



Postgame Notes
No. 4 Rutgers 68, No. 5 SMU 49
Game 3 – Quarterfinals, March 8, 2014
Mohegan Sun Arena – Uncasville, Conn.

Rutgers Postgame Notes

- The Rutgers backcourt tandem of sophomore guard Kahleah Copper (22 points) and freshman guard Tyler Scaife (18 points) combined for 40 points on 14-of-31 (45.1 percent) shooting during Saturday's American Athletic Conference Championship tournament quarterfinal win over SMU at Mohegan Sun Arena. Copper (15.8 ppg) ranked 7th in scoring in the American during the regular season while Scaife (13.7 ppg) ranked eighth.
- Rutgers completed the season sweep of the Mustangs, winning all three meetings between the programs.
- The Scarlet Knights (22-8) held SMU to just 21.7-percent shooting (5 of 23) in the second half while outscoring SMU 44-19. The Mustangs shot just 30.4-percent from the field, the third time this season they shot below 40 percent against Rutgers.
- Rutgers improved to 11-7 all-time in conference tournament quarterfinal games, and has a total conference tournament record of 24-16.
- Rutgers used decisive second-half runs of 18-4 and 12-1 to close out the Mustangs.
- Junior forward Betnijah Laney, who ranked third in the American in rebounding during the regular season (8.9 rpg), had 10 points and a team-high 10 rebounds for the Scarlet Knights. It was her 15th double-figure rebounding game of the season, and her 13th double-double.
- Rutgers used a 14-0 run during a span of 3:46 to open an early 16-5 lead with 14:28 left in the half. But from that point until halftime, SMU outscored the Scarlet Knights 25-8, getting five threes in that stretch.

SMU Postgame Notes

- SMU senior guard Keena Mays, who led the American in scoring (20.8 ppg) during the regular season, was 5 of 8 from three-point range in the first half, collecting 15 points in the opening 20 minutes. She knocked down a three to start the game, then made four more during a 25-8 SMU run that gave the Mustangs a 30-24 halftime lead. Mays was held without a three in the second half, however, and finished with 23 points. Mays has 25 threes in her last seven games, and she has 78 for the year, a single-season program record.
- In the two prior meetings with Rutgers this season, Mays was just 2 of 12 from three-point range and made just 9 of 33 (27.2 percent) of her shots from the field. That is well below the 42 percent Mays shot from the field this season.
- Mustangs (17-13) lost for just the third time this season when leading at halftime. They were 14-2 during the regular season when leading at the break. One of their two losses came against Rutgers on February 8th. In that game, SMU led 35-31 after 20 minutes, but eventually dropped a 65-64 decision.

- Senior forward Akil Simpson led SMU with 11 rebounds. It was her 11th double-figure rebounding game of the season.
- SMU was outscored 30-14 in the paint, and by 10 points at the free throw line (8 of 14 compared to 18 of 21 for Rutgers). SMU did not attempt a free throw until Mays went to the line and made both attempts with 17:28 remaining in the game.

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