



**2014 Ohio Valley Conference Men's Basketball Championship
Game 2 – First Round - #6 Southeast Missouri 79, #7 Eastern Illinois 61
March 5, 2014 – Municipal Auditorium (Nashville, Tenn.)**

Post-Game Quotes

Southeast Missouri head coach Dickey Nutt

"I thought our transition basketball was pretty good. In the first half we separated ourselves a little bit. Offensive rebounding on their behalf was pretty shaky for us – 10 in the first half. But I thought our guys overall played good. I thought we came out a little bit nervous and a little shaky and that's the beauty of a tournament. Sometimes that first game is to get that one under your belt. But I was very proud of our guys. I thought Tyler Stone was really, really a good player tonight. I thought he was tough. He was inside, out. Shot the ball well. His defense was pretty good tonight. It hasn't been a secret that we haven't been the best defensive team all year long. But as of late, we've been getting a little better. We're very patient defensively tonight. What that means in my mind is that we did a good job of staying solid and not putting ourselves in a bad situation. I thought we did a decent job on them."

Southeast Missouri senior Tyler Stone

On how his outside shot changed the game

"They were kind of playing off a little bit because it hasn't been that good during the season. Coach just wants me to shoot it. There's no thinking about it. We're just up and down out there playing. Just shoot with confidence."

Southeast Missouri freshman Antonius Cleveland

"I just have to keep my confidence up and always look to attack and not take plays off. My offense starts on defense. When I get going on defense - talking and being active - the game comes easier on the other end."

Eastern Illinois Head Coach Jay Spoonhour

"I thought we tried hard, hung with them on the glass, but I thought they were awful good offensively, which they've been all year. I mean you look at the numbers at where they rank in the country...they're like top 10 in points, assists and rebounds. They were good and they deserved to win it...we battled and tried hard."

On the play of EIU Senior Sherman Blanford

"This guy here battled and played his tail off...he's been unbelievable for the last month. He was really something...ended up with 14 double-doubles in his career...it's really, really impressive and I'm sad to see him go, but I'm proud of the way he played."

On SEMO's quick-strike ability

"Yeah, they do it to everybody...they did...they get down there and get the ball up the court before you can get set. If you can take that away from them, you can be really good, but the problem is they're faster than you are and they are good at it."

Eastern Illinois Senior Sherman Blanford

"It was a great season for me. We went through a lot of struggles in the beginning – tough losses. I knew it was my last season, so I just wanted to give as much effort as possible. The last month I've just been getting after it real hard. My teammates did a good job finding me when I was open and I did a good job rebounding."

On his play in his final game at EIU

"The first half I don't think I played my best, but at halftime I had to get myself together. I had to get my mind right and come back in the second half and play my heart out. I wanted step it up on defense a little more and keep rebounding like I do."

Post-Game Notes

SEMO improves to 18-13 on the season and will advance to play Eastern Kentucky on Thursday at 8 p.m.

SEMO improves to

SEMO is making the 13th appearance in the OVC Tournament in school history and has 10-11 all-time in the tournament.

The Redhawks are now 3-3 all-time as a No. 6 seed.

The Redhawks are on a five-game win streak. It is the longest winning streak since the Redhawks won five in a row from Nov. 22-Dec. 7 this season.

EIU is now 5-11 all-time in the OVC tournament and 0-4 all time as the No. 7 seed. The Panthers are also now 0-3 against SEMO in the tournament.

Tyler Stone finished with 27 points, marking the 44th straight game that the senior has scored 10 or more points in a game.