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An interview with:

CINCINNATI

THE MODERATOR: We will get started with the University of Cincinnati Mick Cronin, Student Athletes, Sean Kilpatrick and Kevin Johnson, Coach?

COACH CRONIN: I want to congratulate Coach Jones and Central Florida on their effort last night and tonight. Some of the teams that finished toward the bottom in our league faced a great challenge in adjusting to playing in a different league against teams that had time to build. I had time eight years ago to build to play in the Big East.

Especially guys like Donnie and Coach Dickey coming from Conference USA and their team had every right to pack it in coming here. They had a great finish, big win over Houston in their last regular season game and they had a great win last night and they probably deserved to win tonight so it's a credit to Donnie Jones and his staff and their kids for the character they showed. I wanted to congratulate late them.

As for the game, Kevin Johnson made a big shot for us, obviously, in the game and we were able to get enough stops to win but other than that, I don't know how much we did well or how much we have to be proud of.

Q. Am I correct, talk about that play, because you used your All-American as a decoy and two people stayed with him and you count on your freshman. Was that a drawn-up play?

COACH CRONIN: Yeah, and I have a lot of confidence in Kevin because he's got a lot of confidence in himself. He believes in himself and he deserves a lot of credit. There were times in the regular season of conference play he didn't get a lot of minutes because he's playing behind the

player of the year in the conference and an All-American. But they were playing a box and one on S.K. so somebody was going to have to make the shot and we knew we could get that open shot in the corner.

Q. Am I correct, you went three guards a lot in the second half. Was that trying to combat the box and one or trying to get a different look to get things going?

COACH CRONIN: I thought Kevin -- we needed some energy on the defensive end and Kevin had some great rotations. They got him credited for two steals, but I thought defensively his energy was tremendous. We had some other guys that were a little lethargic and he deserved to play. He was playing well, he deserved to play. He's tough enough to guard bigger people, so is S.K., so trying to go with the guys that I thought were giving us the best chance to win.

Q. Kevin, can you talk about that shot and were you surprised when they drew it up for you?

KEVIN JOHNSON: I wasn't so surprised, I know Coach Cronin has confidence in me. Throughout the game I had a nice rhythm offensively and defensively. S.K. was getting box and one so we needed someone to step up and hit the shot. When the play was drawn up and I shot it, I was pretty confident and it went in?

Q. Mick, I know that you don't know who you will play yet with UConn and the Tigers going on the floor right now but if you were to match-up with the Tigers again, this will be on their home floor tomorrow night, just comment on the environment if you get them tomorrow night?

COACH CRONIN: My thoughts on you mean if we have to play Memphis and beat 'em for the third time in front of a sold-out crowd in the FedExForum? You gotta ask that question? Either team we play tomorrow night we're going to have to play well. Chance to get a quality win and

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get ready for a quality tournament. Obviously we're trying to win a championship here, but from here on out we're going to play teams with winning records. We're done playing anybody without a winning record. You know obviously a tremendous challenge for us to pull that off. We struggled tonight trying to beat a team for the third time. Some other teams did as well today around college basketball.

It's hard to beat a team three times in a row. Hopefully in a few years they will have that same problem in our conference tournament.

Q. Sean, talk about the -- this year just the job that they did?

SEAN KILPATRICK: They did a good job, being a decoy for my teammates is something that really pays off for me. I know that a lot of teams are going to have a lot of attention on me but my teammates can score as well and that's something we have on this team. We have a lot of weapons and a lot of talent so I let my teammates take over what they can do.

Q. Sean, were they playing you like that the whole game or just the second half?

SEAN KILPATRICK: Second half.

COACH CRONIN: Midway through the second half.

Q. Do you get frustrated when that happens?

SEAN KILPATRICK: No, we have talent, everyone can shoot and we have Justin and Titus that can pass in the high posts and that helps us a lot.

Q. Justin, what was it like when you weren't getting much playing time, playing behind S.K.?

JUSTIN JACKSON: I love basketball and I understand the position I'm in and I would come to practice and guard S.K. and continue to get better so when my name was called I could step up and help the team. I'm always willing to do anything to win. It was a tough period but it pays off now.

THE MODERATOR: Gentlemen, thank you very much.

An interview with:

UCF

THE MODERATOR: We will get started with UCF, head Coach, Donnie Jones, and forward, Kasey Wilson. Coach, if you want to talk about Isaiah Sykes and his injury?

COACH JONES: Yeah, obviously he had a tough fall at the end of the game. Couldn't tell what he had done but it looked like he had done something to his knee. He's being evaluated right now, not sure what the evaluation is at this point but we will know that soon and let everybody know but right now he's being evaluated.

THE MODERATOR: Your thoughts on the game?

COACH JONES: Great game, proud of these seniors that represented us here at UCF. These guys came so far. We may have lost on the scoreboard but those guys had a victory here today with the way they competed in this tournament and at the end of the year.

I'm proud of those guys laying this foundation for us making this move in this conference this year and I'm proud of how we competed. Had a great opportunity down the stretch, obviously Cincinnati is a great team, Mick has done a terrific job with them. There is a reason they finished first in this league and we had a chance down the stretch and they made the plays. Congratulations to Cincinnati but I'm very proud of our basketball team today.

Q. Donnie, I was going to ask you about the decision to go box and one and how effective that was?

COACH JONES: Yeah, we worked on that in the ballroom today. We didn't have shoot around, we taped off a room up there and we told our guys we were going to hold it close to the second half, trying to keep it close so they couldn't make adjustments at half time, and we were there, 1-point, 3-point game and we put it in to see what would happen. I thought it was very effective, we were trying to force other guys to make plays for them just to get them out of rhythm. They're such a rhythm team and obviously Sean Kilpatrick is the focal point. We limited him, I don't think he got a field goal during that stretch until the end when he made four free throws, and I thought we did a good job of changing their flow, which is what we wanted to do.

Q. Any affects from last night's double overtime? Did y'all feel any of that at any point in the game?

COACH JONES: Kasey?

KASEY WILSON: I don't think so, we were well rested and we played a lot of minutes last night, but I don't think it carried over. We played as hard as we could during the game so I don't think it affected what happened today.

COACH JONES: I agree, last night was a hard-fought game, as I told them, fatigue is mental, those guys play AAU ball and on weekends they play sometimes 15 games so when you're playing for an NCAA Tournament opportunity you don't have time to be tired. No excuses for that. I thought we played with the right energy and the right focus and it came down to making plays.

Q. Donnie, could you talk about that 3-pointer in the right corner? Was that something you were looking for?

COACH JONES: Absolutely, we were box and one had Justin McBride over on that side and during time out I switched Kasey over to that side because I knew they were going to run something over there. We had to choose -- it was a 2-point game and we didn't want to close all the way to the three-point line obviously they bring in a kid off the bench that didn't have a lot of minutes for them. We live with the long three and he made a play, so give him credit and that's what guys gotta do to advance in this tournament and they did. We thought about going man-to-man but obviously that means we would give Sean Kilpatrick a chance to make a play or get fouled and there is no one better in the league than him in doing that down the stretch.

We had to play the percentages, and that's what got us here so we live with it.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, gentlemen.

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