



Postgame Quotes
No. 7 Memphis 51 vs. No. 2 USF 79
Game 6 – Quarterfinals, March 7, 2015
Mohegan Sun Arena – Uncasville, Conn.

Memphis Head Coach Melissa McFerrin

Opening Statement

"Probably the two things that we were most concerned about were their transition offense and their rebounding. Those were the first two things on the board and were the two things that we knew if we didn't hold in check could very likely spell our doom and that was certainly the case. Just in the locker room talking to the players – I think they've got great habits of sprinting the lanes and making it very, very difficult. They have athleticism certainly, but it's more South Florida's discipline in sprinting and keeping pressure on the defense at all times. And there were very few things that we could do to slow them down. It didn't matter if it was a made basket or a miss. I thought they were just relentless in running the floor. The second thing – they were just relentless on the glass. That starts with Jenkins, and she made all of the difference in the game in the first seven minutes. She dominated it really without even touching the basketball on the offensive end except for a rebound. And that was the game – put quite simply – that was the basketball game."

On team culture, values and never giving up:

"I'll just say from my perspective, first of all, I don't ever believe it's acceptable to quit. We try to instill that in our players, and certainly as a coach if I sit down and start taking it easy because we've had a bad first half, I don't think that sends a very good message to our team players. We may not always play well. We may not always win, but we are going to try to find solutions until the clock says zero. Hopefully, over time, you build a habit to do that for every possession."

On positives from season and moving forward:

"I think the positive is that we have a team that has enough ability to be successful going forward. We've learned some lessons this year. I think we have an understanding that opportunities are opportunities, but until you grasp them by the throat and wrestle them to the floor that doesn't necessarily mean they're yours. It means they're opportunities. I think our challenge over the course of the offseason is going to be how to collectively learn how to wrestle those opportunities to the ground and make them ours. I have a very strong belief in this team. It doesn't go without its challenges, and it doesn't go without hard lessons, but I do think this team has an opportunity to be successful going forward and we're going to lean really heavily on our senior class next year. I think as juniors they felt like they perhaps knew what it was to be a leader or to bring it every day, but there were some lessons that they yet needed to learn. So we have to hope and continue to instill those work habits in our players and mentality in our players – particularly our seniors – because they will carry us next year. Next year we have no...don't want to say excuse, but next year we're going to have five seniors, so next year we're going to expect those seniors to carry us to success."

On final words to USF:

"I want to give a lot of credit to USF – very, very good basketball team. They're going to do very, very well going forward and be a very good team in the NCAA tournament, and we wish them nothing but the best."

Junior Guard Ariel Hearn
Memphis

On thoughts for fans and teammates:

"Like coach said, I do still believe in us as a team. We have seniors next year. Ariel Hearn has to step up and be a better leader. I think I lacked in some of those areas this year. That's pretty much it."

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