



**Postgame Quotes**  
**No. 6 Tulane 71 vs. No. 3 Tulsa 53**  
**Game 7 – Quarterfinals, March 7, 2015**  
**Mohegan Sun Arena – Uncasville, Conn.**

**Tulsa Head Coach Matilda Mossman**

***Opening Statement***

"When you make shots, it gives you confidence. I think their ability to make shots and their ability to score off of our turnovers – I thought that gave them a lot of confidence."

*On looking forward to next year:*

"I think looking forward, we do lose two seniors – Mariah Turner and Kadan Brady. We have a pretty good recruiting class coming in, but they're all freshmen. Looking at where we were four years ago, when we came into this situation, the previous team had won five games. So now we're here four years later, we've been to an NCAA tournament, we have a winning season now, we're looking at playing in the NIT, so I think we're looking at building on where we are right now. We had two major injuries over the summer to our four players Te'ra Williams and Liesl Spoerl, so we opened up the season with Ashley playing the four, and Ashley is not a four, but she played that role really well for us. Kadan Brady has played a four; Kadan Brady is not a four. We've played shorthanded, and it took us a while to figure out how to play without really having a true four player. Once we figured all that out, we were able to win a bunch of games. We won 10 out of 12 through a stretch there, and I still think we're that team that won 10 out of 12 – it's just we ran into a really hot shooting team tonight and a team that forced a lot of turnovers."

*On experience first year coaching in the conference:*

"It's been nothing but positive. I think the exposure we've received by being a member of the American Athletic Conference is tremendous. I think it's been exciting to play in this league – playing some new teams – and I think having the number one team in the country in your league automatically gives you a different stature, gives you a different respect, so I'm so glad that we're in the same conference with UConn. We're in a conference that has really quality head coaches and staffs. We've gone up against some of those guys in previous years. From top to bottom we've got really good coaches in this league. You look at the top two or three players on each team – there are some really good quality players in this league."

*On difficulty with Tulane's defense and utilizing Ashley as a scorer:*

"Early on we had the lead. I think that we were up by seven at one point. Things were in our favor, and again, when we go in the locker room and we're down five and we've had 16 turnovers, we felt pretty good. It's just that in the second half I think that's when Kaplan hit a couple of threes. They got hot from the three-point range – I think they were 10 for 17 from three. That's like 59 percent. That's really good. That's about twice as good as teams normally shoot. And again, we went through a stretch there where they were making threes

and we were making twos. Then, you add in the component on our end where Ashley is the only one scoring, and we couldn't get anybody else going from an offensive standpoint. That put a lot more pressure on Ashley, but I thought that she handled that really well. Because we weren't scoring from the outside, they were packed in their zone even more. We put Ashley at the high-post and put her on the baseline and just let her go to work and even though things were packed in on her, she was still able to go score."

*On what it means to have two players reaching the 1,000 point scoring milestones:*

"I think, first of all, when you have two freshmen coming into your program as quality as Ashley [Clark] and Kelsee – when the previous year your team had only won five games, they're taking a big chance because they had options to go to other places. I think they believed in what we were doing and wanted to be a part of changing the culture of our program. That's what we worked really hard to do – is to change the culture. Ashley and Kelsee have both played and started a lot of games for us. Since their freshmen year, they've been a huge part of what we do every day, so it's not a surprise that those two became members of our 1,000-point club. They are only the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> people to do so in our program, so there's not a big long line of people who have scored 1,000 points. I think that the ceiling is the limit for both Ashley and Kelsee. They still have games to play this year and a whole season next year. We hope that as we continue to bring players into our program that they will continue to rise to the heights that Ashley and Kelsee have given us. I throw Mariah and Kadan into that mix too because Kadan and Mariah weren't here that first year. Ashley and Kelsee were really a part of that first recruiting class. For Kadan and Mariah to leave the legacy that they're leaving on our program is huge. It's Ashley's class – it's their turn to raise that bar even higher."

"Again, I think Tulane was really good tonight, and I wish them the best of luck in postseason."

### **Junior Guard Ashley Clark**

*On the second half:*

"I think that we still fought. We didn't just stop – even though the score may have seemed differently. In the end, I think, Tulane is a really good team. From years past, ever since my freshman year, it's always been up and down. We've never kind of know where we're going to get with us or with them. If things go differently, like coach said, you know, our turnovers were a hindrance for us. We obviously decreased turnovers in the second half, but they made more shots than we did and got up more shots than we did. It was just a lot of our turnovers what kind of hindered us but overall, like coach said, if you take that away, the outcome could've been a lot different."

*On turning the page and looking toward next year:*

"It'll be a learning curve because the same exact thing kind of happened my sophomore year – we got a lot of newcomers and this year we'll get a lot of newcomers. We'll just have to adjust well especially since we went through a rough patch last season with a lot of newcomers. Hopefully we'll know how to adjust and have another good season like we did this year."

"At the beginning, I wasn't really doing, I guess, what I do. My coaches and my teammates were telling me to attack, and so mentally I had to change the way that I thought. When I got in, I was thinking if I was open – I was thinking attack. I didn't try to shoot it too much because when I did I missed, so I tried to get a higher percentage shot, and thankfully it worked as far as scoring, but not necessarily as far as winning the game. I just tried to what the coaches were telling me and what my teammates were telling me – literally: Ashley go attack – it's what you need to do; that's what you do. So I really tried to listen to my teammates and coaches."