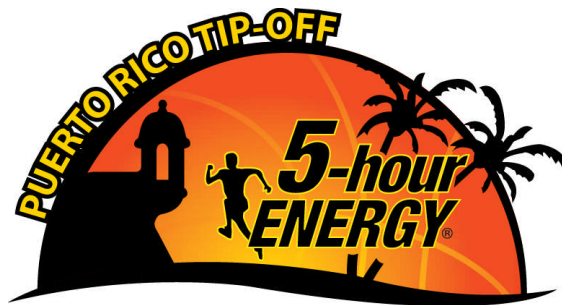


**November 1, 2011**



## **5-hour ENERGY® Puerto Rico Tip-Off**

**TIM SIMMONS:** Coach Boyle, good morning. Can you talk just a little bit about your pre-season drills today.

**COACH BOYLE:** Yeah, you can probably tell by my voice I've been talking a lot. We've been getting after it. We've only had 14 practices, so we still have work to do between now and the time we get to Puerto Rico.

I like our team. We're relatively healthy. We've got usually 12 or 13 bodies at practice every day. But our team right now has a lot of unknowns relative to where we were last year. We lost over 75% off of our scoring off of last year's team. We have a few guys returning, but a lot of new faces.

We're trying to blend the veterans with the transfers we had sitting out along with our new recruits. Like most teams right now, we're kind of a work in progress.

**TIM SIMMONS:** I don't know if it's a fact, but you're probably the only coach to coach in three different conferences in three different years. What are your thoughts about that?

**COACH BOYLE:** Well, yeah, I feel a little bit nomadic right now. The good thing is we are in the conference, the PAC-12, going forward. We got a great place to call home. We're trying to obviously use that in recruiting, establish ourselves here in year one.

**TIM SIMMONS:** You have an interesting bracket to start with in Puerto Rico. Obviously you play Wichita State, which you saw back in New York. In the second round you either get Maryland, coached by Mark Turgeon, a former associate of yours, or Alabama. What do you think about your bracket?

**COACH BOYLE:** Pretty interesting. Like you said, three of the four final four teams from the NIT are in it from last year, then one of my best friends. I'd rather not play Mark. But we'll just see where everything falls.

Of course, I spent six years at Wichita State as an assistant coach when I was with Mark Turgeon there. There will be a lot of friends from Wichita that will be making the trip to Puerto Rico. It will be an interesting matchup for me personally.

But I got a lot of respect for their program. Gregg Marshall has done a wonderful job there. It's a storied program.

**TIM SIMMONS:** First time you played in this tournament format where you have two games, off a day, then play in the game on Sunday. Is that a good format for your team right now?

**COACH BOYLE:** Yeah, I think it is. Three games in three days would probably be a little bit much especially this early in the season. I like the back-to-back. It's going to give our staff an opportunity to be challenged, especially this early. We'll have to be doing scouting reports on the fly for either Maryland or Alabama.

Then for our team, playing back-to-back games is a great challenge as well. But three in a row would be a little tough. I really like that day off. It will hopefully give our players a chance to rest and enjoy Puerto Rico, what it has to offer, come back and play the third game.

It's great to get this kind of competition early in the year. To have it in such a short period of time, it's a challenge, but something we're looking forward to.

**TIM SIMMONS:** Any player that stood out in practices that you weren't expecting?

**COACH BOYLE:** I don't know that I wasn't expecting. One of the players we have coming back is a kid named Andre Roberson, who led in blocked shots, steals and rebounding as a freshman. He did it coming off the bench, playing 22, 23 minutes a game. He had an unbelievable freshman year given those statistics and those circumstances. He's had a great off-season. He's a guy who has really worked on his game. He's going to really need to elevate his production level for us to be successful.

We have a transfer from Utah, Carlon Brown, who sat out last year, who has been

practicing very well. Those two guys we're going to need to play well for us for us to be as good as we want to be in Puerto Rico. A lot of young guys need to step up as well.

I think Andre and Carlon are the two guys who stood out the most.

TIM SIMMONS: How is recruiting going for you this year so far?

COACH BOYLE: Couldn't be going better. We've got a lot of momentum with Colorado basketball right now. Coming off a 24-win season, the most wins in school history. We just opened up a two-court practice facility in Boulder. We have our facilities that got a shot in the arm with that. Then transferring leagues, going from the Big 12 to the PAC-12, has put us in a different territory recruiting-wise. We're kind of like the new kids on the block and people are checking us out.

A lot of different factors have gone into it. But recruiting has gone very, very well so far.

TIM SIMMONS: Questions for Coach Boyle.

**Q. Do you have a feel for how Colorado will look different this year as opposed to last year losing so many important guys?**

COACH BOYLE: Yeah, it's really hard to tell. That's what I mean when I say a lot of unknowns, unanswered questions for us. I don't know what this team is going to look like. I do know the two kids I mentioned, Andre and Carlon, are going to be key to us.

The 'X' factor is going to be how our new recruits step in and how quickly they acclimate to this level of basketball. Guys like Nate Tomlinson and Austin Dufault who are seniors who have been more like role players in their careers up to this point, now they have an opportunity to step into more prominent roles, more offensive scoring roles. That's going to be interesting to see how quickly that happens.

