



Missouri Valley Conference
Women's Basketball Tournament
The Family Arena – St. Charles, Mo.
Game 9 – Sunday, March 17, 2013

No. 1 Wichita State 69, No. 3 Illinois State 65

Wichita State Quotes

Head Coach Jody Adams

On the game:

“I’m very proud of our team and our program. We hung through the momentum shifts. We knew that there were going to be those times. And how we endured that—we were able to switch that momentum to our way and sustain it there until the end of the game.”

On changing the environment at Wichita State:

“It took an army. When I was hired at Wichita State I had a vision. I always watched Wichita State from afar as a coach. And I knew it was a special place every time I visited. The people in the stands, the administration, the leadership...From then on it’s just been putting that vision into place. Having so many people embrace your vision and embrace it not just through the good times when you’re winning, but also through the tough times. Because you have to make tough decisions when you’re changing around a program and changing the environment. And those times are not always happy times. But I do know the end happy times lead to times like this. They’re very rewarding.”

Alex Harden

On making the NCAA tournament:

“We didn’t want to leave it up to the at-large bid. We wanted to win it outright, no questions about it.”

Jessica Diamond

On winning the MVC Tournament:

“I think it sunk in after I had the ball during the very last seconds of the game. At that moment I couldn’t do anything but be excited.”

On Alex Harden:

“She’s grown a lot. Her play is amazing to watch. It’s amazing to play with her. She’s aggressive. She can’t be stopped. The only person that can stop her is herself.”

Michaela Dapprich

On the seniors:

“I’m happy for them. They started at the bottom, and now we’re here and we’re champions. All I could do was do my best for them.”

Illinois State Quotes

Head Coach Stephanie Glance

On Coming up short in the championship game:

“Credit to Wichita State. (They) played a great game and I thought their players really stepped up. They hit a lot of tough shots—shots that you hit in championship games. We’re very disappointed. I felt like we were one rebound away from a championship. The lesson for our players is that, that’s how much the little thing matter. You work hard all year and all season and in my mind it came down to one rebound and one possession.”

On Jamie Russell:

“John Wooden said, ‘competitive greatness is being at your best when your best is needed,’ and that is a great example of competitive greatness. Jamie led the way. She set the tone in the first half. Those are things that we talk about not only for this game but for life. When it’s time for you to step up and rise to the occasion, it’s a challenge. Some people meet it and some don’t.”

On the physical nature of the Missouri Valley Conference:

“The last few possessions won the game. I think this speaks highly of the Missouri Valley Conference. That why we’re a very competitive conference.”

Janae Smith

On the physical play in the paint during the game and throughout the tournament:

“It was really hard in the paint, because there was a lot of battling going on, but at the end I got that foul call, because you just got to keep breaking hard and keep going up strong. A lot of my buckets were just off of getting my own rebound.”

On senior Jamie Russell’s leadership:

“We all wanted to win it for Jamie and the rest of our seniors. She’s done the job this whole season, and to come out here and show up and score 27 points—that’s the greatest thing. I’m just really grateful to have Jamie by my side and I’m sad to see her go.”

Jamie Russell

On scoring 27 points yet coming up short of the championship:

“Individually, it doesn’t matter really to me; it’s all about the team. I’m disappointed, of course, but I have high hopes for the team next year.”