



**2014 Ohio Valley Conference Men's Basketball Championship
Game 7 – Finals - #3 Eastern Kentucky 79, #1 Belmont 73
March 8, 2014 – Municipal Auditorium (Nashville, Tenn.)**

Post-Game Quotes

Eastern Kentucky head coach Jeff Neubauer

"For me, the most rewarding part of this and it's not even close - it's just watching these guys celebrate. Feeling Glenn Cosey's emotion right now and how excited he is but not just Glenn all 15 of our players. There are 12 teams in the OVC that work for this opportunity to be the one team to go the NCAA Tournament and to end up on top at the end is an amazing feeling especially when you've spent so much time with these young men."

On going to the NCAA Tournament

"In these last two and a half weeks of the season, my focus was to coach for these seniors and just to get them to have the opportunity to get to experience what they're going to experience right now - this media room, celebrating cutting down the nets and then everything that goes with playing in the NCAA Tournament. Not that I don't love Corey Walden and all the other guys on this team but my focus was on coaching for these seniors. They're going to enjoy every minute of this. I'm going to make sure of it. So maybe that's one thing that maybe I'm more aware of right now is that the seniors had one chance here this year to get this done and they did it."

Eastern Kentucky junior Corey Walden

On Belmont having more rest

"I think it just comes down to toughness. We knew that we would have to play one game more but we didn't let us affect us. We just wanted to come out and play hard basketball."

On if it felt like EKU was ever in trouble

"No, we didn't. We just stayed with it. We knew that they would make a run but we just had to control their run and just play good defense and stay in it."

Eastern Kentucky senior Glenn Cosey

On going to the NCAA Tournament

"It feels great. I'm super excited right now."

Belmont Head Coach Rick Byrd

"Well, I was really concerned about this game...I watched our last game with them and we won by three, but we were up by 20 at halftime and they really handled us in the second half. I knew it was going to be tough. In fact, we were really able to move the ball and get higher quality shots than I was concerned that we could get. We just didn't have a good shooting day and they did...I don't think we played poorly. We just didn't shoot the ball like this team needs to in order to win big games...and they did shoot the ball well. I thought they played really well...Jeff does a terrific job and I think they have more guys on the floor doing what their coach asks them to do than anybody that we play, conference or otherwise. I've said that for two years after trying to play those guys and figure out a way to beat them. So, I'm happy for him...he's a good guy...and for their team, and disappointed for ours."

On falling behind 17-2 to open the game

"Well, I'd rather be the team that was down 17-2 and tied it at 52 than the team that was up 17-2 and then tied. I don't think took any more out of us...They were the team playing their third game in three days. I liked our chances when we caught up, and give them credit for making some big plays. They made four or five...really late...tough, contested three-pointers at the shot clock buzzer. They deserve a lot of credit, and I think they are good enough to make a tough night for somebody in the NCAA Tournament."

On Eastern Kentucky's experience and senior leadership

"They were picked No. 1 in this conference for a reason...they had the best experience players in this league back. I thought they were just as good, a year ago, as us and Murray State, and they had everybody back. I'm still proud that we were able to finish ahead of them in the regular season because I think they are a really, really good team...and they deserved to be picked to win."

Belmont Senior J.J. Mann

"We fought back and tied it up at 54, I think, and it was a really good comeback. Then, I think they went on a quick 8-0 run. Cosey and Walden both hit big three's, and we had a couple bad turnovers that led to that...that late in the game, it cost us."

Belmont Junior Reece Chamberlain

"You have to give credit to them. They came out ready to play and we were ready to play...to start the game, we missed some open shots and they were able to hit them. They got off to the hot start."

Post-Game Notes

Eastern Kentucky improves to 24-9 on the year and wins the school's sixth title and first since 2007.

The Colonels are now 38-33 all-time in the OVC Tournament.

EKU is also now 7-4 all-time as the No. 3 seed in the OVC Tournament. The Colonels are also 7-19 against higher seeded teams since seeding began in 1975.

The Colonels improve to 7-7 in OVC Tournament games under head coach Jeff Neubauer and 5-9 in tournament games played in Nashville Municipal Auditorium.

EKU entered the contest just 1-8 all-time against the No. 1 seed in the OVC Tournament since 1975. Its other victory came over Austin Peay in the 2007 championship game.

EKU snapped a nine-game conference tournament win streak for Belmont. The Bruins are now 3-1 all-time in the OVC Tournament and 19-3 in conference tournament games since 2006.

Belmont had previously won three straight conference tournament championships – winning the 2011 and 2012 Atlantic Sun Tournament and the 2013 OVC Tournament Championship.

EKU extends its season-best winning streak to seven games while Belmont had a seven-game win streak snapped.

Belmont now leads the all-time series 4-3 after winning the only regular season matchup between the two teams 84-81 at home.

Belmont senior J.J. Mann finished with 18 points, marking the 71st time he has scored in double figures in his career.