I don't know what our team's going to look like on November 11th much less down in Puerto Rico.

TIM SIMMONS: Coach, thank you very much. We'll see you in a couple weeks in Puerto Rico.

COACH BOYLE: We look forward to it. Take care.

TIM SIMMONS: Coach Dunphy, thank you for joining us today. How is pre-season practice going so far?

COACH DUNPHY: We're doing okay. I don't think any coach is ever satisfied. I think we

need to get better defensively. But I think we have the ability to score. Now we just have to work on those nuances defensively that will keep us where we want to be.

TIM SIMMONS: This is your second trip to the Puerto Rico Tip-Off. Is it going to be any different from the standpoint of planning or will you do the same you did in 2007?

COACH DUNPHY: Yeah, we're trying to get out of Philly on Tuesday night after school, practice, a little something to eat, get down there late at night on Tuesday, have a good practice on Wednesday. I know we play that first game on Thursday morning.

Looking forward to it. It's a great place. Really enjoy Puerto Rico. San Juan is a great city. I think ESPN does a great job with us. We're thrilled to be in it.

TIM SIMMONS: Any players standing out in practice? You had an NCAA team, an exciting second- and third-round match in Tucson. Has any player stood out in pre-season practice?

COACH DUNPHY: I think we're basically very similar to what we were last year without the aid of Lavoy Allen, who was a terrific defensive player for us. That's where we have to get better. Mike Eric is our biggest guy, 6'10" and a half. Power player inside. He's improving. I think he's going to score a lot more for us this year. We'll certainly need that.

The defensive end is where I'm most concerned about. I think everybody is working hard as a team to get better at that.

TIM SIMMONS: You open up with Western Michigan. Have you had a chance to scout them and look at them at all on film?

COACH DUNPHY: You know, we have not. We won't do any of that till we get past the University of Pennsylvania on November 14. As soon as that night is over, then we'll have some look at Western, but certainly not a whole lot. We have played them in the past so we know a little bit about them as a basketball program. But we won't start our work on Western Michigan until after the University of Pennsylvania game.

TIM SIMMONS: Any thoughts on Purdue or Iowa, which are on your side of the bracket?

COACH DUNPHY: Whoever we play on the next day, we're going to have a great, great test. Iona has come on strong in the last couple years, predicted to be at the top of the MAC Conference. Really think they're doing a great,

great job these days.

Purdue is Purdue. We know what we will get. Hopefully Robbie Hummel will be in great health as well. You want to see these kids in the best health as possible. Know how difficult it will be with both teams, but looking to the challenge.

TIM SIMMONS: Coach, thank you very much. We appreciate you joining us today. We'll see you in a couple weeks in Puerto Rico.

COACH DUNPHY: Thank you very much.

TIM SIMMONS: Coach Cluess, thank you for joining us today. How is pre-season practice going for you?

COACH CLUESS: They're going pretty well. Thank you very much for having me on, inviting us to the tournament. We're very thrilled about being a part of it.

TIM SIMMONS: Your team is listed as the top team in your conference this year in the pre-season polls. You have a pretty outstanding player. Talk a little bit about that.

COACH CLUESS: I think Mike Glover had a great year for us last year. He's somebody that has had some national recognition. He's a 6'7" forward who can go inside, outside, plays very hard, one of the leaders of our team. I think he'll go a long way for us this year to keep us competitive.

I think our back quarter is what really puts us up in the elite area of our league.

TIM SIMMONS: Coach, I noticed that on your schedule your first regular game is the tournament. Will you have any kind of competition prior to the Puerto Rico Tip-Off?

COACH CLUESS: The only thing we have scheduled is a couple scrimmages, two Division I scrimmages we have planned in the next week and a half. That will be the only live action we'll have before Puerto Rico.

TIM SIMMONS: Do you think it's going to work to your advantage that you haven't played anybody or disadvantage?

COACH CLUESS: Probably a little bit of a disadvantage. Tried to get games early but didn't have any luck with it.

TIM SIMMONS: How different is your team this year compared to the one you had at the end of last year that lost to Santa Clara?

COACH CLUESS: We're a lot healthier than we were last year for the entire season, to be honest with you. We lost key players throughout the year, had guys hampered. I think we're a better basketball team, a deeper basketball team. We've added some guards and other forwards that

can play more up-tempo like we like to play. I'm looking forward to seeing the product on the court.

TIM SIMMONS: The format of the tournament where you play two games back to back, then you have a day off, then play, do you think that's going to work to your favor?

COACH CLUESS: I think it's a great way to go. When we have our conference tournament, we play three days in a row. To play two quality opponents the first two days, have a day to get ready for the final game helps you to regroup, see what you need to work on, gives you a chance to scout an opponent. I think it's really good for us.

TIM SIMMONS: You open up against Purdue. Have you spent any time watching them on film?

COACH CLUESS: Yeah, we watched a little bit of them right now. Honestly this early in the year we're just trying to get our own stuff in because the season gets upon you so quick. We'll start concentrating on them as we get a week to 10 days out of the tournament. Right now we're trying to get in shape, get our guys to understand the system.

They're a tremendous team, we know that. We have our hands full playing against them, but we're looking forward to the challenge.

TIM SIMMONS: Questions for coach.

