

**NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament
Austin, TX
#3 West Virginia 58, #14 Lamar 43**

March 21, 2010

LAMAR UNIVERSITY CARDINALS

THE MODERATOR: Our players are Ashley Crawford, Kalis Loyd, and Jenna Plumley. Head coach is Larry Tidwell.

At this time, Coach Tidwell, your opening comments.

COACH TIDWELL: I'd like to say I'm very, very proud of our team effort tonight. We played a very good team, number 10 ranked West Virginia. We knew coming in they were going to be very, very tough on the boards, and that's exactly what they did. We got in the hole early, but we did fight back.

Again, credit to West Virginia. They're a great defensive team. I think they rank in the top ten on that in the country also. But just a real gutsy effort by the Lady Cardinals. I'm very proud to have sat up here on the bench with that team and especially these three here. They gave everything they had.

THE MODERATOR: Questions for the student-athletes.

Q. Jenna, just talk about first half when it kind of looked like it was getting away from you but you were able to knock down buckets to attempt to close the score just before halftime.

JENNA PLUMLEY: When I was out there, I didn't even think about the score. All I had in my head was to keep playing hard and try to pick my teammates up and really get us going. I wasn't really focused on scoring. I was focused on trying to get my teammates open, get the ball where you needed it.

When you look at the score, you get down. So I tried not to look at the score. We came out. We started off slow and picked it back up. That's what it's all about. When we finally got going, we got going. When we got down, we got down. So it's really tough when that happens.

Q. Clock is running down second half. You all are needing shots, needing to knock down buckets. What's going through your mind at this point?

KALIS LOYD: I'm going to just try to help the team out as best as I can. If I'm open, I'm going to try to go to the hoop and score to keep us in the game.

Q. You mentioned that you were really focused on getting your teammates involved. They held you to 3 of 11 from the field. Can you just talk about their defense on you tonight and how they really contained you from the field?

JENNA PLUMLEY: I grant them their defense, but mainly it was all myself. I had seven turnovers. I was making aggressive turnovers. As a point guard, that's not really what you want to do. I was really trying to make something happen instead of letting it come to me. That was my own fault. That's really tough, though, as a point guard.

Granted, their defense, they pressured me some. It wasn't what I thought it was going to be. I needed to slow down, and I didn't slow down. That's what it was all about. I just needed to take my time. I felt there was pressure on me, and I shouldn't have felt that. It's been a while since I've been here. Granted, my teammates, they're the ones who helped me get here, my coaches. That's what it's all about.

We came here and wanted to pull off an upset. We didn't. We came out and played hard.

That's what March Madness is all about.

COACH TIDWELL: I'd like to add that's what makes her a great point guard. She takes a lot of responsibility for it herself whereas a lot of time we didn't come to meet the ball on turnovers and didn't set hard screens. If we'd have set harder screens, we would have had more people open. But Jenna, that's what she does. She takes a lot of the blame and doesn't care who gets the credit, doesn't care who scores. That's what makes her a great point guard.

Q. Ashleigh, can you talk about getting to this point, getting to the tournament with this team this year.

ASHLEY CRAWFORD: We've been through a lot of things this year. I'm just really, really proud of my teammates. We've all pulled together. We've done some things that a lot of people didn't think we could do. I can just say I'm just proud of them because we did play really, really hard tonight, and we left everything out on the floor.

THE MODERATOR: We'll excuse the student-athletes. Thank you all very much. Congratulations on a really good season.

Questions for Coach now, please.

Q. Coach, obviously, you hoped for a better night. But what did you talk to the kids about at halftime, just to turn things around for you?

COACH TIDWELL: I don't know if you know much about our program or understand how far we've come, but I was in this building three years ago when we played Texas and got beat by 53 points. We've come a long way. We won a conference championship. We won a tournament championship, and we came in and played the number 10 ranked team within 15 points.

We had some shots where, if we knocked them down, we'd have been a lot better. We created 23 turnovers for them. We're banged up. It's been a long year. I played about eight

players. But talking to them the second half, didn't tell them anything that we haven't talked about every half, just keep playing hard and playing together.

For the season, guys, I don't know if you know much about us, we shot nearly 44% from the field. Granted, that was great defense by West Virginia. That's a very good team, but we did have some open shots, and usually we knock a lot of those down. Tonight we shoot 30%. That's a lot of what happens at a big time game like this. If you don't shoot well, no matter how great a defense you play, you need to score some points.

THE MODERATOR: Coach, thank you very much.