



**2014 Ohio Valley Conference Women's Basketball Championship  
Game 7 – Finals - #1 UT Martin 78, #2 Belmont 66  
March 8, 2014 – Municipal Auditorium (Nashville, Tenn.)**

**Post-Game Quotes**

**UT Martin head coach Kevin McMillan**

"I thought that going into the game that we wanted the game to be kind of our style - our pace. I thought that they would have trouble playing it but we couldn't make them play the way that we wanted them to play. That's a tribute to them. We had to kind of grind it out a little bit with them, which was a little more in their wheelhouse. But I thought that these guys made plays that kind of got the game under control for us. I thought the second half Elizabeth Masengil made two or three really big shots that kept the distance there for us. I thought that Tiara Caldwell off the bench and then Karisma Tyson with the three at the end of the half – all three of those kids have had two big games for us. It was a tough basketball game and credit to Belmont. They played really well and just fortunate for us. I think it's very fitting, I don't know in all the records that these guys have set, number one as a class, I'm sure that Bill Worrell somewhere won four in a row and he'll probably call me here later tonight and rub something in. But I don't know of another fitting way. I've been asked quite recently a few times has there ever been two players that are number one and number two in scoring in the conference that played at the same school at the same time. I would probably say that has never happened. For this class to win four championships, I don't think we ever dreamed of that when I recruited them and told them when they were high school seniors, 'Hey, we're going to win some games.' But, very thrilled. There's a very sad part of this for these guys and us because they'll never play an OVC game again. But I think all of us are pretty happy to be where we are.

**UT Martin senior Heather Butler**

***On winning four straight OVC Titles***

"It's an amazing feeling. We are truly blessed and fortunate to have a team each year to be able to win the OVC Championship. But it's just a little different this year now because we're so hungry and we're not satisfied and we want to get to the NCAA Tournament but win a game and continue to prove ourselves to everybody. .

***On the play of her teammates***

"It's a lot of help. It really is. When you have other people helping you and you don't have all the pressure on you and all the burden of, 'oh my gah, I have to go in there and I have to score every game.' It's a lot of help. You can breathe a little bit and relax. It definitely was huge for us with K.T. (Karisma Tyson) and Katie (Schubert) and all them contributing to the score.

**UT Martin senior Jasmine Newsome**

***On Belmont's late push***

"There for a minute the last three minutes when they cut it down. I think I turned the ball over again. I think they came down and they didn't score and then we came down and we scored. I thought we were fine and we got it back under control."

***On if she's more focused during tournament time***

"I think I'm more focused during the tournament. I don't want to lose so I know I have to step my game up because other teams are stepping their game up. I think it's just the will in me of not wanting to lose and I always play my best."

**UT Martin senior Megan White**

***On what winning four championships in four years has meant***

"It's meant the world to me. These are my best friends and they're the ones that got me the rings. I would never be here if it wasn't for coach (Kevin) McMillan. And I'm not a crier – Coach McMillan always says I'm mean but I am emotional. It's been amazing and I'll take a lot of memories from winning four championships and playing at all the places that we've

gotten to go and now we get to go to one more place for the NCAA Tournament. So hopefully this year we can win a game and go to that next round."

#### **Belmont Head Coach Cameron Newbauer**

"Extremely proud of our team...we just played one of the best mid-major teams to a 12-point game. I think Coach McMillan will tell you that we gave them fits...gave them a great challenge. I think we played really hard and I couldn't be more proud of our ladies. One thing we talked about all year was playing hard regardless whether or not your shots are going down, and we did that tonight. We gritted it out, played hard and gave them our best shot...I'm just really, really proud of our ladies tonight for the game they played."

#### ***On the game plan and preparation for UT Martin***

"We noticed some player tendencies they have. We tried to take them away and do some things to make them uncomfortable. We kind wanted to chase them off the (three-point) line, but they're going to get some. Coach McMillan does a great job and they are really, really good team...won four championships in a row. I don't know – men's and women's basketball – there are not many teams that have won four championships in a row. Whatever game plan we had...they made great adjustments with as well and made big shots when had to at big times."

#### ***On his comments to UT Martin Seniors Jasmine Newsome and Heather Butler***

"I told them they can beat somebody....I told them they can win a game. I told them I've been at Louisville and Georgia for a long time, and I know what the highest level is...and I know you guys can beat somebody. I said that's what you need to do...you've got that in you and your team's got that. So, represent the OVC and get it done because they're good. People outside the OVC don't understand how good they are and how tough they are to play against. I really think, depending on the seed, they can give the right team and the right matchup...and get a win."

#### **Belmont Junior Jordyn Luffman**

"Honestly, I was just trying to play the hardest I could and put it all out there...they had players that made some huge plays for them and that's what great players do is make the plays when they have to. You know, we kept pushing and I felt great about our effort today. I really thought every player that was out there for us...and the enthusiasm on the bench...we just really put it all out there today and I'm really proud to be apart of this team."

#### **Belmont Junior Katie Carroll**

"Well at the beginning of our season we had a pretty tough schedule...I think all of those tough games and tough times that we went through – growing as a team – really shaped where we are today as a team. I think we still had some ups and downs throughout conference, but I think, as a whole, we were in it together and we wanted to put it all out there today."

#### **Post-Game Notes**

UT Martin improves to 24-7 on the year and wins its fourth straight OVC Championship.

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

The Skyhawks are 17-11 all-time in the OVC Tournament.

UT Martin senior Jasmine Newsome wins her second straight MVP award and her third tournament MVP award overall.

Belmont holds the all-times series advantage at 16-7 despite today's loss. UT Martin won the only meeting between the two teams 82-53 earlier this year.

Heather Butler connected on three 3-point field goals in today's game to push her season total to 101, which ranks as the second most made 3-point field goals in a single-season at UTM. The senior guard also holds the school record of 105 set last season and is also third with 99 in 2011-12. She also pushes her career total to 389 made 3-point field goals, moving her into a tie for fourth place with Jaleesa Ross of Fresno State in NCAA history.

Butler also finished with 12 points in the game to push her streak to 128 games with 10 or more points, giving her sole possession of fifth place in the NCAA record book. She also pushed her career scoring total to 2,846 points, moving her past Andrea Riley's total of 2,835 set at Oklahoma State for 18<sup>th</sup> place on the NCAA's all-time scoring list.

Jasmine Newsome finished with 25 points. The senior guard has now scored 20 or more points in nine straight OVC Tournament games.

UTM shot 51.9 percent from the field to improve to a perfect 13-0 when shooting over 50 percent this season.

UTM 2,563 2011-12 – this year 2,623 total points in a season