**Q. How is Mike Glover doing this summer? How do you foresee using him going into the season?**

COACH CLUESS: I think Mike added a lot of perimeter skills to his game. His shot has gotten a lot better. He's putting the ball on the floor to drive it much better than he was a year ago. Put on about seven to ten pounds of muscle as well. I think he'll be a tougher, more durable player than he was last year. We'll use him in the inside-out role not strictly on the blocks anymore because he has improved that part of his game.

**Q. How is Scott Machado doing? Do you see him having as good a season as last year?**

COACH CLUESS: To be honest, I think Scott is a much better player this year than he was a year ago. We asked him to drop some weight. He lost about 12 pounds. Worked on his shot as well as some quickness. Playing at a whole 'nother level. Very proud with the effort he put into the game.

**Q. Can you tell us about Lamont Jones and how he'll work into the lineup this year?**

COACH CLUESS: He adds leadership to our team. We were missing last year. Made a deep run into the NCAA tournament last year. I think that will be invaluable to our team to have a player who is a national born leader. He is a guard that can play the one, the two, even some three for us because he is a physically strong kid. Gives us more versatility in the backcourt. I just like his competitive nature on the offensive and defensive end.

**Q. Going into your pre-season, have you had to work more on offense or defense at this stage?**

COACH CLUESS: We have about five or six new guys, so we've been doing both, to be honest with you. I think it always starts with defense. You put a little more time into that early on. I think that's an area you have to be solid, especially coming to the Puerto Rico, against all heavy hitters there. If we don't come out working hard on that end, it could be not so pretty.

**Q. Tim, Iona is in a similar situation to Wichita State where you can use these tournaments to good advantage, get quality wins. What kind of an advantage is this to your program?**

COACH CLUESS: I helps build your program. It helps you make a statement that you're a legitimate team at that level. It also helps your recruiting. Anytime you can play these types of teams, you can show you can go out and play against anyone. You are going to learn your weaknesses very quickly when you play against high-level opponents. That's what I like about it.

When you get through a tournament like this, look at league play, you're not going to really see teams better in league than what you're seeing in the pre-season. If you can get your guys competing, understand what they have to do going through the rest of the year, it helps all of our teams at that level.

TIM SIMMONS: Coach, we appreciate your time. Safe travels down to Puerto Rico. We'll see you in two weeks.

COACH CLUESS: Thank you very much.

TIM SIMMONS: Good morning, coach. Thank you for joining us today.

COACH TURGEON: You bet.

TIM SIMMONS: Opening question. How have pre-season practices been going for your team?

COACH TURGEON: Not bad. We were practicing pretty well, I thought making some good strides. We had an injury last week, took a step back. It was our point guard, so we have to rethink the way we're going to do things here early in the season. We're in the process of a little transformation. But the guys have been working hard.

TIM SIMMONS: Coach, obviously first year at Maryland. Has there been any of the players that were on the roster last year that have been standing out in practice and surprised you?

COACH TURGEON: Well, I think Terrell Stoglin, he was all-freshman team last year, had a good season late last year, put up some good numbers. He's practiced well, can really score the ball. Trying to make him a more complete player.

Sean Mosley really practiced well and played well in our scrimmages. He's a senior. He's done well.

Across the board, we have some guys that didn't play a lot back from the team, whether it's James Padgett, Ashton Pankey, Berend Weijs. Those are three big guys. They're playing well for us. Mike Parker, a guy that didn't play a lot last year but is practicing well. It's all their time to step up and try to produce at this level.

Then we have a freshman Nick Faust who has played well for us and has a pretty good chance to play well.

TIM SIMMONS: At Texas A&M you played this format. Do you like the way this tournament shapes up for the schedule for you?

COACH TURGEON: Well, I like the two, a day off. I like these early-season tournaments. I think they're great for bonding and bringing your team together, getting away from home, seeing where you stand nationally.

I don't know if our team's ready for three in four days. We're down to seven scholarship players. We'll have to see. We'll have to implement a couple walk-ons into our rotation. This is our schedule, this is our team. Looking forward to it. Never played in the Puerto Rican Shootout, but looking forward to this one.

TIM SIMMONS: Playing Alabama in the first round. Your thoughts about the Crimson Tide?

COACH TURGEON: Haven't studied

them a lot. The Green kid and Mitchell kid are great players, special players, have had great careers, helped put Alabama basketball back on the map, so to speak. They had a great SEC season last year, made a run in the NIT to the championship game.

We know they're going to be good. They lost a few players and added some new pieces, some good pieces. I'm sure like us they're still trying to find themselves. But they're very talented and picked high. They should be excited about this season. They're in most of the top 20 polls that I've seen.

**TIM SIMMONS:** Second-round game will be special, Wichita State, where you coached for several years, Tad Boyle who was one of your assistants.

**COACH TURGEON:** You never look forward to that as a coach. A lot of great memories at Wichita State. I'll see a lot of familiar faces. Good to see some people down there. Of course, Tad and I were together a long time at Jacksonville State and Wichita State. Helped me build those programs and get where we are today.

You don't look forward to any of those games, to be quite honest with you. But you got to play them. I think the Shockers are big in their league and should be good again this year. I think Tad is going through a little bit of a rebuilding stage obviously, a little bit young kind of like our team. Either way we're going to play a black or yellow team in the second round. But it should be fun just to see some familiar faces.

