to be able to dunk in a game [for the first time] since I've been injured."

Murray State senior Isaiah Canaan

"[The season's] been up-and-down but we kept our eyes up and focused on the main goal since the beginning of the season and that's winning the conference championship whether we go undefeated or whether we lost games that we did. We kept our head up and kept trying to get better each week. Now we have one game left for what we set our goal from the beginning of the year."

Eastern Kentucky head coach Jeff Neubauer

"I'm really proud of the way our team competed tonight. This certainly is not what we anticipated or expected coming into tonight. Our basketball team really competed throughout this season; we had the second best record overall in the OVC, competed at home, competed on the road and truly felt like this was going to have a different outcome."

"I don't think teams relax because a guy gets four fouls. I think Murray State did a very good job of keeping us out of the paint, so in the first half we were able to get to the free throw line. We were able to attack and get fouls. In the second half, their ball screen defense and their 1-on-1 defense was better, and we weren't able to get into the lane and we weren't able to get fouled the way we did in the first half."

"We were picked last not only by all the coaches and SID's in this league but by every publication. Mike Dinunno and Eric Stutz and all the guys in the locker room went out and have won 24 games to this point. They've competed their tails off for us to finish with the second best overall record in this conference, to have an RPI that's 66; that's unheard of in this conference and I'm really proud of what we've done."

"Mike [Dinunno] really did compete at a high level tonight. I mean really good, he took shots, made great decisions on ball screen situations and found his teammates. You're right, he is a very emotional player, but that's also what made him first-team all-conference and what has us at 24 wins at this point."

Eastern Kentucky sophomore Eric Stutz

"I've been playing pretty well at the end of the season and playing with confidence, just playing hard out there. I think that has a lot to do with it. It's just tough to see it end right now. I'll see if it can carry over to the post season now."

Post-Game Notes

Murray State advances to the OVC Tournament championship game on Saturday at 6 p.m., taking on Belmont. The Racers won the only meeting between the two clubs this season, 79-74, on February 7 in Murray, Ky.

Murray State will look to claim its record 16th OVC Tournament championship against Belmont. The Racers are 15-9 in previous tournament title games. MSU has played in the most championship games, including 11 straight from 1990-00.

Murray State upped its all-time mark to 22-13 in the semifinals of the OVC Tournament. MSU has played in the tourney semifinals in five consecutive seasons and six of the last seven years. The club also improved to 9-4 all-time at Municipal Auditorium.

Murray State senior Isaiah Canaan became the sixth player in program history to score 2,000 career points. He scored 29 points in the contest, moving past Howie Crittenden (2,019, 1953-56) for fifth place on the all-time list. Canaan now has 2,028 points, just 29 points in back of Popeye Jones (2,057, 1989-92). He is the third OVC player in the last three seasons to reach the 2,000 point plateau and the 17th in conference history.

Canaan hit five 3-pointers in the game, extending his school-record streak to 40 consecutive contests with at least one made 3-point basket.

Canaan made 6-of-7 free throws in the contest, moving past Popeye Jones (464) for fifth place on the career free throws made list at MSU. He now has 469 made free throws in his career. Canaan handed out six assists in the game, passing Isaac Miles (374) for fifth place on the all-time list. He now has 375 career assists as a Racer.

Canaan passed Popeye Jones (632, 1992), Garrett Beshear (643, 1953), Howie Crittenden (652, 1954), Justin Burdine (652, 2002) and Aubrey Reese (653, 2000) on the single-season scoring charts with his 29 points in the game. He now has 654 points this season, good for ninth place.

Canaan's five assists pushed him past Isaac Miles (123, 2011) for 11th place on the single-season charts.

Murray State senior Ed Daniel grabbed six rebounds in the contest, moving pasty Quitman Sullins (300, 1958) on the single-season rebounding list. He now has 305 caroms this season.

Eastern Kentucky dropped to 35-33 all-time in the OVC Tournament and 4-7 under eighth-year head coach Jeff Neubauer. ECU is also now just 2-9 at Municipal Auditorium.

Eastern Kentucky sophomore Eric Stutz netted 18 points in the contest and averaged 20.0 points and 7.5 rebounds in two games in the OVC Tournament. It marked the 14th double-figure scoring game this season for Stutz.

Eastern Kentucky junior Glenn Cosey posted 13 points and a career-best seven rebounds in the game. It was the 22nd double-digit scoring effort this year for Cosey as well.

Eastern Kentucky sophomore Corey Walden registered 13 points and a season-best seven boards. It marked the 21st game this season with 10 or more points for Walden.

Eastern Kentucky senior Mike DiNunno recorded 15 points and six assists for the Colonels, his 27th double-figure scoring contest this year. It marked the ninth game this season with six or more assists as well.