

March 4, 2011



Missouri State – 58
Southern Illinois – 56

An interview with:

COACH MARTIN ADAM LEONARD KYLE WEEMS

THE MODERATOR: The victorious Bears are with us. They have a date in tomorrow's semifinal round against the winner of Northern Iowa and Creighton. Head Coach Cuonzo Martin, your thoughts on the game.

COACH MARTIN: I thought Southern Illinois played a great game. They pretty much dictated the tempo until the last two minutes of the game in my opinion. They did a great job stretching us out in offense. We were stalling offense at the half mark. Couldn't get into a flow, couldn't get the ball inside, and we started settling for shots on the perimeter, and not getting the ball inside.

So I think they played a great game, we just found a way to win it down the stretch.

Q. Kyle, on a frustrating day, talk about how the team was able to keep its composure down the stretch and pull it out?

KYLE WEEMS: As you saw the game, I missed some shots that I usually make. It was pretty frustrating, but I've got such great coaches and such great teammates that they just kept me composed. Kept my head right the whole game and let us know, keep that fight, keep it all right, keep shooting it up.

So I tried to do that for the most part and made some big shots late. The last one I just wanted to do that for my team and for our fans.

Q. What was going on in the first half to where you guys were struggling so much from the floor?

KYLE WEEMS: They pressured us pretty good. You've got to give credit where it's due. Southern Illinois was a tough, scrappy team, and that's how every team in the Missouri Valley is. But there was no way they were going out without a bang. And they did a really good job, so congratulate them for that.

We were stagnant on offense. They kind of had us catching the ball out past beyond the NBA three-point line. We're not really used to that. They switched some stuff that we weren't used to teams switching. But we found a way to win. I thought we did a pretty good job the last three or four minutes of just adjusting.

Q. Adam, what were your thoughts after you made that three at the very end of the game?

ADAM LEONARD: That tied the game up. Now the next thought is we've got to get a stop, and we did that. The guys came together. We got a stop, and didn't let them get another offensive rebound. That was our main goal. The whole night was stopping them from getting second chance points, and we did well with that.

Q. Can you take us through the last play there, what you saw, what was the first option? Were you going to the basket no matter what?

KYLE WEEMS: Yeah, I'd settle for a horrible shot, and I apologized to my teammates and my coaches for it. We were down three and really didn't need that. It was pretty deep. And me being a junior, I need to know better than that.

But when Adam hit that shot, there was no doubt in my mind once we got that stop, if it would so happen, I wanted that ball. I just came over and told everybody I wanted the ball.

Coach drew up a good play to get me kind of by myself. And once I seen them, most of the