

**March 17, 2011**



An interview with:

**Akron Student-Athletes  
Nikola Cvetinovic  
Zeke Marshall  
Steve McNees**



MODERATOR: Up first today are the Akron student-athletes. Steve McNees, Zeke Marshall and Nikola Cvetinovic. We'll start with questions.

**Q. Steve and Nik, it's your second time in the tournament and everything, how much more -- is it more comfortable? What are you feeling then? I guess Steve first.**

STEVE MCNEES: I'm sure we're a little more comfortable than the younger guys. But you know, we're excited too.

NIKOLA CVETINOVIC: Definitely excited to be back here and just enjoy it. Like Steve said, just a little bit more comfortable, a little bit more used to this. Just very excited still.

**Q. Zeke, how's your life changed in the last three days, three, four days since being the MVP of the (MAC) tournament? A lot of exposure, a lot of talk about you and everything?**

ZEKE MARSHALL: Really not a lot different than high school. All that media exposure, since I've gotten that in high school, I kind of know how to deal with it. So I'm not letting it get to me. I'm really focused on trying to play well in this game Friday.

**Q. Just their size too, is that what concerns you most inside?**

ZEKE MARSHALL: Well, their overall size is a lot bigger than our team. But me individually, I'm taller than everyone.

STEVE MCNEES: That's true.

ZEKE MARSHALL: I do have some slight concern, but I don't have any doubt we're going to be able to play well against them.

**Q. Steve, in terms of a scouting report, where does it start with Notre Dame? Where do you -- where's your defensive approach start with them?**

STEVE MCNEES: Well, you know, they shoot and pass it well. So I think it starts on the perimeter. You know, taking away their outside jumper as much as we can.

**Q. For Steve and Nik, just the whole Portland experience, how you can relate to what happened there and translate it here so you can use it to your advantage.**

STEVE MCNEES: Well, as far as the whole process goes with, from Selection Sunday to dealing with a day like this, you know, personally, I think, and the older guys too, we're a little more comfortable. And as far as last time we were here, we played a really good first half and then a pretty good second half.

You know, for us we have a little bit more confidence, I think, maybe than whenever we did it the first time.

NIKOLA CVETINOVIC: It's a different story this year. I mean, like Steve said, we had a great game against Gonzaga. We learned a lot from that experience and I think this year that might show up in our maturity level and the way how we're going to play.

And, again, it's just much more comfortable than two years ago, but, again, very excited and really focused to play this game tomorrow and try to win it.

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