**TIM SIMMONS:** Your football team wore some different uniforms. Are you doing anything like that this year?

**COACH TURGEON:** Not this year. We're not planning on it. I think we will in the future. The pride uniforms, the state flag, it will be one of those once-a-year type things that we'll do. At this point we're sticking to the uniforms we had last season, then next year we'll do some more stuff.

**TIM SIMMONS:** Questions for coach, please.

**Q. Just checking to see if you have any new update on Alex Len yet?**

**COACH TURGEON:** No, I don't.

**Q. You alluded to this earlier, but how do you manage three games in four days with a relatively thin roster?**

**COACH TURGEON:** Well, we're just going to have to play some walk-ons, that's the

bottom line. We're going to get in foul trouble and start preparing that way. Unfortunately since Pe'Shon has gone down, we've had two scrimmages, haven't had a lot of practice time to adjust to him being gone. It showed in one of our scrimmages this weekend.

We got to just see which walk-on players are most ready to help us and give us a couple minutes here and there in the first and second half. That's the only thing you can do when you play three games in four days.

We got to get our guys in better shape. They're getting in better shape. Maybe change the way we've been practicing. We've been practicing up-tempo, playing a lot faster. Unfortunately we might not be able to do that early in the season.

**Q. Just wanted to ask about Pe'Shon, what the MRI results were on him?**

**COACH TURGEON:** Unfortunately I haven't heard anything yet. I was supposed to hear something yesterday. Didn't hear anything. He's had the MRI. Some people have looked at it. They've given me some preliminary stuff, but nothing factual, Okay, this is what the doc said after he looked at the whole thing. I know he has a doctor's appointment on Wednesday and we'll know more there because the doc not only has read the MRI but can push on his foot and see how he reacts to the pain, all that kind of stuff.

Unfortunately, I don't have anything for you. I should, but I don't. A little disappointed. Hopefully we'll have something by Wednesday.

**Q. What impact of Pe'Shon's injuries, ripple effect, is that causing on your lineup?**

**COACH TURGEON:** It's a big deal. Pe'Shon was a steady point guard for us. We only had two in the program. So it knocks us down to one. I need to move Nick Faust to point guard or backup point. He's a really good three man. But he's going to have to play point. He's not comfortable there. It puts a lot of pressure on him. Shortens our rotation.

Terrell Stoglin is more I think of a scoring point or a natural two, even at his size. Now he has to play more point. He's played point, played it his whole life.

We couldn't afford an injury to one of our two point guards, and it's happened. So we just got to adjust. This is the way it's going to be. This is our team. We'll adjust.

It's not just a little thing. Our position is not being in a position where we just plug someone in unfortunately, but we will next year.

**Q. I know you can't talk specifically in recruiting about specific players, but I wonder if you can say where you are generally with your recruiting. I know you got hired in May. Can you say at least whether you've been able to accomplish what you hoped to accomplish in the recruiting so far?**

COACH TURGEON: So far. We want to do more. We're not done by any stretch. We still have three scholarships on paper. So we'd like to add a piece or two before next season. But we got to add the right pieces. We're actively recruiting a lot of people. If we don't get it done early, we're going to try to do something late.

But, no, we need to do more.

**Q. Your time at Wichita State, when you look back on that, what's a thing or two that was really important to your development, helping you to move on in the coaching profession?**

COACH TURGEON: It was a lot of things. I was at a program where they really cared. I had to put a lot into it. I was able to build a program, pretty much do it from the ground up, which was a great experience for me. I had a great athletic director that was behind me a hundred percent, a fan base that was behind me a hundred percent.

I think second there was just tremendous coaches in that league when I was in it, Tom Davis, Royce Waltman, Dana Altman, Matt Painter, Bruce Weber. I know I'm forgetting some. There were just great coaches in that league.

At a young age, 33, 34, whatever I was, to 40, I learned a lot about basketball. I'm a much better coach today because of the seven years I spent at Wichita State. I know that. It was a great experience. I talk about that all the time. I used to thank Tom Davis all the time for making me a better press offense coach because his presses were so good. It was great timing for me at a young age to coach against such great coaches.

**Q. These tournaments are a really big deal for schools like Wichita State, make a national splash. Is it a little bit different at a school like A&M or Maryland?**

COACH TURGEON: No question. Unfortunately the valley has gone down to a one-bid league. It's made it even tougher on those

teams. Maybe this year it's a two-bid league or a three. I've heard better things about the valley this season going into it.

No, it's paramount for them to play well. I don't know if they necessarily need to win the tournament to get in, but they got to show well. It's opportunities for them to play against BCS schools. No one wants to play Wichita, they can't get the games they need. I'm sure they'll be keyed up and ready to go because they know it's a important time for them.

**Q. How have your bigs come along?**

COACH TURGEON: They're coming. I think Pankey is coming the quickest. He can defend and rebound for us better than the other two. James has shown some ability to score. Him and Berend just need to know they're going to play, get relaxed, do what they do in practice.

They're all getting better, but I think Pankey is coming the quickest.

TIM SIMMONS: Coach, we'll wrap it up. Any last comments about playing in Puerto Rico?

