



2015 Ohio Valley Conference Men's Basketball Championship
Game 6 – Championship - #3 Belmont 88, #1 Murray State 87
March 7, 2015 – Municipal Auditorium (Nashville, Tenn.)

Post-Game Quotes

Belmont Head Coach Rick Byrd

Opening Statement

"The last 10 minutes of the first half it looked like men among boys. We could not stop them, and I didn't have any answers. All I could say was 'guard your man' but that wasn't working. These guys found a way; kind of like they did last night."

On the game-winning play

"Taylor Barnette gets the ball off quicker than anyone else on our team and he had great range. I knew that he wouldn't miss it because of the situation... it worked and it was a matter of going for the win instead of going for the tie. I made a couple of guesses that last two nights and they turned out right."

Belmont Sophomore Taylor Barnette

On his go-ahead three-pointer at the end of the game

"Coach called the play up and it is usually run for Nick [Smith] because he has been shooting great all year. I was excited when he drew it up for me, and I just said 'Lord give me the strength to hit this shot'. Nick set a great screen and Reece [Chamberlain] made a great pass and I just let it fly and it went in... It's surreal. I am proud of my teammates and my coaching staff."

Murray State Head Coach Steve Prohm

Opening Statement

"First of all, congratulations to Belmont, they're a terrific team and deserve this, they played hard. I'm sick for our guys, especially this guy sitting beside me (T.J. Sapp). There was a situation there at the end that I should've called a timeout at but didn't, that's on me. I hate it for the seniors. These guys won 25 games in a row. Regardless of league, that is an amazing feat. We've got more basketball to play, hopefully in the NCAA Tournament because we are definitely deserving of that."

On Murray State's Tournament Resume

"The one thing I will say, is this is an NCAA Tournament team. I know you don't go off past seasons, but look at everything this league has done since 2010. Look at the guys in the NBA, Faried, Clark, Covington, and Canaan. Look at what we've done in the postseason; OVC teams have won multiple NCAA Tournament games. Look at the teams we've played: Illinois State, they beat Wichita State today; Evansville; Western Kentucky by double-figures, they beat Ole Miss (a projected No. 9 seed); and Eastern Kentucky who beat Miami (Fla.). We're very deserving; if you've watched us play then you would agree. I hope we get a chance, these guys deserve it, but if not we'll be gracious about it and play as a No. 1 seed in the NIT."

Murray State Senior T.J. Sapp

About the Loss

"We had a really good season. It came down to one shot in a tournament and I don't believe that reflects on what type of players we are, what we've accomplished as a team. We are the type of team that deserves a shot at the tournament. You've got to give it up to Belmont, though, they played a tough game and they made the shot when they needed to and ended up winning."

Post-Game Notes

Belmont wins the OVC Championship for the second time in the last three seasons. The Bruins lost last year in the Championship Game to Eastern Kentucky.

Belmont improves to 5-2 in OVC Tournament games.

BU is 4-6 all-time versus MSU and 3-2 since Belmont joined the OVC.

Craig Bradshaw now has 25 career 20-point games. Evan Bradds has eight.

Evan Bradds recorded his sixth double-double of the season.

The final time the lead was more than one possession was when MSU led, 55-49, at the 14:56 mark in the second half.

Murray State won the regular season game between the two sides, 92-77.

First loss for Murray State this season when scoring 80+ points.

Racers move to 15-11 in OVC Championship games.

Murray State suffers its 35th loss all-time in the OVC Tournament.

Steve Prohm is now 4-3 for his career in the OVC Tournament.

Racers fall to 11-8 all-time at Municipal Auditorium.

Jarvis Williams now sits at 1,000 career points.