



Cincinnati at Georgetown

Saturday, January 28, 2006

Post-Game Quotes (Georgetown 76, Cincinnati 57)



Georgetown Head Coach John Thompson III

On the offense...

I thought we played very well on the offensive end and that's a good defensive team. I think just things fell in place today. I thought our offense looked pretty good. Our guys did a good job of reading off each other and seeing what was there. I think we had good looks off drives and post-ups of outside shots and that's just a function of our guys doing a good job of reading the defense and seeing what was there and what was given to them.

On the defense...

Rebounding and second shots is a part of defense and we were not as good as we need to be in that regard. They got looks, they had open shots, they have guys that usually make a few shots.

On the pre-game speech...

I think this is one of those games where I told our guys, 'you just have to be a player and you have to read and you have to take what's there.'

On the future...

We have a long way to go, we have a lot of improving to do. We want to continue to get better and to continue to improve, and we have a lot of room for improvement. These guys are obviously getting to the point where we have a comfort level of what to read and what to look for. We shared the ball well and we have to continue to do that.

On James White...

They played hard right until the end and they competed and they fought. We knew James was going to have a good game. He's made himself into a very good basketball player and that's just credit to how hard he's worked. As long as he was out there I was a little nervous, he scores points in bunches.

On Jeff Green...

A lot of people who don't really understand the game equate playing well with scoring points. Jeff Green has played well all year for us. Some games he's scored, others he hasn't. In the past few games he has scored, but he has played well all year. We have found a way to hit the open man and play and take what's there. He does a good job of figuring out how to help.

On Eric Hicks...

I think our guys did a good job, Roy and Jeff in particular, of making it harder for him to get baskets. He's a good player.

On the level of communication...

I thought our effort was good today. I thought our communication was good. A lot of times we get caught up in just not communicating and I thought we did a good job of talking each other through situations. At the end of the day, that's a very good team and they had an off night.

On the season...

Our group realizes we can get a lot better. We are still at the midpoint of the season, you can get caught up in what's happened in the past week and start to feel good and forget that this is the Big East. There are 16 very, very good teams and if we don't show up to play every night we can lose to every team we play. Our guys realize that and we just have to stay focused and keep working and keep trying to get better.

On the alumni in the stands...

I don't know whether it affected our guys, but I'm sitting there thinking 'I sure as heck hope we play well today.' It's important that all our former players showed up today because we are a part of them and they are a part of us. As we continue to go forward and progress, our guys have to have an understanding of all the caring and tears that all of those guys put into this program. It's easy to walk into McDonough and see the jersey wall, and it's pretty impressive to see everyone that was drafted, but we are just as proud and it is just as important, if not more important, of the success stories of Georgetown basketball of all those guys that aren't up on the wall.

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Cincinnati Head Coach Andy Kennedy

On his team's lack of depth...

We've certainly had some obstacles, we've got eight scholarship bodies and a football player and it makes it difficult even from a preparation standpoint because obviously nine guys doesn't give you much of an opportunity to play five-on-five.

On the last two games...

The one thing that I'm disappointed in is the one characteristic that we've shown throughout the course of this year prior to this week. Starting at Louisville was that this has been a pretty resilient group of fighters, a group of kids that, despite what was handed to them, continue to battle. Up until this past week they had really represented the program well. We've lost a little bit of our edge, I think we're tentative, it seems as if we're not as confident a group.

On playing Georgetown on the road...

In a league like the Big East, against an opponent like Georgetown, who is playing as well as anyone in the country right now, on the road you certainly can't expect to back your way into any success. You have to go out and be aggressive and you have to be assertive. Our inabilities on both ends of the floor tonight were exposed by a better team, and we didn't fight the way that we have up until this past week.

On his role as the coach...

I'm hopeful that we can find some answers, it's my job to do that because the games keep coming. We have another opportunity in a few days and I'm hopeful that we'll play better.

On Georgetown's play...

I think that they're a tremendous team. If you look at their numbers throughout the course of the year they are close to 49% from the field, which is outstanding.

On his pre-game plan...

We were going to try to change our look, zone them a little bit, but because of our depth issues and because of our size issues they were able to come right out, and 'bam, bam, bam,' they hit some and you feel like you have to pressure them and then you are playing right into their hands. I think it was a telling statistic that they had 22 assists off 30 made field goals, which tells you that the Princeton Offense was in full effect today.

On Eric Hicks...

Eric Hicks is the heart and soul of this team. But he is an undersized, kind of robotic foreman. Kareem had the sky-hook, some people have the jump-hook, when Hicks shoots it, we call it the hand grenade. He puts his shoulder in and launches that hand grenade. At times it's more effective, but it's hard to get over Hibbert.

On three-point shooting...

We are going to be dependent upon guys making perimeter shots and when you go 4-24 from three... and you know, not all of those were open, certainly, but enough of them were such that you have to knock them down. That would energize you defensively, allow us to press a little bit, which is what we were hoping to do, especially with Hibbert in the game. But you can never get into that because of your inability to score.

On the breakdown...

What this team cannot survive is we can't allow one mistake to compound into another because the cumulative effect that we cannot overcome. Today was a perfect example of that.

On the future...

The great thing for these guys, and I told them, is the fact that these same guys that you saw today you are going to see again Tues. and then the Sat. after that. We are what we are, so find a way to snap out of it. I'm going to continue to try to put them in a position to be successful and, ultimately, we have to have some guys step up and meet the challenge.

On the reasons for the loss...

We are all searching for excuses and I don't really want to fall prey to that. I think we got beat by a better team tonight, a team that executed better than we did, a team that deserved to win. They go 10-21, we go 4-24, and, as a result, they leave happy and we leave sad.

On missing shots...

I think when you miss shots you have a tendency to become tentative. When you miss shots it's hard to truly be as assertive as you need to be to win in a league like the Big East on the road. We didn't make shots, we didn't make shots against Louisville and as a result we got what we deserved.

On going from C-USA to the BIG EAST...

At Cincinnati we have a pretty good program, we have always played a national schedule against some pretty big boys. The difference is the quality of depth in this league is different than any in the history of college basketball.