COACH TURGEON: We're excited. I know last time Maryland went down there they won the tournament. The fans still talk about that, what a great time they had, had a heck of a season. We're looking forward to getting back down there, hopefully traveling well, bonding as a team. We're looking forward to the challenges. Obviously playing Alabama is going to be a great challenge.

TIM SIMMONS: Coach, thanks very much and we'll see you in a couple weeks in San Juan.

Right now we have DAN SHOEMAKER in Charlotte with ESPN Events. You've been in the Puerto Rico event in organizing it since 2007. How has the tournament grown over the years?

DAN SHOEMAKER: I think it's grown exceptionally well. Last year we come off of a great field with Minnesota, West Virginia, North Carolina. This year we have a great field. When you look at the fact that every team in this event last year, with the exception of Maryland, we just heard from their coach, with the exception of Maryland every team finished above 20 wins, and Maryland was at 19. Every team went to post-season play with the exception of Maryland. You know Mark is going to get it done there.

We're really excited about having this tournament. It's grown. I was actually in Puerto Rico when Maryland played there the last time. This tournament and the tournaments before it I

think have a great history, great tradition there. We expect this year to be equal to any of the tournaments we've had in the past.

TIM SIMMONS: Obviously from day one this tournament has grown. How have the Puerto Rican people accepted the tournament?

DAN SHOEMAKER: I think there's been a couple of things. If you look at NCAA basketball today, for example, you see more and more Puerto Rican players. There have been some outstanding high school players come out of Puerto Rico in recent years and play very well in the NCAA. More and more coaches I think are seeing San Juan and Puerto Rico in general as fertile recruiting grounds.

We've worked hard to bring players back to Puerto Rico in this tournament. In fact in our field next year we'll have one team that have two or three Puerto Rican players. We're excited about the growth of this event. Our attendance has grown every year, particularly in terms of local sales. I think it's exciting.

It's a tremendous building, a tremendous venue. We've been able to get outstanding fields.

TIM SIMMONS: How are the travel packages going this year?

DAN SHOEMAKER: Very well. We know Wichita State is going to travel exceptionally well. As Mark said, we expect good things out of Maryland. Purdue is going to have a terrific crowd for us. Tickets over there are moving pretty well. Travel packages from the States are moving well.

TIM SIMMONS: We added a game with the NBA lockout, added one to ESPN-2. The television coverage is very good with a good announce crew.

DAN SHOEMAKER: Always excited about the television we get from Puerto Rico. It's a big part of this tournament. I think it's an attractive event. It's very early in the season. Actually the first week of college basketball season. I think that makes it a little bit unique as well.

We've been very fortunate to have great talent in this tournament and on TV as it relates to this tournament. So we're excited about this event.

TIM SIMMONS: Any problems staging a tournament there as compared to the mainland? Going to Puerto Rico, getting all eight teams might be a problem sometimes.

DAN SHOEMAKER: You know, not really. It's a great opportunity I think for the student-athlete in that there is the culture of a different country. It's almost a foreign trip for the players, the coaches, the fans, the families. But at the same time you don't need a passport. It's a

country that operates under American laws, American Commonwealth. I think you get the best of both worlds in there. You can spend your American dollars. You don't have to convert cash. You feel at home. It's a very friendly city, a very friendly country. You feel very much at home. Yet you get to experience a very different culture as well.

I think from a travel standpoint, from a staging standpoint, from a fan standpoint, it's a terrific situation.

TIM SIMMONS: ESPN events have kind of grown these tournaments starting with the Old Spice in 2006, adding Puerto Rico and Anaheim, now you have Charleston and Diamond Head.

DAN SHOEMAKER: We actually started with a tournament here in Charlotte. Our first event tournament was here in Charlotte. That was a precursor to the event we launched in Orlando, now the Old Spice. We constantly look at new opportunities. We've tried to put basketball tournaments and football games in what we think are great destination cities. Charleston just named the No. 1 destination in North America. We have an event that runs concurrent with the event in Puerto Rico. We have seven bowl games in some great locations. We'll launch an international soccer event in Hawaii this year.

From a staffing standpoint, we have a tough time keeping them here in Charlotte with some of the venues we play.

TIM SIMMONS: How are the teams picked?

DAN SHOEMAKER: It's really across the board. Some of them are relationship driven. For instance, Coach Grant who we're waiting on, I've known Anthony since he got into college basketball. He's been a great friend. Know most of the guys on his staff. Gregg Marshall and I have a relationship that goes back.

We target the schools that we think will really make these events work for us and work for the college basketball fan.

TIM SIMMONS: Coach Grant, thank you for joining us today.

COACH GRANT: My pleasure.

TIM SIMMONS: How is pre-season practice going for the Crimson Tide?

COACH GRANT: So far they've been pretty good. We've got a lot of young guys, so the focus for us has been trying to get our system in, trying to get them familiar with the style of play,

college basketball, what is going to be required. They've done a pretty good job so far of trying to understand what we're asking.

Our veterans have done a good job of leading those guys and trying to get them to understand what will be required. Obviously we'll have a tough, tough slate at the beginning here with a couple of home games before we head down to Puerto Rico to play in your tournament.

TIM SIMMONS: Any players been standing out in the pre-season or exceeded your expectations to date?

