

2009 General Shale Brick Atlantic Sun Men's Basketball Championship

Belmont vs. ETSU. 3/6/09, Semifinals

ETSU

Head Coach Murry Bartow

Opening Statement

“Belmont is a heck of a good basketball team, they’ve got really good players, Rick is a heck of a coach, obviously winning the last three tournaments. We felt we could win the game. Looking at this year we tried not to look at past years. We really felt if we played well that we had a chance to win... Games like this come down to players. Both these guys sitting next to me [Courtney Pigram and Kevin Tiggs] played phenomenal. I thought Mike Smith great game. I thought our supporting cast Tommy Hubbard, Isiah Brown, Greg Hamlin [played outstanding] and Jarvis Jones gave us a lift in the first half, but I’m really proud of our team”

To regroup for tomorrow...

“I think this team has been very focused all year on what they want to get done and we just haven’t gotten there yet. We are thrilled to get this win and get by the Belmont team, but we aren’t there yet.”

Courtney Pigram

On getting the win...

“I had to push myself so we could pull it out. I wasn’t keeping track of my points. I was just playing to win. I don’t think I head it out there [that I reached 2,000 points].”

Kevin Tiggs

On his advantage down low...

“I feel like [I have an advantage down low] every time. Whenever I get it close to the rim, I know its going in. It shocks me if it doesn’t go in.”

Belmont

Head Coach Rick Byrd

“Well obviously a bunch of disappointed guys. The run that our team has made, our school has made - three straight championships, 10 tournament wins. Whenever it was going to come to an end it was going to be difficult. We just ran into a team tonight that had a great plan, executed them and made big shots. [Courtney] Pigram was unbelievable... Plenty of times to win the game, but we couldn't get stops.

It's a great era in Belmont basketball. If we tried to tell these guys (Alex Renfroe and Andy Wicke) when we recruited them that we'll go to the [NCAA] tournament every year and win three straight championships, they would say 'I like your optimism, but your crazy'. To get to the point where we were one possession away from beating the best team in college basketball history (Duke) is says remarkable things about these guys.”

Andy Wicke

On his last game...

“I can't believe it's over. Our whole lives since we were four or five, every winter we've had a basketball season. It's hard to think about what I'm going to be doing next winter. I know that I will look back, its bitter right now, but I won't change a thing about my career and the people I was around and places where I went.”

Alex Renfroe

ETSU focusing on his play...

“Coming off a ball screen they would make me give it up or close their gap so I couldn't get to lane. It was good playing.”

On not having another basketball season...

“Its something we've been looking forward to every year. The end is right now, I'm speechless. Just to wake up and realize that I don't have practice or a game to prepare for, I'm going to be a little lost.