

**2010 General Shale Brick
Atlantic Sun Basketball Championships
Mercer Bears vs. Belmont Bruins, March 4, 2010, First Round**

Mercer Bears Quotes

Head Coach Bob Hoffman:

General thoughts:

“That might be our lowest turnover stat of the year and when you play a team like Belmont who is well coached and plays every possession that’s a big deal when you only have seven turnovers.

The determination of our team in the second half was unbelievable, and it’s just a joy to coach to the all these guys who made plays today for us to have a chance to win.

On what it took to come back:

“You see the hearts on these dudes? I knew that going into the game that desire and want was not going to be question. Whether we won the game, who knew, but I knew these guys were going to fight with everything that they had in them.”

“This was a great win but this does not end what we want to do, at all. It’s a good place to be, we enjoyed the win but we got other things we want to accomplish before this weekend is over.”

On playing the next night

“Playing for too many marbles, there is no way you are not going to be ready to play. It won’t be easy Jacksonville is an awesome team. Cliff Warren has those guys playing at a high level and we know that they have great strengths and we will go right at them.”

On moving the student section near the Mercer bench.

“I think they should do that more often, I really enjoyed it. Often times you think that you place the students near the other team to try and heckle them, but I thought that our team really fed off of our student section tonight. I think they should do that more often.”

Danny Emerson

On playing front of the home crowd:

“It was a great advantage to be at home. Anytime in the first or second half when we started to feel a little flat they did a great job of picking us up. We really appreciate and needed what they brought today.”

On beating Belmont:

“Beating Belmont is a little more special. We will admit it, we enjoyed beating them. They beat us in this spot last year so we kind of owed it to them.”

On the Crowd:

I loved that having them[Mercer student section] near us tonight. I think we might want to make it a permanent move. It might not have been the largest crowd we have ever had here, but it was

definitely the loudest. We just want to thank all of our fans for coming out tonight we really fed off of them.”

James Florence

On playing from behind:

“We need to stop getting down. I think it a lot more energy to come back. Luckily tonight we did what we were supposed to do and were able to keep the lead there at the end.”

On the win:

“All the sweat that we put in the offseason it came down to the last three minutes and we really didn’t want to give it away from a lack of effort.”

Belmont Head Coach

Rick Byrd

Opening Statements

“I thought Mercer deserved to win. I thought they played a great last 10 minutes of the game on both ends of the floor. I thought Bob put his kids in a position to score points and they made shots. On the other end I did a real poor job of getting us good shots and we just lost our inside presence and when we lost nick and when he came back in he wasn’t what we need.”

“They just got the momentum like games are. It’s like that in all games whether its tennis, golf or tiddly-winks...if I played it.”

On the crowd:

“I was aware of it, but that stuff is just white noise. You don’t really think about that, you think more about getting timeouts to stop the momentum and we tried to do that.”

“I love to play in places where it matters to somebody, whether it’s us or them I think it was a great atmosphere and great for this tournament. It will make tomorrow night more electric and more exciting.”

On his team’s performance:

“I was proud of the first 30 minutes of the game and this is a good Mercer team and for us to come down here and get a double-figure lead with 13 or 14 minutes left to go in the game means we had to play darn good, but it’s a 40 minute game.”