

# Big Ten Conference Men's Basketball Tournament

Friday March 15, 2019

## Greg Gard

Wisconsin Badgers

Wisconsin - 66, Nebraska - 62

COACH GARD: Obviously it's never easy. We made it more difficult on ourselves at times than we needed to. But proud of our guys how we were able to rally at the end, make some shots, get some stops. And knowing Nebraska was playing well we were going to be fighting into that momentum and the emotional push that they had going the last couple of days. So the nice thing about this is you get a chance to survive, advance and move on to the next, and quickly learn from this, put it behind us and get ready for Michigan State.

**Q. The timeout with just under a minute left, trying to hit the 3, what were you trying to hope to get out of that?**

COACH GARD: We were playing through Khalil on the post which is exactly what we were looking for there. We were going to center around him and play around that. And they backed up enough to try to prevent the catch that D'Mitrik was able to get enough space and a good look at the rim. So that was a big shot.

**Q. Ethan didn't look too comfortable out there, seven turnovers, 2-of-4, not a usual game for him.**

COACH GARD: You're right. I thought he was out of sorts from the beginning. Very uncharacteristic for him. Fortunately we had teammates that rallied to his side and were able to play well when he was trying to, having a harder time finding his rhythm.

**Q. Looking ahead, how do you coach against Tom Izzo teams?**

COACH GARD: They're really good. I don't know how you coach against Tom Izzo teams. You have to be really good at the things you're good at, try to minimize the things that they're really good at, and you gotta make shots like against all good teams. We've got to be very consistent. We know it will be a physical game as every game is in this league. So I think there's -- Tom's got really good players, has for a long time. Does a terrific job with them. It's a really good team. We're excited to have that opportunity tomorrow.

**Q. Back to Ethan, kind of a blueprint (indiscernible) view is to send extra bodies at him. What does he need to do better there, and sometimes even make that strategy blow up by looking at (indiscernible)**



**getting good shots. What can happen in that regard today?**

COACH GARD: There were some situations where he did get double-teamed where he didn't make the proper decision, but there was also times where he wasn't double-teamed that he didn't make it. Put the ball in traffic, exposed the ball too much. I thought he was out of sorts defensively, too. He was out of position more often than not. Just, like I said, uncharacteristic day for him on both ends. So, like I said, fortunately he's got terrific teammates that rallied around that and we're able to play again tomorrow.

**Q. Khalil hit a few jumpers today which might be surprising to some fans. Is that even something that he had in his locker maybe a few months ago? He looked so much more confident on offense hitting those step-backs.**

COACH GARD: He's had that ability. It's a matter of him doing it in a live situation. It's been encouraged. It's been worked on. I think right now, in the last month, he's really played at the confidence level and assertiveness level is at an all-time high. And you want to see a senior that's helped this program being able to play his best basketball at the end of his career in the last few weeks of that. And he's definitely doing that.

**Q. (Inaudible) preseason before the injury?**

COACH GARD: Yes. That was a piece of the attacking, the on the glass. Obviously I think getting momentum early, knocking down some shots. Confidence grew and grew. And he made some big plays for us. Played really well.

**Q. To follow up on Michigan State, this is your second matchup of the year with them. What do you think is going to be the biggest key coming into this one from your loss a couple months ago?**

COACH GARD: Yeah, that one went down to the wire, going to the big three with about 30 seconds to go, to take it from a three-point game to a six-point game. There's a lot of things -- I'll go through the tape again tonight and catch up on that and look. But the blueprint for how they orchestrate success hasn't changed. They're really good on the glass. They're really good in transition. Obviously they've got some depth that's developed. Really good players. Terrific player in Cassius Winston running the show. When you have a guard or point guard that good that can

orchestrate things and allows the others around him to do their thing. So we know it's a really good team. And, like I said, I'm just excited about the opportunity to have that challenge tomorrow.



## 2019 BIG TEN MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

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### WISCONSIN PLAYER QUOTES

#### Wisconsin senior G Khalil Iverson

*On winning in spite of the team committing 17 turnovers...*

"We had a lot of guys come in and contribute. Aleem came in and he hit two 3's back-to-back. Brad was playing well. D'Mitrik was playing well, hitting shots and just playing together. Got the win."

#### Wisconsin sophomore G D'Mitrik Trice

*On turnovers and Nebraska's comeback...*

"Honestly, I just think it came down to us and our ability to take care of the ball. I think that when we do that, we are a very, very dangerous team. When we don't, we let teams like that get back in the game where we started off hot and then we had timely turnovers, which definitely hurt us."

*On remaining confident...*

"I'm always confident. Every shot that I shoot is going in no matter what. So, even earlier in the second half, I air-balled a couple shots, one of them got blocked and one was just an air ball. So just staying confident in my shot and seeing the ball go through was definitely a plus."

#### Wisconsin sophomore G Brad Davidson

*On turnovers...*

"I think they were on us. Most of them were on us. Kind of unrealistic turnovers and I think a lot of them were unforced. But some we're going to look at in film and try to get back to playing Wisconsin basketball the way we know we can."

*On thinking of NCAA Tournament seeding...*

"I don't really think about it. Right now, you know I'm just thinking we need to play better. We don't want to play the way we did today tomorrow. You know we have Michigan State, you know, a fun opponent, a challenging opponent. It is also a huge opportunity to bounce back with."

