



**2015 Ohio Valley Conference Men's Basketball Championship
Game 5 – Semifinals - #3 Belmont 53, #2 Eastern Kentucky 52
March 6, 2015 – Municipal Auditorium (Nashville, Tenn.)**

Post-Game Quotes

Belmont Head Coach Rick Byrd

Opening Statement

"It never looked to me that we were the best team on the floor the whole night. I felt like they controlled, particularly in the first half. I feel like they took it to us on both ends of the floor. We were reactive to them and they were the aggressors.... They had 29 points pretty quickly, but from that point on our guys really buckled down and we played more a defensive team than an offensive team."

On playing a defensive game

"I hate it. I'd like to score 100 points, but Jeff Laidig is really a good defensive player and he ended up playing 14 minutes of the game and did a really nice job. I recruit for guys that can score and know how to play with the basketball and hope that we can work hard enough and scheme enough to be a decent defensive team. This year has been a struggle, but 52 points against an efficient team is good for our team to see that they can do that."

Belmont Sophomore Evan Bradds

On his big free throws at the end of the game

"It wasn't too bad. Every kid dreams while in his backyard playing having to hit one or two free throws to win the game for his team. I was a little comfortable but a little nerve-racking because I am not the greatest free throw shooter."

Eastern Kentucky Head Coach Jeff Neubauer

Opening Statement

"Obviously, Belmont is very well coached and those guys have been around this environment for years and years. I thought our guys did really well on defense. We did everything we wanted, defensively, except rebound. They had 15 offensive rebounds so we gave them too many second chances but we still had an opportunity to win at the end. I really have enjoyed coaching this seniors, it has been a pleasure."

On the Last Possession

"It wasn't a clean look, wasn't a layup, but I want the ball in Corey (Walden's) hands there. We had two guys underneath the basket waiting for a rebound and the ball in our best player's hands, so that's what we wanted. Belmont went zone and it took our guys a second to adjust. Corey drove the ball, but just couldn't get the shot to fall."

Post-Game Notes

Belmont reaches the OVC Championship Game for the third straight season. The Bruins will take on Murray State tomorrow at 6 p.m.

Belmont improves to 5-1 in OVC Tournament games.

The Bruins are now 6-4 against the Colonels all-time.

The Bruins get revenge from last year when ECU beat BU in last year's OVC Championship.

BU was 0-for-5 from the floor to end the game, while ECU was 1-of-11.

ECU falls to 38-34 in OVC Tournament play.

EKU falls to 4-6 against Belmont.

Coach Neubauer is now 7-8 all-time in the OVC Tournament.

The Colonels suffer their ninth loss at Municipal Auditorium.

This is the second time in the last three years that EKU has been knocked out in the semifinals.