



**Signing Day Press Conference Quotes
Head Coach Wes Miller
Jan. 12, 2022**

Head Coach Wes Miller

Opening Statement

"Anytime you win a league game you got to feel good about it. Certainly, feel a lot better about the result tonight than after Sunday. I thought we were doing well defensively in the first half, and I thought that led to opportunities to get out and run and get easy baskets. Certainly, were executing better in the first half offensively with higher quality shots and sharing the ball. To look down and see we have 17 assists after having 19 and 20, I think that is a product of executing better. I am guessing but we had nine or 10 at halftime. So, we shared the ball better in the first half. I wasn't pleased in the second half. I can't imagine any Cincinnati Bearcat watching was happy with that second half."

"But I wasn't pleased with us in the second half. We weren't in a good rhythm offensively and I wasn't happy with us on the defensive end. I was really pleased in the last three-and-a-half minutes...when we needed to, we buckled down and got stops. We were flying around, and I think we had five deflections in the last couple minutes of the game. We are a good basketball team when we really defend. When the guys are really engaged and wanting to defend. You can see we wanted to do that to win and close out the game. We can't even turn that light switch off. Got to stay on all the time. That is what I talked about with the guys in the locker room. Certainly, pleased with the win, but we can learn something from this one. I think this team wants to learn and wants to do it right. I think we can gain something from the second half and give us credit of how they finish the game."

On ECU and Vance Jackson

"Give ECU credit, to be down 20 at halftime and come back out and fight like that and cut it to five late in the game. Heck of an effort. Vance Jackson was incredible. We talked a lot about how we were going to defend him and in the scouting report. We had one

heck of a night to hit 35 and we tried to make some adjustments and it didn't work and it didn't matter. Give him credit for coming in here and having a night."

On ECU's play at end of first half

"I don't know if it was anything I could point to. Maybe I will after we break down the film tonight. I thought we came out of the gates with good defensive energy...I thought our deflections numbers were high. I was pleased with the way we were flying around. We were really blowing up their action, troubling their handoffs and I think that is a sign we are engaged. That didn't stay all the way through, just 20 minutes in the first half. It was good for a majority of the first half. I got to go back and watch the tape, but at one point in the first half with eight or nine they ended up with 28. We certainly didn't defend well to close the first half and in the second half."

On playing in transition

"We practice our running game every day. We practice the habits of it every day. That is the way I enjoy playing and the guys I have played like to play that way. You can get easy shots and easy baskets before the defense sets and we always try to coach that. We are going to emphasize that every day. My goal here is that we get fast. Where people are just terrified of us in the open court. I think we are improving over the last week. You say we are playing fast, but I think we are playing slow. I want to do it more consistently. I do think when you get live ball stop, rebound, steal, ball goes out of bounds, so you don't have to inbound it, I think that is the best way to score. Live ball stops will also lead to better stops as well."