

AUBURN vs. BARRY U
Nov. 2, 2017
Auburn Arena » Auburn, AL

Auburn Head Coach Bruce Pearl

Opening statement...

"If that was another Division I basketball team, we would be coming in here and talking about how tough they were to guard, how well they shot, the two guards that played so well, but because it's a Division II opponent, people are going to look at that and be like 'oh wow'. I coached in Division II for nine years, and I can tell you that high level division two basketball is better than low division one. The players are better, they're older, they're more experienced. If the kid misses that last open three, we win by three, we'll feel a little different because of the outcome. The reality of some of our challenges are still going to be the same. I'm really disappointed in the defense because we've made so much progress. I think a lot of it has to do with the opponent, but my best defensive guard is Davion Mitchell, and he was in foul trouble. The adjustment that I will consider making, pretty quickly, is having Jared Harper and Davion Mitchell play at the same time. Those are two of the better defensive guards I have, they're two of the quicker players, and when I rotated Bryce Brown, Mustapha Heron and Malik Dunbar in there, defensively those guys struggled. Mustapha Heron and Malik Dunbar struggled specifically. Those guys obviously got the better of us. Offensively, I thought we did ok. We got to the rim, we got to the foul line, we scored 95 points, but we rushed so many 3 balls. I don't think we got really good looks from the 3. I think they were rushed and discombobulated. It was a good exhibition and it was good exposure for us. It showed a lot of our weaknesses."

On the fans cause for optimism after today's loss...

"I'd be optimistic. We have a good team, and we lost to a good team. I think they have reason to be optimistic because we have a lot of weapons. We've got good depth, and I can just tell you that half of the roster didn't play as well as they typically play. We had four or five guys that did not play well. That doesn't happen very often. Certainly Danjel Purifoy and Austin Wiley are two of our top players, but we have enough without them to still be able to win. I'm not discouraged."

On when the two players might be back...

"I don't know. We are taking it day by day. When they're able to be eligible, they'll be eligible. They are not able to travel until they are eligible."

On his concerns with a small front court...

"I would be concerned once we get into SEC play. Desean Murray is a really good player, and he did struggle tonight a little bit. We have a lot of respect for Desean. He does really well, and when one of your better players doesn't play well, it was a little bit disruptive. His attitude was great. Desean has the ability to be a good positive leader for us."

On Malik Dunbar...

"I think part of the thing with Malik [Dunbar] is that he hasn't been able to pick up on the system lately. He's not having any fun, and he's not able to make the kind of contribution that he is able to give. We have to find a way to unlock a little bit of that beast in Malik. It was noticeable."

On what the team can do better defensively...

"I'll just say, that for example, we have some big wings who have to be able to move their feet and stay in front of big guards, and that would be a concern. I thought we did a good job in the post. We could have improved our rebounding a little bit. They got some 50/50 balls and things like that. Again, those are things that we really worked on, and it's probably going to be a difficult film to watch because it's going to expose some bad execution. I still saw a lot of positives out there."

On Purifoy's and Wiley's path back to the court...

"It's an ongoing investigation and it has to run its course. We will be able to determine their eligibility over, hopefully, a very short period of time. We are still not in a position where we can determine their eligibility yet, so therefore, out of caution, they were not able to play."

Jared Harper, G, So.

On his current emotions...

"As a team, we weren't really thinking of the Danjel (Purifoy) and Austin (Wiley) situation. We're more focused on what we have in front of us. We have had the mindset all preseason of focusing on what we can control. We were focused on this game, but we had some of the same mistakes during this game that we had last year. It was good for us to learn throughout this game. We had to change what we had last year and coming into this year. We've worked so hard to change that."

On the mistakes throughout the game...

"We had a couple of defensive lapses. After last season and coming into the preseason, we've been focusing on second half defense. That was probably one of our weaknesses last year. Rebounding was also one of our weaknesses. We tried to focus in on that. If we can do those things every night, we can control how often our shots go in. If we can control those things, we'll be a very good team."

On staying optimistic about the season...

"We can't control what fans say. We can control what happens in our locker room. We can come together as a team and see what we have to do. We have to be ready for next Friday."

Anfernee McLemore, F, So.

On his current emotions...

"I really feel like today was a learning process. We need to just use this game to move forward. We need to find out where we messed up and what we can improve. We need to correct those mistakes before our game."

On staying optimistic about the season...

“If we keep a strong core, play like we’ve been practicing all summer and play efficiently, we’ll be ready.”

Barry Head Coach Butch Estes

Opening statement...

“Well, obviously we’re happy we played well enough to win. I would caution everybody that it is just an exhibition game. Our teams aren’t near where they want to be. We shot the three pretty well. We were able to stay on the board with them. 3-point shot was a big difference. That’s something we do well. We were able to find enough open people with ball movement tonight. It was a great win. Having these two guys right here (Elvar Fridriksson and Sawyer Glick) Jekyll and Hyde, Peanut Butter and Jelly, with (Elvar) penetrating and (Glick) getting open, he’s as good as it gets. We need to improve and have a long way to go. We have to stay humble. We are in a very challenging Division II league in the Sunshine State Conference. We aren’t the first Sunshine school to beat Division I team, that’s happened before. So it’s a great league and we are predicted number one in the league, so we have a lot to live up to and a lot of improvement left, but obviously I am very happy with the win.”

Head Coach Butch Estes on offensive/defensive game plan and execution...

“Obviously we shoot a lot of 3’s. That’s what we normally do. We try to move the ball. We are kind of old school in the sense that we don’t do a lot of 1-on-1. We like to move the ball around as much as possible and to play as a team, but the beauty of what we have right now is Elvar (Fridriksson). When the clock runs down his crossovers, misdirections and hesitations he can get to where he wants usually. I do think switching to zone helped us out and slowed them down, but we, like Auburn, like everyone else, are focusing on playing different lineups. Let’s be real, their two best players didn’t play. That’s a factor, it probably wouldn’t even been close if they would have played. Auburn has young players and we have seniors, but we have juniors and sophomores as well. We just want to be consistent. This is our fifth year and we have been to four-straight NCAA tournaments and we hope to get back again this year.”

Sawyer Glick #11, G

On the final seconds of regulation...

“We had to make some tough plays at the end. Daniel (Mortenson) came up with some huge tips and that saved us. It came down to us playing our principles, like Coach said, and Daniel came up with some really big plays.”

On if he was watching the clock during the end of regulation...

“No. I mean, I was looking at the clock when people were at the free throw line, but I didn’t really know how much was left when the ball got in play.”