



**Head Coach Wes Miller Press Conference
Cincinnati 103, Miami (Ohio) 76
Dec. 14, 2022**

Wes Miller's opening statement

"Well, needless to say, offensively there were some really good things tonight when we run and all five are doing their part, the four guys without the ball are running the right way and the guy with the ball is making the simple play. We just keep sharing it. We could be a pretty good team. There were some really good moments sharing the ball tonight. I want more defensively. I thought there were some good stretches. The collective effort and will for the most part was okay. I want more. These guys showed what they're capable of from a focus, effort, and passion standpoint in the second half against Xavier and it's my job to hold them to that standard every second. So, I want a little more there. But there were some really good possessions and some good things defensively. I don't like how we got out rebounded. I thought there were times the shot would go up and we were just looking at the ball in the air as opposed to boxing out the right way. A lot of it was on the defensive board. Hats off to Miami Ohio, Travis's (Steele) group because they do run some good stuff and they make you guard long into possession with the Princeton offense and they're really good shooting team so long shots, long rebounds, but I still think we can be a really good rebounding team. We've done that at times. That was kind of one of the things that stuck out to me a little bit that I didn't like, but it's good to get a win and for the way we felt in here a couple of days ago, and we got to get back on the practice court tomorrow and we keep trying to get better."

On only allowing 21 three-point attempts to Miami (Ohio)

"We guarded the line even better in the second half I thought. That was a huge emphasis. You're looking at games, they want to make 14 threes or 16 threes. That's the way they can get you. And there was a huge emphasis not to foul around the basket and make them score over you. I thought we did that pretty well, but there was some just silly stuff in the second half I didn't like where you reach in or even Vic's (Viktor Lahkin) second foul in the first half. It's like make him score over the top. But again, those were the two main emphasis or two main points of emphasis to guard them was to guard the three-point line and not to reach in and foul and make it go over you around the basket."

On the offense playing well recently

"I think we can be a great offensive team. We got to do our job. Whatever your job is on that possession and it's simple. The style of play, you don't have too many actions. You got to do your job. We got to share the ball. And if we do those two things, we can be a really good offensive team. We got to do that for 40 minutes. There were some really good moments at that tonight."

On the ball movement

"it's not the home run play. It's not a play over the top or threading the needle. It's the play to the guy that's seven feet away and it's wide open just move it and move it at the right time and again we do that. You give guys slight advantages or the ball pops around the perimeter then things are really good."

On if he was eager to see how they would respond after Saturday's loss to Xavier

"I don't think about any of it. After 12 years of coaching, I stopped. I probably did that a lot early on. I think you got to figure out a way to have some sanity as a head basketball coach and after 12 years I don't try to speculate on things like that. It's just like this: after the way we felt on Saturday, we got to come in and practice really hard on Monday. We did. The way we felt on Saturday we got to come back in the next day and practice really hard on Tuesday. It was just okay. Today, we got to come in and play really dang hard. And I thought there were some really good moments of that. And that's all I'm concerned about right now. They've shown the standard they're capable of playing to. You're going to have good moments and bad moments in terms of your play like you might play good or bad, but you shouldn't have good moments and bad moments in terms of your effort. In terms of your passion in terms of your togetherness, and it's my job to hold us to that standard every second. I think if I do this team can be a pretty good basketball team."

On what Mika Adams-Woods brings to the offense

"He's really improved. I mean, How about his play-up? Probably hadn't been talked about enough at least in our press conference. I haven't read the damn thing. I don't do that during the year. Another way to keep your sanity as the head basketball coach, but his improvement has been tremendous. He's such a reliable defender. He's been steady with the ball. He's now becoming a more effective offensive player like he's creating more action for our team, which takes some pressure off the day. So I mean tonight you see it but I think it's he's been fairly consistent here to start the year. And maybe we had talked about that enough and I still think he's scratching the surface."

On Ody Oguama's recent play

"I just think defensively he's taken a huge step from year one to year two with this program. And he's making plays on the floor. He's in a good position on the floor. And with that, he's getting increased minutes. And with that comes increased confidence up think all of us are excited by the way that he's playing."

Announcement of an extension for coach and his thoughts

"Well, first of all, I'm thrilled. I prefer not to sit and talk about me. But I'm thrilled about and like, this is where I want to be. This is home like this is not my home. I love it here. So I'm thrilled and truly appreciative of President Pinto and John Cunningham, like deeply appreciative, and the people here that are supporting our program, like this is home now. And that's just a step in the right direction for me and our staff. So I'm thrilled about it. You know, from a timing standpoint, there's no bad timing for something like that to happen. And I mean, I'm deeply thankful for these kids, the way they're letting us coach and them believing in us and the administration believe in and deeply thankful. It just solidifies more that this is home. I don't want to be anywhere else. So I'm thankful for people making that happen."