



**Head Coach Wes Miller Press Conference**  
**Cincinnati 89, Georgia Tech 54**  
**Nov. 22, 2023**

***Opening Statement***

"First off, I think a lot of (Georgia Tech head coach) Damon Stoudamire, I really do. I think I said that in here a couple of days ago in a press conference. I followed his head coaching career, and I don't know him well, but I've interacted with him on the road. In our profession, there are just some good guys out there, who are really good at what they do. He's going to get Georgia Tech rolling. It takes time, but I thought it was noticeable how much talent Baye Ndongo had and this was just his first game. They're going to end up having a good year because they have some guys, he can really coach and he's in year one, but he'll get Georgia Tech going.

That was fun tonight. I told the guys in the locker room that was really fun there in the second half. I thought they did some things in the first half to just kind of stagnate the game and frustrate us a little bit. I thought we handled it well. I did. They were playing way back and way off of us. We had a scrimmage against Indiana State early in the preseason and they kind of played us like that. We struggled with it, and we addressed it after that. That's why those closed-door scrimmages are so valuable. I thought we were much more prepared even though we didn't know that's exactly how they were going to play us. We were much more prepared for how to deal with it because we had been through that once this year and dealt with it already. So, I thought we handled it pretty well. Some of those early wide-open shots don't go in and sometimes when you get guarded like that it can kind of snowball, it didn't tonight, and then all of a sudden, the lid comes off the basket. We made some shots, but I thought that run in the second half was fun.

It was good to see our defense fuel our running game and sustain itself for the first time. That was noticeable to me. If I start singling guys out, I'll talk about the whole roster, so I won't do that tonight. But obviously, Viktor [Lakhin] shooting, you guys all thought I was lying about it. When I was talking about how well he's been shooting the ball. I think people really saw it for the first time tonight. Not just that he can make one, but he is pretty effective back there. Certainly, I know you're going to ask me a lot of questions about Aziz [Bandaogo], it's going to take us some time to assimilate him offensively and some other stuff, but I thought his presence defensively was very noticeable tonight and I thought it impacted the game. I also thought it was good to see CJ [Fredrick] make some plays there in the second half to get us going too."