COACH GRANT: That's a tough question. Obviously for me, I'm evaluating everybody. I think our veterans have done a good job, JaMychal Green, our only senior, has really kind of separated himself in terms of where he is, his experience, whatnot, which you would expect. I wouldn't say that's a surprise.

I would say all of our young guys have competed, which is what we've asked them to do. It's really too early to say that anybody's separated themselves. We haven't played any games as of yet. Obviously it's a difference when you go from a practice situation where you're trying to evaluate your team to put them in a game where you're trying to win.

TIM SIMMONS: You're used to the format in Puerto Rico. Do you like the format of the tournament?

COACH GRANT: I think it's a great tournament. I think, number one, you get great competition. I think the facilities are terrific in terms of where our guys will have a chance to play. The setup is really good. I really enjoyed it when my team was there at VCU a few years back. I think it was very well-run. I thought the competition was excellent. I thought we had an opportunity to learn a lot about our team early in the year.

TIM SIMMONS: You're in the bottom half of the bracket with Maryland, Wichita State and Colorado. What are your thoughts about Maryland, Wichita State and Colorado?

COACH GRANT: You always have a healthy respect for the Maryland program. Obviously they play in an extremely tough conference in the ACC. Obviously with the new coaching staff, things will be different, a lot of new faces. We have not as of yet spent any time in preparation. I don't know a whole lot about their team but certainly have a healthy respect for their players and their coaches.

Obviously, as you mentioned, with Wichita State and Colorado, a little bit more familiar

because we faced those teams last year in the finals of the NIT up in New York. Little bit more familiar with their style of play. Some of the personnel will be the same. Obviously those were great games at the end of the year to try to play for a championship.

TIM SIMMONS: Questions for Coach Grant.

**Q. You went to the Paradise Jam last year and it was sort of a disaster. Is that going to be talked about before this trip at all, the lessons you learned?**

COACH GRANT: Well, I think this is obviously a new year. But certainly the things for our veterans, we'll try to make sure we're aware of and make sure our guys understand the opportunity that we have, what will be required early in the year.

So any opportunity you have to get your guys' attention, to help them understand, you use that as a coach. This is a new year, so we'll try to match it up as best as we can, understanding this is a different team.

TIM SIMMONS: Coach, thank you very much. We look forward to seeing you in a couple weeks in Puerto Rico. Good luck with the opening games.

COACH GRANT: Thanks, Tim.

TIM SIMMONS: Coach Painter, thank you for joining us. Can you give us some thoughts about pre-season practices to date.

COACH PAINTER: Well, it's been going pretty good. It's been a little bit difficult for us. We've had some guys banged up with some injuries, so some guys have been in and out of practices. Lewis Jackson has some foot problems. Terone Johnson had meniscus surgery in August. He's not quite got back into the best condition. It's been hard for him because it's kind of been nagging, his knee has been swelling up a little bit. He's been in most practices.

John Hart had a second surgery on his foot, fifth metatarsal, put a screw in that. Rob Hummel is looking good. He's been cleared to play. We go every other day with Rob. But he's really played well in practices and done a good job, looks better every single day that he gets out there. We're being really cautious. Go back-to-back days with him once a week. He's been able to respond with everything we've thrown at him. Like I said, we're trying to be careful with

him.

We've tried to be competitive. We're mixing and matching. What we've really tried to do is be competitive through the years in our practices and at times with some younger guys not understanding our system quite yet, that's been difficult to do. But I do like the progress when we do have everybody out there and the strides we've made so far.

TIM SIMMONS: Your thoughts on the format in Puerto Rico, two games back to back, off a day, then play on Sunday. Do you feel that's going to work to your advantage?

COACH PAINTER: If we win the first two games I think it will (laughter). I don't know if we can do that.

Anytime these tournaments come out, it's more of getting into a quality tournament like Puerto Rico against quality teams like we have here. I don't get caught up in the format, whether we play three neutral, four neutral, two at home, doesn't matter. It's getting quality competition early in the year, and seeing where you stand.

TIM SIMMONS: Iona is picked to win their league. Any thoughts on Iona right now?

COACH PAINTER: Well, we've played the winner of that conference tournament the past two years in the NCAA tournament in Siena when Fran was there two years ago and last year St. Peter's had a team that played hard and defended, really played well in their conference tournament. We had a chance to Iona. Was unbelievably impressed with their league while watching those two teams the past years. That's the only time I've been able to watch them.

Very impressed with their overall league and obviously with Iona. They got the transfer from Arizona to go on top of what they already had returning. It's going to be a difficult task for us. A lot of times when I see those teams like Iona, it reminds me like our teams at Southern Illinois. Waiting for the opportunity to get on that neutral court whether that's early in the season in an exempt tournament or the NCAA tournament to make your mark. We know they're a good team, they're hungry and we're going to have our hands full.

TIM SIMMONS: Any thoughts on Temple or Western Michigan who you might face in the second round?

COACH PAINTER: I haven't seen either of those teams much. Coach Hawkins does a great job at Western Michigan. We are going to play them after the tournament again. We have to

be prepared. We're going to eventually play them if we don't play them in Puerto Rico. Obviously, Coach Dunphy at Temple has done a great job at every stop he's been at.

