



Friday, March 12, 2010
#1 Temple 69, #8 St. Bonaventure 51

SAINT BONAVENTURE COACH MARK SCHMIDT

Opening Statement

"I give all the credit in the world to Temple. They are a terrific team, a terrific defensive team. We didn't get off to a great start. They are a physical team. They run a great half-court offense where they take care of the ball. We had a hard time keeping them in front. In the first half, we got down early but we fought. We cut it to seven points, but, to play Temple we have to be kicking on all cylinders. I thought we took care of the ball decently, but, they are so physical. They beat up on Andrew (Andrew Nicholson) and if we are going to win, we need him to play well. That is why they (Temple) are one of the top teams in the country."

On stopping Lavoy Allen and Juan Fernandez

"It is really hard. They have a good inside-outside game. When Allen is playing the way he played today, it's hard. Fernandez has a great IQ for the game, when he is shooting the ball like he did today. I think they have great role guys, not just Allen and Fernandez. You have to pay attention to Brooks (Ryan Brooks) and Guzman (Luis Guzman). Fernandez just hit tough shots and Allen was tough inside. They are a tough team to play both offensively and defensively."

On trying to get back in the game when Temple is taking care of the ball

"That is why they (Temple) are having so much success. When they get you down, they are a tough team to come back on. They take the air out of the ball and control the tempo. We wanted to control the tempo. We got down early and played into their hands. They are such a great half-court defensive team, it is tough to get on rolls. They take care of the ball so well, so you aren't going to get a lot of things in the open court. It was important for us to get off to a good start to keep it close and we didn't do that."

On Andrew Nicholson taking most of his field goal attempts in the first half

"We wanted to go inside. We are better when we go inside-out. He missed some chippies and then he started to slide out a bit which we didn't want him to do. We wanted to go inside and attack their big guys. We did that at times and we had some opportunities at times. That was the game plan to go inside. "

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SAINT BONAVENTURE SENIOR GUARD JONATHAN HALL

On having a tough time getting things going against Temple

"I thought they played wonderful defense. They (Temple) took away what we like to do. They took Andrew (Andrew Nicholson) away which bothered our offense. That is what good defensive teams do."

On having any nervousness coming into today's game

"I wouldn't say nervousness, we weren't taking care of the ball or defending. When we got locked in on defense, we got back into the game. It wasn't nervousness, it was our execution."



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TEMPLE HEAD COACH FRAN DUNPHY

Opening statements on the game:

"I thought we played very well, to be honest with you. I thought our defense was pretty good, in particular, in the second half we threw up some good defensive numbers. I thought we got off to a very good start. I thought Juan got us out of the gate well. I think everybody gave a pretty solid effort. For us to only turn it seven times is good and we had a decent shooting night as well."

TEMPLE SOPHOMORE GUARD JUAN FERNANDEZ

On other tournament upsets:

"We're just thinking about us, we're not trying to see what happens with other teams. We came to this tournament a lot different then what it was last year. Getting the first seed, we need to show why we got the first seed. We still have two more games which will be even harder than today."

TEMPLE SOPHOMORE GUARD JUAN FERNANDEZ

On playing outside-in:

"Sometimes we just see how the game goes. They had a zone too and we move the ball pretty well. Sometimes the open shot is easier against the zone, going for three pointers and not inside. We just went with what they gave us and we did a good job realizing and finding the open shot."

TEMPLE HEAD COACH FRAN DUNPHY

On other tournament upsets and the team:

"You know, you worry about those of things. The first couple practices this week were not great and it got a little better the closer we got to playing the game. I was concerned, but this is an interesting group to be around. They don't seem to be too nervous. They don't seem to be too uptight. I think they have a sense of what they want to get accomplished. That doesn't mean we're always going to play well, but I think they understand the task."

On St. Bonaventure:

"I think St. Bonaventure, coming into the game, was playing very, very good basketball. They won five of six games. We were worried about how they would come out and approach us as well. So, I think coming out and getting a good start on both ends of the court really helped us."

On playing Saint Louis or Rhode Island:

“Certainly, we’ve played Saint Louis very recently so we have a better sense and feel for how they will approach us. We will go and watch the second game and study film tonight. We’ll walk through a lot of the steps of either Rhode Island or Saint Louis. In addition to that, we’ve played Rhode Island twice, so we know them very well also, but we just haven’t played them as recently as Saint Louis. They have two distinctly different styles so we’re going to have our hands full no matter who that elite opponent will be.”