

The CARDIAC KIDS. That's what some of the folk around here are calling the Tigers this season and for good reason. In our last 7 regular season games we have had 2 double overtimes, 1 single overtime and three games decided by 2 points or less. It is a testament to the resolve of this group that we're 5 and 2 in that stretch.

One of our mantra's this year has been "No lead is safe" and in today's world of college basketball it is absolutely true. At any given point a team can go on a run. Especially in the GPAC. Not to toot the conference's horn, but I would find it very hard to believe that there is a better conference top to bottom than the GPAC. You can throw records out the window when it comes to playing teams in this conference. Every squad is well coached and every team has at least one if not multiple players who have the ability to go off big in any game. So there is a chance you might find yourself down by 10 pts or up by 10 pts knowing full well that it could change in the blink of an eye. A team can't lose focus, even for the slightest of time.

This year's GPAC tourney has a new format. In the past, only the top 8 teams qualified for post-season play but this year all 12 are in. From a personal standpoint, I wasn't too keen on the idea. I have felt there should be a reward for finishing in the top 8. But this year's quality of play, top to bottom, demonstrated that this is probably the most fair solution. What makes it tough is that we must now go back to back vs. a tough minded Concordia team. We won in a defensive battle just this Saturday and Tuesday night's contest should showcase two teams that play extremely hard and know each other very well.

If one were to ask what some of the key points of the regular season were I can think of several. How we handled injuries both in the early part of the year and for the second half stretch would be one. When we needed people to step up they did. Our Florida trip would be another. Spending the week together as a group was a key team-builder this year. Not only did they have some fun and compete, but they learned more about each other. That is vital when striving to be a "team" in the classic sense of having common goals and the understanding of roles.

The post-season is here – March Madness GPAC style! I couldn't be more excited!

Go Tigers!
Ian Brown