



Postgame Quotes: Cincinnati 65, Evansville 43
Head Coach Wes Miller
Nov. 9, 2021

Head Coach Wes Miller

Opening statement

"It's good to play a game. I can't lie, it's like you kind of pinch yourself when you walk out there and see that kind of environment. It's like a dream as a coach. A dream as a player to be in an environment like that. If it's really like that every night in here it's going to be a heck of a run. It's going to be a heck of a lot of fun, so that was really special to experience. You know, what I've heard about, it honestly exceeded all expectations. Just for an opening night game in non-league play I was blown away with the support with the atmosphere it was a heck of a rush. I'm really proud of our kids. Transition is really tough trying to put in a new system defensively, trying to put in a new system offensively, a bunch of guys that have never played together, it can be very difficult and it has not been totally linear. We've had some tough days in the pre-season trying to get things going but I thought they came out and played together. I thought they played with great effort and I thought they had fun. I saw joy out there playing the game of basketball and that part was really cool. I think those are things we can build on moving forward.

On the personnel

It's hard to single out guys and I'll let you guys ask some questions here in a second but the first thing I want to say is Mike Saunders (Jr. Guard #3) has been terrific since the day that we started back in the summer. He's been an everyday guy. He's continually improved and he deserves to start as much as anyone on my team and I went and met with him yesterday and I said "Mike, you've earned it, you deserve to start, but I think it'd be best for our team if you came off the bench." Before I couldn't even finish the statement he laughed. He (Saunders) said, "Coach I trust ya, and I'll do whatever you think is best for the team" and it was real and genuine and it brought tears to my eyes. That's the kind of stuff that makes coaching special, that's what makes being on teams special and that's the kind of stuff when I think about tonight's game, gets me excited about a foundation we can build here and hope that we can build off of tonight. I liked how we guarded tonight.

On the game

You look down and 25% from the field. 26% from three. I thought we fouled them a little bit at lost our discipline at times and put them on the line. I didn't like that we were in the bonus so

early in the second half but I really liked our effort to guard. They're a really good offensive team and they really shoot it and I thought our ball screen defense to guard pick-and-pops, our guards to feeding them, our bigs communicating coverages and doing their job and getting back, I thought that was pretty good for the most part. We worked really hard on that the last two days in practice. And then I thought our rim presence was good at times and I think that's got to be a strength of this team. There's a lot of stuff we got to work on. I don't think we've arrived but we're going to enjoy winning because I think that's important for young people and I like it so you try and enjoy it for a couple hours and then we'll get to the film and see all the things that we got to do about 10 times better if we want to have a good year this year."