



Postgame Press Conference

Cincinnati 68, UCF 57

Jan. 27, 2024

Wes Miller's opening statement

"Needless to say, I was really pleased with how we started the game. We have been really sick over the last week, players and coaches. It has bubbled up so much over the last week we've barely been able to practice this week. Viktor Lakhin tried to go through practice and tried to show up to shoot around, he just couldn't do it. I am really proud of him for just trying, that means a lot to me. We came out and I thought we played great. We subbed and I am not blaming any of the players, but then we played really poorly there on out. I was really disappointed in our transition defense and communication. I was really disappointed in our defensive rebounding and quickness to the ball. On offense we were trying to take on 6-11, 7-0 footer, which were like turnovers. I'm disappointed in our first half, but I am obviously very impressed with how we came out in the second half. They were different what we prepared for as they are down two starters. I thought we found the right combinations. I thought John Newman was an absolute warrior. This will be a game in which I tell stories about John Newman years from now. I could not be more proud of Ody Oguama. All he has is come into the gym and have a great attitude and keep working. I thought his minutes and ability to match up when they went small were really important for us having success tonight."

John Newman III on the halftime message and his big second half

"Everything with Wes [Miller] is that he wants us to be aggressive. He gives us the confidence to go in and be aggressive and then he puts us in a position to win. That makes it easier for us and I have said this every game, but my teammates find me in great places. Simas [Lukošius] had six assists and Day Day [Thomas] had four assists, so we were sharing the ball a lot more in the second half. This was a big reason we had such a big second half."