



Ben Howland Quotes

December 14, 2016

East Tennessee State vs Mississippi State

Opening statement...

“Obviously a tough loss against what I think is a very good team. We knew (East Tennessee State) was good going into the game. They are really tough. They are veteran. Their two starting guards were terrific. They really played well. In the first half, I was disappointed in our transition defense. We will watch this film as a team and point out those things. I thought we made a great comeback and had an opportunity down the stretch with the game tied where we just needed to get a stop. They had 38 points in the paint tonight. That is way too many points in the paint. We have to know the personnel better in the scouting report. Aric (Holman) did a good job in the second half. We have to a better job defensively and especially guarding the dribble. At the end of the game, they had three shots. That was a heck of a shot by Lamar (Peters). Lamar made a couple big threes for us down the stretch. You could see our youth versus their experience. Our freshman against their guys who have been through a lot of wars. Give them credit.”

On the rebounding battle...

“The first half, we were doubling the post. We were not rebounding on offense in the first half. We played harder in the second half. I tried to make it really clear how good this team was. I felt like we were a step slow to start the game in terms of our intensity and physicality. In the second half I was really pleased with how we rebounded. I thought Mario Kegler did a great job rebounding for us. We have to get better at guarding the ball and staying in front of dribblers.”

On his team's intensity...

“This team we played tonight is really good. They came in here totally focused. Give them a lot of credit. If you told me that East Tennessee State is going to win their conference, I would say that there is a great chance of that happening.”

On Quinndary Weatherspoon's performance...

“I thought Q, in the first half, was taking a couple of quick shots and shooting jump shots rather than attacking the rim. He has to be more patient and let the game come to him. I thought, in the second half, he did a better job of settling down. He got out of control a couple of times late in transition. He has to play under more control. He is our best player. We expect so much of him because of that, but again, he is just a sophomore and is still learning. He has to learn from this as we watch the film tomorrow.”



HEAD COACH STEVE FORBES QUOTES

December 14, 2016

East Tennessee State vs Mississippi State

Opening Statement...

“I knew that MSU would make a run after halftime. I was a little concerned because we had not extended the lead like I thought we could have. We missed some easy shots and free throws, but I really liked the toughness we showed. We talked a lot about toughness early in the week.”

On the team’s preparation for tonight...

“We had four practices and individual meetings that lasted for three hours on Monday. Our individual meetings were with every player, we talked about doing more on the court and tonight they really showed me that they got tougher and grittier.”

On the overall game...

“I thought Desonta Bradford had a great game down the stretch. We put the ball in his hands. We didn’t run a lot of ball screens in the first half. We ran a lot of ball screens in the second half, because MSU has young big men that aren’t really seasoned on how to defend that yet. I thought we were turning the corner a lot and getting to the basket. We struggled getting a few rebounds from their big men, but overall an offensive rebound won the game for us.”

On the winning play...

“We went Memphis, they run it as well, its dribble-drive. We run a blur up top and were trying to get the shot to Desonta (Mosquera-Perea). He got a pretty good shot off, a little off balanced though. We told (Desonta) Mosquera-Pera that he was going to have a good shot of getting the offensive rebound because (Aric) Holman is likely going to try to block it and I’m pretty sure he did, so that gave us the chance to get the ball and score to ultimately win the game.”



MISSISSIPPI STATE PLAYER QUOTES

December 14, 2016

East Tennessee State vs Mississippi State

F – Aric Holman – So.

On handling adversity during the game...

“It was really tough but at the end of the day I’ve got to keep faith in my team. We have been in situations like that. We felt comfortable in those type situations.”

On the last play of the game...

“I saw the other team taking a shot. My teammates were boxing out. I didn’t hold my box out long enough and my man got a put back.”

On what he was doing to obtain such a high number of blocks...

“I was just seeing the ball and getting midline with the balls opposite. The most important thing is just getting in the stance. I just focused on that more in the second half.”

On how he has improved his defensive play...

“I am just focused more. I am paying more attention to things like film and focusing on improving myself.”

G – Mario Kegler – Fr.

On losing momentum after the first six minutes...

“I came out and I was feeling it early. When I came out of the game, I’m not sure if I lost confidence or what. It was just off.”

G – Quinndary Weatherspoon – So.

On what ETSU was doing to defend him...

“I don’t think they were doing anything spectacular. I just couldn’t get it going. I wasn’t shooting the ball very well. I will try to get in the gym tomorrow and get some shots up that way I can be prepared for Monday.”

On if his wrist affected his play...

“No, I was just off tonight.”



East Tennessee State Players
December 14, 2016
East Tennessee State vs Mississippi State

G – Desonta Bradford – Jr.

On the offense being focused around him...

“My teammates and coaches believe in me a lot, and that’s great. They gave me the confidence to make plays.”

On beating a SEC school...

“It’s big to win on the road in any conference, at any level. It’s a big boost for us as we move forward into the next games.”

On their defense...

“Coach was talking about grit and toughness, he didn’t think we played with any grit or toughness the last couple games, so he challenged us to do that. The coaches have been drilling it into our heads to play aggressive on defense. I can’t say we have all year long but it is coming along now.”

G – Hanner Mosquera-Perea – Sr.

On the last second bucket...

“I just saw an opportunity to come back and help my team get a win. Coach always tells us never to give up and we didn’t. We believed in Desonta and knew he was going to have the ball, so we just had to box out because we knew the ball was coming. We just had to box out and get the rebound.”

On the game overall...

“Sometimes the game is just going to be like that, you’ve got to find a way to win.”



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY Basketball

East Tennessee State at Mississippi State
Wednesday, December 14, 2016
Humphrey Coliseum
Starkville, Miss.

Paid Attendance: 6,479

Mississippi State Team Notes

- East Tennessee State improved to 3-1 all-time against Mississippi State.
- The Bulldogs improved to 42-14 all-time against Southern Conference teams.
- MSU fell to 0-3 when trailing at the half.
- MSU is now 3-1 in games decided by 10-points or less.

Mississippi State Individual Notes.

- Aric Holman totaled 17 points, one shy of his career high.
- Mario Kegler had 8 rebounds, one shy of his career high.