



Postgame Quotes
No. 7 Memphis 71, No. 10 SMU 59
Game 2 – First Round, March 6, 2015
Mohegan Sun Arena – Uncasville, Conn.

Head Coach Melissa McFerrin
Memphis

Opening Statement

"We were committed to showing energy and resolve to settle an ugly feeling about our loss to SMU earlier this week. They were committed to a full court, man-to-man defense and I think that was the difference in the game. It was a completely different game plan than the last time we played them and players wanted to play up the floor and the 25 turnovers, did it. I also thought we got really good scoring, really good balanced scoring between our post players and our guards and obviously we shot the ball pretty well."

On the balanced offensive output in tonight's contest:

"Well, I'll tell you, we've worked a lot this week on our zone offense and we've really been searching all year for four double-digit scorers. Now, we weren't quite there tonight, but we got contributions from a lot of different people. I also think we got some easy buckets from our defense, so that certainly helps the point total as well."

On advancing in the tournament and taking on USF tomorrow:

"I told the players before the game that in order to participate in March, you have to win. So, we looked at the calendar, it was March 6th, and we decided it was time that we participate in March. I think the players were really ready to play this evening and we're anxious to have USF again. Obviously, they beat us pretty badly at their place and it was a very close game at our place, but the 'madness' doesn't begin until you win a game, so we're happy to be in game two."

On the team's mentality from the opening tip:

"I think it was that we were disappointed with our game at SMU and they were the aggressor in our own gym, so that motivation from the loss of that game was a little bit of what you saw this evening. We were disappointed and knew that we had to play better this evening. They're a good basketball team; they've got good size. I've got to give a little shout out to our post players tonight. We were really disappointed in our post players in the first game against SMU, we didn't think we challenged their size. We only went to the free throw line six times, tonight we went 24 times and I thought our post players were very, very aggressive in getting the ball to the rim."

Ariel Hearn
Memphis

On having extra motivation after being named Second Team All-Conference:

"I was, [more motivated], I did see that I made second team all-conference, but then again, that means nothing. Piggybacking off of what Coach said, it was an ill feeling Monday night when we lost at home, so I kind of had a great attitude and mindset and my mentality was to just go out and dominate."

On tallying 100 assists for the third straight season:

"I love "dime-ing". My coach gets on me all the time about creating shots for my teammates, especially if I'm not on, Coach tells me to attack, create for my teammates and get them open shots."

On the importance of rebounding:

"Rebounding is very important. Rebounding is what wins and loses basketball games. Coach stressed the importance, before the game, of boxing out and getting rebounds. They outrebounded us in the first half, so that was key in the second half."

On the physicality and toughness between the two teams:

"Coach always talks about us being tough and being the toughest team. Like Coach said, tonight, we came out in the first half with a great mentality, we came out with pressure, and that really helped us."

-- AMERICAN --