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## Tim Miles

Nebraska Cornhuskers

Wisconsin - 66, Nebraska - 62

COACH MILES: Well, I'm extremely proud of this group. I'm proud to be their coach. I thought that they fought as hard as they could. And we were in a great situation, late even, chance to tie, go ahead. And we missed on a few plays. And credit to Wisconsin; they did an excellent job all night.

### **Q. Do you think fatigue played a role in the last five to 10 minutes?**

COACH MILES: Wisconsin makes it look tough anyway. I thought Glynn's legs looked good, and he was the guy we were riding, had a hop in his step all night. Maybe. But our hearts are bigger than that.

### **Q. You played six guys in the game. Given the fact they played so many minutes the past two days, what was the thinking behind shortening your bench even further?**

COACH MILES: There was no real design. We'd only subbed out of necessity earlier. They were playing smaller. So we were able to play smaller. And that's why we did it.

### **Q. Job status, do you think you've earned more time at Nebraska?**

COACH MILES: That's out of my hands. I know Bill, addressing that one time hopefully, Bill will make a statement in 45 minutes. I don't know what it is. So, I'm sure it's just he's going to wait and see what's going on with postseason or whatever.

### **Q. Thomas Allen warmed up with the team before, and then he didn't come out and close --**

COACH MILES: We haven't been able to get him on a court and put a ball in his hand. Seemed like a good opportunity to do that, test the ankle a little bit. Really had trouble cutting right now. And so the only way -- there's no other gym availability. So this was the best one to be at.

### **Q. You guys made Happ look fairly ordinary tonight. Was that one of your main focuses going in?**

COACH MILES: Yeah, Ethan was double circled on the scouting report. I told him in the handshake line, I told him, "E, I'm not going to miss you, brother." And he's



such a good player. He does so many good things that you have to attack him. I thought we did a really good job of it. We held him down in points. We turned him over. They actually played around him, it appeared to me, for a while. So I thought we did a very good job. But we have to. I thought that's what kept us around. Because he can take over a game, and then those other guys get loose on you. And they're tough enough anyway. I thought the key to the game was Iverson. He was making outside shots. When he makes outside shots -- you know Weaver is going to make a few. You know Trice is going to make a few. And Trice is very good end game, end clock. We've done a really good job on him. Johnny ended up kind of gambling. And we ended up switching Glynn off of him and he hit Johnny late. But that's what he can do. But I thought Iverson was the big key to the win for them.

### **Q. And if this was your last game with this team, how proud of you --**

COACH MILES: I'm proud of this group beyond belief, because as a Coach -- you guys trying to get me to cry, are you? As a coach, you look at what they went through and what they tried to overcome, and to go out and try to beat ranked teams in back-to-back nights and probably Quad 1 -- or three Quad 1 games in a week or whatever, pretty impressive stuff. I don't know where Iowa was. Maybe they're a Quad 2. But all the same, I just -- I told them, I'm proud to be your coach.

### **Q. On the lighter side of things, you always seem to have, fun no matter what you do. In this stodgy, buttoned-down world, you don't take yourself too seriously. It rubs off on your players, even us media guys, we enjoy it. Talk a little bit about your personality. I know it's tough right now.**

COACH MILES: Right now, it's not very fun. But, you know, I think in life you just have to enjoy who you're working with and everything. And I work with -- you guys aren't as invested in the team. If it sucks for us, it sucks for you, and I know that. And the same thing with the kids. So you want to be a mentor. You want them to -- you want to lead them and teach them. But at the same time you want to be able to have a relationship with them so they know you're with them. I don't think you can be afraid to be just yourself. And I was granted a great deal of independence as a little kid where I could do what I wanted when I wanted as the youngest of five. That's what we do now. Even as an

NAIA coach, a D-II coach, a Division I independent, Mountain West coach or a Big Ten coach. So we just feel strong that we're going to put our teams out there and they're going to compete like heck and want to have a chance to be successful. We have a disappointed team, but that doesn't mean that we have to walk around like Pig-Pen. And that's no -- I don't mean to offend Pig-Pen.

**Q. Given the health of the team, have you thought about the NIT and what that looks like?**

COACH MILES: I'll go anywhere. If they take us, we're going. And hopefully we can get some guys healthier. Tom Allen would be the only guy I think we could conceivably add to the roster.



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### NEBRASKA PLAYER QUOTES

#### **Nebraska senior G Johnny Trueblood**

*On how this run went for the team...*

"First of all, there has been floods and blizzards in Nebraska and I know there have been some casualties. My thoughts and prayers are with all those effected. This whole ride has been a lot of fun. I feel sorry for a lot of our guys, but I see a bright future for them."

*On how this season has been with the team...*

"I'm just really proud of these guys. We show up every day and work our tails off and it shows."

*On how they are able to compete against tough teams like Wisconsin...*

"We've got a lot of heart and sometimes that is all you need — working hard and to compete at a high level."

#### **Nebraska junior F Isaiah Roby**

*On ending on a good note...*

"I am proud of my teammates, my coaching staff and my team as a whole. We had guys step up and I am incredibly proud of my team for not giving up."

*On his message to the fans...*

"We had a great crowd here and we have a great support system back home in Lincoln. They really believed we could win this tournament and we fell short today, but we gave it our all."