We know both of those teams are very good. I'm kind of simple in our approach. I always try to focus on some things that are right in front of me. Right now we're worried about our exhibition game tonight.

TIM SIMMONS: When will you be departing and arriving into San Juan?

COACH PAINTER: We're going to arrive a couple days before our first game. I think that's always best to get there a couple days before, get your legs under you, get a couple practices under your belt, really get prepared. It can be a great trip, anytime you get an exempt trip traveling to Puerto Rico. But it's also a business trip, get them established and focused on the game of basketball.

TIM SIMMONS: Any new players on your roster that caught your eyes in the pre-season practices?

COACH PAINTER: We have a kid that sat out for us last year, Anthony Johnson, a redshirt freshman, has done a good job for us in practice. Can score the basketball, athleticism, does a good job of moving his feet, guarding the ball. We have two freshmen 6'8", Jacob Lawson and Donnie Hale, that both give us some athleticism on the frontline. They're in a bit of a different situation because they chose to attend Purdue with Robbie Hummel leaving Purdue, then obviously with him tearing his ACL, he is still here. So we are kind of jammed up at that spot, a little bit of a logjam.

They're going to get some time in the exhibition games, we'll see where they are. I think all three of those guys give us some more athleticism and allow us to get out and extend and pressure.

TIM SIMMONS: Big Ten added a team in Nebraska. Now you have two divisions. Is that the way it is in basketball or is it one division?

COACH PAINTER: It's one division in basketball. They have two divisions, the Legends and Leaders, in football.

TIM SIMMONS: Any thoughts on the Big Ten this year?

COACH PAINTER: I think obviously Ohio State has been picked to win our league. They have a lot of talented players. Jared Sullinger may be the most talented player in the country. They

have a lot of experience. They've had a couple of McDonald's All-Americans. So I think that's the team everyone is picking to win it, and rightfully so.

I think there's a lot of stretch after that in terms of who can be picked second could end up eighth, who is picked eighth could end up third. We have a lot of good teams and coaches in our league. It's not something where there's a separation after two or three teams in my opinion.

TIM SIMMONS: Coach, thank you very much. See you in San Juan in a couple weeks.

COACH PAINTER: Thanks, Tim.

TIM SIMMONS: Coach Marshall, good morning. Welcome to our teleconference.

COACH MARSHALL: Thank you very much.

TIM SIMMONS: How are pre-season practices going for you?

COACH MARSHALL: Depends on the day. There's some good ones, there's some bad ones. There's some ones where we look like we have a chance to be a pretty good team, there's some ones that look like we're not very good at all.

It's pre-season. Thank goodness we're not playing games yet.

TIM SIMMONS: Any players been standing out or new players that have caught your eye?

COACH MARSHALL: You know, Carl Hall is a kid that's going to play. He's a ball-getter. He goes and gets rebounds, relentless on the glass, tough, strong kid, junior college transfer. Then the 7' kid we've had in the program a couple years is starting to develop. Practices he's looked good. Unfortunately when we've gone live in scrimmages or inner squad, he hasn't looked at good. In practices, he's shown glimpses of being a really good player. He would be the returnee. Carl would be the best junior college transfer. Then of the freshmen maybe a kid that we're going to redshirt, Ron Baker from Western Kansas has really played well, shot the ball. He's going to be a very good player.

TIM SIMMONS: In Puerto Rico we play two days, off a day, play the final day. How do you like the format?

COACH MARSHALL: Well, it sounds good to me. Hopefully we're winning. I like that day off a lot more if we've won a couple games. If we're losing, I want to get right back at it.

I guess it just depends on how we play when we get down there and what Dan has scheduled for us when we get down there.

TIM SIMMONS: Compare this year's team to last year's team.

COACH MARSHALL: We lost four guys that were older, experienced guys. None of them were 22-year-old seniors. They were 23. Graham Hatch after his Mormon mission was 24. You can't replace that. You can't replace that experience and maturity.

But we've got some talented guys coming back, especially in the backcourt. Murry and Kyles and Ragland, Williams, Smith. We have a lot of guys that have won a lot of games and know how to do that. You just have to replace the experience, size, toughness, and that will come in time I hope.

TIM SIMMONS: You have a very interesting bottom half of the bracket. You play Colorado. You saw them in New York lose to Alabama in the semifinals. You have Maryland, a coach that was in Wichita there.

COACH MARSHALL: It's going to be a Wichita State reunion with Tad Boyle having been Mark Turgeon's assistant at Wichita State. So three coaches that have spent some time here in Wichita in that bottom half of the bracket, plus Alabama.

We're looking at the first game only at this point. I know Tad will have his team ready. I was very impressed with what he's done at Northern Colorado, then at the University of Colorado last season, getting a chance to watch him in New York. Whether it's Coach Turgeon and his new Terrapin team or a rematch with Alabama, we know we're going to have our hands full in the second round.

TIM SIMMONS: Questions for Coach Marshall.

#### **Q. How did Sunday's scrimmage go?**

COACH MARSHALL: We broke it down yesterday. We played 20 minutes, then 20 minutes, then as much as we could. We played like 47 minutes in the morning, 50 minutes in the afternoon. We won. But there were things we need to get better at. There's guys that played better than we thought. There were a couple of surprises, a couple of disappointments.

