



## **Murray State 86, Nebraska-Omaha 62**

**Second Round: Monday March 24, 2014**

MURRAY, KY -- The Murray State Racers won their second game in the 2014 CollegeInsider.com Tournament with an 86-62 win over the Omaha Mavericks at the CFSB Center in Murray, Ky.

Playing their first home non-Ohio Valley Conference post-season game since 1983, the Racers advanced to the CIT quarterfinals where they'll host the Towson Tigers Thursday at 7 p.m.

The Racers (20-11) also secured the program's fifth-straight 20-win season, the best in 89 seasons of Murray State hoops.

Jeffery Moss led five Racers in double-figure scoring with 17 points, while Jonathan Fairell added a double-double with 14 points and 13 rebounds. Jarvis Williams scored 14 points and had five blocked shots. Cameron Payne added 15 points and dished out six assists. T.J. Sapp returned to the MSU line up and scored 10 points.

In the first half, the Racers trailed early by seven points, but tied the game with a 13-4 run. Payne hit the Racers' first 3-point basket of the game with 15:53 left and Williams slammed on a fast break with 13:15 remaining to make it a 15-15 game. MSU finished the half on a 12-2 run that was capped when Williams got one of his five blocked shots of the game, which led to a layup at the buzzer by C.J. Ford. MSU led at the half 47-34.

In the second half, UNO got as close as 11 points when they scored the first basket of the half, before the Racers took an 18-point lead on Moss' floater for a 60-42 score with 12:44 remaining.

MSU's only senior Dexter Fields hit 3-pointers with 4:39 left to put him over the 500-point mark for his two-year MSU career. The second three put MSU up 78-56.

The Racers won the battle of the boards 46-35 and held the Mavs to 37 percent shooting for the game including 33 percent in the second half. UNO was also 6-of-27 from long range.

MSU took advantage of 14 UNO turnovers by turning them into 24 points.

## Game Notes

MSU has achieved something that has never happened in 89 seasons of basketball at the school. That is five straight 20-win seasons. The Racers secured that with the win to tonight. The streak started with head coach Billy Kennedy when his teams went 31-5 in 2009-10 and 23-9 in 2010-11. Steve Prohm's teams have continued that with a 31-2 mark in his 2011-12 rookie season, 21-10 in 2012-13 and this season now at 20-11. The win-loss tally stands at an impressive 126-37 in the five seasons. Previously, the MSU teams from 1996-00 had four straight 20-win seasons under coaches Mark Gottfried and Tevester Anderson.

The Racers extended their home win streak to 12 with the win over UNO. MSU is 14-1 at the CFSB Center this season with their only loss to Middle Tennessee (Nov. 26) 80-62.

Dexter Fields surpassed the 500-point mark for his two seasons with the Racers when he hit a three with 4:39 left. With six points tonight, Dexter has 504.

Cameron Payne also surpassed the 500-point mark with 15 tonight. The OVC Freshman of the Year has 503 after scoring 15 points tonight.

Jonathan Fairell had his second MSU double-double and his sixth game of 10+ rebounds.

Jarvis Williams was the first MSU player to get five blocked shots in a game since Ed Daniel against Tennessee State on Feb. 9, 2013.

The Racers have won back-to-back games in the CIT to reach the quarterfinals. MSU won at Missouri State (March 19) 66-63 and came home today to handle Omaha. MSU now faces Towson (25-10) who has also won two games with a 63-60 win at USC Upstate (March 19) and an 83-77 win at East Tennessee (March 21). Towson hails from the Colonial Athletic Association where they were 13-3 in league play and finished second. Towson made it to the CAA Tournament semifinals where they lost to William & Mary 75-71. The Racers are 1-1 all-time against Towson with a home win in 1979 and a road loss in 1981.