



Friday, March 12, 2010
#5 Rhode Island 63, #4 Saint Louis 47

RHODE ISLAND COACH JIM BARON

Opening Statement

"We played them earlier and lost by five out in Saint Louis and I think our guys were focused with coming into this game of what we needed to do. We needed to rebound the basketball and keep our pressure up along with sharing the basketball. We really did a great job of rebounding and getting to the offensive glass. We were able to turn them over 13 times, we got great bench outcome with 27 points. It was an excellent team effort for us and I have to give our guys credit as they came in understanding the gameplan. Coming from our game Tuesday night at the Ryan Center against Saint Joseph's, our guys were really focused."

On playing Temple

"They are a very good top 20 team. Excellent players, great coach. They have excellent chemistry and its going to be an excellent challenge for us. We are looking forward to it. We have to be ready intense wise as the (Temple) crowd will be here. But, again, that is what you play for. Our guys are looking forward to the challenge."

On being on the bubble

"It is tough because we can't control it. This was a great win for us as Saint Louis is a 20-win team. They have had a great season. You are in the league, and you hope that can help carry you. I look at our body of work. We have play have had tough losses on the road. We lost to Temple who has been a top 20 team all year, Richmond is in the top 25. We don't have the flexibility of scheduling that other conferences have. It's a little bit more of a juggling act for us. This conference is as good as it has been in a while."

On the first half run by Saint Louis

"We knew about the capabilities they had. They can really shoot and score the ball. Mitchell (Saint Louis sophomore guard Kwamain Mitchell) is second-team all-league. It got our guys attention and they stepped it up defensively. We broke down tape of what they are going to do and we told them we had to react better. We didn't give up many lob dunks like we did in the first game. Our kids really followed the game plan."

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On the play of Lamonte Ulmer in the game

“He is a guy who I think is one of the most improved players in the league. He comes to play every day with high energy. He has gotten better every year. You don’t get too many Lamonte Ulmer’s in your career. That kid is special and you can see the high energy he has on offense and defense. He is a live body. Then you have a kid like Orion Outerbridge and you see how they play together. He is a terrific player. It’s a pretty good league when he is not on one of the teams. This league is tremendous.

On the play of the defense today

“This is one of our best defensive efforts. It comes at a great time. Sometimes as you go through this, a lot of my stance has been we have to work to get better. The kids really stepped it up on the offensive end and rebounding. We did what we needed to do defensively.”

RHODE ISLAND SENIOR FORWARD LAMONTE ULMER

On overcoming recent struggles

“It has to transfer over from practice. We go hard at each other at practice and hope it transfers over to the floor during games. “

On getting 17 offensive rebounds

“It was a big key to the game. We made ourselves active on the board and coach told us in order to win this game, we need box outs. We needed to be on the glass and run the court.”

On the play of the starters in the second half and the bench in the first half

“When the bench comes in, they always play with high intensity. Today, they started it first and in the second half, we started to get more comfortable and attack them. We did our job.”

On playing Temple for the third time

“They are a top 20 team, but, we have to go in there and be focused as we were today. Defense is going to help create our offense. We have to play as a team.

RHODE ISLAND SOPHOMORE FORWARD ORION OUTERBRIDGE

On overcoming recent struggles

“We knew defense was going to win this game. We just tried to lock on our defenders, try not to foul them and play straight up. We tried to do a better job of that this time.”

On getting 17 offensive rebounds

“It was about getting position. We tried our best to box the man out and get better position. It’s all about who wants it more in the end.”

On the role the bench played in the win

“We go against the starters all the time in practice. We go against them hard and sometimes on the floor, it’s like going against ten starters. It was a lot easier going hard against those guys by playing the starters every day.



Friday, March 12, 2010
#4 Saint Louis 47, #5 Rhode Island 63

Saint Louis Head Coach Rick Majerus

Opening Statement

"Rhode Island is an outstanding club. They took it to us in every aspect of play. They owned the game tonight with their energy and effort. It was a terrific win for them.

Saint Louis Sophomore Guard Kwamain Mitchell

On the game:

"Rhode Island is a great team and ran it to us from the jump and we didn't respond."

Saint Louis Sophomore Guard Kyle Cassity

On the game:

"I think after the Dayton game, which I'm sure Rhode Island saw, they decided that's something that we do good and they did a good job of guarding us from the three point line."

On the second half:

In the second half we usually come out and put a run on them there, but it was the exact opposite today. Rhode Island came out after the half and really put it to us there. They put us in a hole and we couldn't dig our way out.

Saint Louis Head Coach Rick Majerus

On Rhode Island's gameplay:

"They took it too us. Conlkin got man handled there. They were physical, more animated and more energized. I can't tell you anything strategically about it. I just give them a lot of credit."

On the 2009-2010 season:

"We had a terrific year. We were the youngest team in the country. To win eleven games and finish in a definitive fourth in this league, and to have closed off four in a row on the road, its just so disappointing tonight."