We tried to play everyone. We did play everyone. But Murry was out because of the rib thing. They had a player out, as well.

All in all I would give it a C plus, B minus.

**Q. What did you come out of there thinking you want to work on most?**

COACH MARSHALL: I want to continue to get better rebounding, defense. That's my deal. That's what I like to do. That's what has carried our teams throughout most of my career. We want to rebound and defend. My coaches are adamant that we're going to be able to score the ball. We just need to continue to work on rebounding, defense.

When you lose those guys that we mentioned, that size, experience, toughness, 6'8", 6'9", plus Graham Hatch, who was a man, that's the part that suffers with toughness and rebounding around the basket.

TIM SIMMONS: Last year you played in the Maui Classic, played Connecticut who went on to win the national championship, then you won two more games. What were your thoughts knowing you played the national champions last year?

COACH MARSHALL: I thought we should have won the game. It was hard to keep Kemba Walker off the lane and foul line. Shot 44 free throws. Played them great. Really hurt us when we lost that game because we needed the RPI boost of playing either Washington, Kentucky or Michigan State as opposed to Chaminade and Virginia. It's going to be better this year for us because regardless, we're going to play another BCS team in this format. So I liked it when I saw the bracket.

TIM SIMMONS: Coach, thank you very much. We look forward to seeing you in a couple weeks.

COACH MARSHALL: Thanks Tim and Dan.

TIM SIMMONS: Coach Hawkins, good morning. I believe you're the first coach and the first team to make the rounds through all of our tournaments. Did I say that right?

COACH HAWKINS: The only one we're missing is Anaheim.

TIM SIMMONS: We have to get you there.

COACH HAWKINS: That's the plan. I was going to say that after the call.

TIM SIMMONS: You want to see Mickey.

COACH HAWKINS: We saw him in Orlando. Now we need to see him in Anaheim.

TIM SIMMONS: How are pre-season practices going for you?

COACH HAWKINS: Depends which day you ask. So far pretty good. I think we're like a lot of the other coaches at this point, that is we're

anxious to play somebody else. We have quite a few veterans on our team. They're not just tired of playing against each other this year, they're tired of playing against each other for the last two and three and four years.

We have an exhibition game tomorrow night. We're kind of anxious to get to that.

TIM SIMMONS: Any players surprising you in the pre-season drills, new players standing out?

COACH HAWKINS: OOI would answer that by saying Nate Hutcheson. He's a small forward for us. He started every ballgame for us last year, but he really had an outstanding summer, really worked hard on his game, has taken it to a little bit higher level than where he was at last year.

He's probably been the most noticeable guy we have that has made an improvement.

TIM SIMMONS: You're kind of used to the tournament format with these games, two days playing, one day off, playing the last day. Obviously you like the format.

COACH HAWKINS: Yeah, absolutely love it. These tournaments, the ESPN tournaments, there's a reason that we keep coming back. For us, there just can't be a better situation. Number one, it's a neutral court for us. It's always in a nice place. The hospitality has been tremendous. Everywhere we go, the kids get a first-class experience out of it.

From a team standpoint, there's always outstanding competition, really good basketball teams, and you're going to be taxed. You're really going to have to play well to win games. But if you do, you know you've accomplished something.

So, yeah, we've really enjoyed being part of the ESPN tournaments no matter where they've been. It's really, really helped us with the exception of one year when we were in Charleston, we lost all three games. But other than that year, all the rest of them have really propelled us to pretty good seasons.

TIM SIMMONS: You had fun and it was a nice place, right?

COACH HAWKINS: It was a nice place (laughter).

TIM SIMMONS: You open up against Temple followed by a game against Purdue or Iona. Thoughts on the games?

COACH HAWKINS: I know a little bit about Temple but not a ton. I know it's tough. You

get the pre-season publications, you take a look at some of the teams, where they're projected. I'm looking for the team in the tournament that we should be able to beat. It's that old line in poker: if you're looking for a sucker at the table and you can't find one, it might be you. We're looking around at who it is we're supposed to be able to beat and I don't see one, so that might be us.

Temple is very good. Fran obviously is a tremendous coach. They're picked to do well again. Then winner/loser of that game, obviously Iona is outstanding this year, a veteran team. Then Purdue is always good, one of the best defensive teams. I watch Purdue play every year. I say to myself, I don't know if we'd score a basket. Might be the first shot in college basketball history if we play them. We have our own hands full not only on our own side of the bracket but from the entire tournament.

TIM SIMMONS: A final thought on your team. You mentioned you have games coming up. You play on the road right before the tournament in South Dakota. Any other thoughts to add?

COACH HAWKINS: I'm really happy with our team right now. When we had talked about trying to get into one of the premiere tournaments this year, we were excited about it because we had a veteran team back. I don't know if that will translate to wins or not, but it is the kind of team that we felt like we could take to a tournament like this and be able to compete with.

We're real excited about the opportunity, very excited about getting over there and seeing a lot of good basketball and improving our team.

TIM SIMMONS: Coach, we thank you for being here. Safe travels. We'll see you in a couple weeks.

COACH HAWKINS: Thanks, guys. Appreciate it.

TIM SIMMONS: Thanks to everyone for participating.

### **FastScripts by ASAP Sports**