

## Binghamton vs. Vermont Post Game Quotes

### **Binghamton head coach Kevin Broadus**

#### Opening statement

“I’m going to start off and commend Vermont and Coach Lonergan, who is a dear friend of mine, and his staff and his players. They played a hell of a second half and that’s what champions do. They were last years [regular season] champs if I recall and champions find ways to win games and that’s what they did in the second half and I commend them on that. They really shot the ball well, 60% in the second half and I thought we were defending as hard as we could, we left it out there and they were just the better team today. That’s what champions do they come back and fight back.”

“I want to commend my guys for a hard-fought year. I’m going to say this jokingly but I mean this; we had a slogan as family this year and we were a family, a dysfunctional family at times but we were a family and that’s what families are. You have peaks and you have valleys. We have some good senior leadership with Mike [Gordon], Richie [Forbes] and Gio [Olomo]. I wish them well in life and I’m pretty sure they will do well in life. I just had a long talk with those guys, they know where I come from now. Basketball, it’s a sport, it’s a game and I taught this guys don’t let basketball use you, use it. Being a student-athlete, what that means is get a degree and make the most of it and these guys will. I’m sad that the season ended this way. Today for 35 minutes I thought these guys were the better players and the last five the champions came out of those guys from Vermont. That’s what I told them before the game. I want to build a program like that, five straight years in the league championship like these guys have done. We’re going to start tomorrow. Today closes one chapter in the book and tomorrow opens another”

#### On playing as a team

“Blakely, who was the Player of the Year just stepped up. His coaches probably challenged him to get every rebound and that’s what he did. That’s what I want my guys to do. It’s team effort, that guy sacrificed whatever he had to do to get every rebound. We’ll be like that, I want players like that. I want players that are going to be good team players. Good individual players don’t win championships. Good team players win championships. The [good individual players] will win you games but when you get to this point in the season team basketball wins.”

#### On balancing Gordon’s minutes after he got in foul trouble

“Tomorrow never came to my thought process. We were playing for keeps and he is so vital to what we do and I thought we brought him in and out and I thought we used him pretty well going into halftime, we had a seven-point lead. I thought we were in a good position to get some separation when we went up 11.”

#### On Vermont

“Like I said championship teams dig down and they leave it out there. You have guys like [Kyle] Cieplicki, [Mike] Trimboli, [Marqus] Blakely and [Tim] McCrory, those guys have played in a lot of big games and they know how to win. That’s what I’m trying to build here. You can say you want to be a winner, but it’s a process and that’s something that I’m trying to teach these guys. The thing that I look back on I tell these guys is to remember this feeling. Next year you don’t want to put yourself in this position and have this same feeling ... I thought for 35 minutes we were the better team but for the last five minutes, those guys were champions. You could see it come out of them. They had that swagger.”

On senior Mike Gordon

“If we could have 13 Mike Gordons, I would love to. He was a treat to coach. He was me on the court. He sounded like he believed everything I told him and he put forth 100 percent everyday. He came to work every day with his lunch pail, punched the time clock and gave his all. If we could get 13 Mike Gordon’s we will win this league at some point. He’s one of the best players I have seen in his own way, the way he goes about things. He’s up there with a lot of those guys I’ve seen the last few years the way he handles his business on and off the court. Those are the types of student-athletes we want in the program. He’s a good kid, he’s a great kid and I’m pretty sure that whatever he does in life he’s going to be successful because he gives 100%.”

### **Binghamton senior point guard Mike Gordon**

On his teams play in the first half

“We had great ball movement on the offensive end, getting the ball to the high post, swinging it around the perimeter real quick, we were knocking down shots and rebounded the ball very well. Blakely hits the glass really hard and makes the second and third plays. At the beginning of the game we kept him off the glass and that was key for us. We got out in transition and got a couple of easy buckets and like I said our defense really motivates our offense and that was what was going for us I the beginning.”

On his play in the second half

“We still had good ball movement, we knocked down shots. It was tough rebounding the ball in the second half. I think they were a little more aggressive on the glass and [Marqus] Blakely was just finishing. They knocked down some good shots in transition and like coach said, hats off to them, they won the game.”

On the games turning point

“I knew we were going to go out there and play hard. We played hard for the first 35 minutes but in the last five minutes we got in a little drought and they took advantage of it.”

On playing his last game

“It’s a sad feeling. I’ve been here four years now. The crowd and the community have been behind me and the program 100 percent, no matter ups and downs and I just wanted to show my appreciation to them. For the coaches on the other teams, they show respect and I give my respect back.”

On leaving the program in the hands of the younger players

“They’re going to be really good next year. Everybody is starting to understand what Coach Broadus wants. He’s going to have them playing even harder. Everyone thinks we played hard this year, next year we’re going to play a lot harder. They’ll be in a lot better shape and be a lot tougher.”

On how he wants to be remembered

“Just as an aggressive team player. It was always about team with me, always.”

### **Binghamton sophomore forward Lazar Trifunovic**

On playing against Vermont

“Vermont is one of the toughest teams to play offensively. They prepare for each game very hard and I personally think they are the best team in the America East.”