



**2014 Ohio Valley Conference Women's Basketball Championship
Game 6 – Semifinal - #2 Belmont 65, #6 Jacksonville State 50
March 7, 2014 – Municipal Auditorium (Nashville, Tenn.)**

Post-Game Quotes

Jacksonville State head coach Rick Pietri

"Belmont's really good. Coach (Cameron) Newbauer does a great job. I think today the format got the best of us. We're playing our third game in three days and they're playing their first game in zero days. We had to exhaust every bit of energy that we had to beat them in our building last Saturday in overtime and we were fresh and had every bit of energy that was available to us. We just didn't have that reservoir today. We've only got nine kids in uniform, eight scholarship basketball players, and LeCresha Horton is a track kid. So what these kids did this year I think is really special what we were able to accomplish. I just told them in the locker room after Belmont beat us by 42 at the end of the first week of January and we were 0-4 in the league, if you had told me at that spot right there, 'Alright, you're going to win 10 of your next 15 and you're going to get to the semifinals of your conference tournament, will you take it?' I would've said you better believe I'll take that. So I'm pleased with where we've come and I'm grateful for these kids. I'm grateful for our coaching staff and everything they've put into what we did this year and the strides we've made as a program this year."

On Belmont's defense

"Lot's of people have played us differently. Our point guards, a lot of people have played off our point guards, and what they did was they basically guarded our point guard with a big and they just had the big stand in the middle of the lane. So that wadded up the space. It made it very difficult for us to get to the goal. So now it forced everything to be a jump shot. We couldn't get any lay ups. Everything became a jump shot and we had some good looks now. We had some good jump shot looks. We just didn't make as many as we have in prior days. I think part of that is legs – just not enough juice left in the tank."

Belmont Head Coach Cameron Newbauer

"Excited...very, very excited. The perseverance and the character that we've shown the last month and a half of the season...just really proud of the kids – different people stepping up at different times. Katie Carroll...tonight...wow – first half tonight...17 points...knocking 'em down, so just proud of our kids persevering and playing through things. We knew that we had to get defensive stops and rebounds tonight in order to have a chance at this game and we did that....out-rebounded them by 13 and held them to 50 points. It's just a testament to our players buying in and gritting it out defensively and on the glass, so I'm proud of them for that."

On trying to take advantage of JSU's lack of depth

"We did want to try to take advantage of that and try to run them a little bit, but they're tough. He (JSU Head Coach Rick Pietri) has a tough bunch of kids that have really bought into what he's doing, and he's done a heck of job...I mean they were 10-4 in their last 14 games coming into today, so we knew we had our hands full."

Belmont Junior Katie Carroll

"Coming into this game, we knew we wanted to execute a little better than last time we played them, so we really just got out there, were focused and we executed. All year, it's been someone's turn to step up and we have a lot of players that do that."

On the motivation of playing JSU after the 71-69 loss last week

Definitely, playing them last week, we came in with a chip on our shoulder and last year, being in this position, losing a tough one in the semis. So, we just kind of used that as motivation for this year."

Belmont Junior Jordyn Luffman

"Yes, that was something we really emphasized before the game...crashing the offensive boards and defensive boards as well, so I just got in there and the ball was falling to me. It worked out good."

Post-Game Notes

Belmont improves to 14-16 on the year and advances to play UT Martin in the championship of the OVC Tournament on Saturday at 1 p.m.

The Bruins are now 2-1 all-time in the OVC Tournament.

The Gamecocks are now 4-7 all-time in the OVC Tournament.

Belmont leads the all-time 8-3 series with the two teams splitting the regular season matchups. The Bruins won at home 92-50 before the Gamecocks picked up a 71-69 home win to close the regular season.

Belmont junior guard Katie Carroll set a career-high with 23 points against JSU.