



**Head Coach Wes Miller Press Conference
Cincinnati 87, Eastern Kentucky 69
Nov. 13, 2022**

Miller opening statement

"It's really good to see us close a game out. Again, something I think we can build on and it's good to see the team dig in. There were some frustrating moments there. At the end of the first half and the second half. You have to keep trying to become a team early in the year and again they've had a great preseason. They've worked really hard, but it's different when the lights come on, and there's people in the stands, that frustration comes out a little bit. You don't play as consistently as you'd like. And the positive thing I'll say is you just got to find a way and I thought they kind of kept trying to dig it out and find a way and it was good to see us break through there at the end, I think that was good for our team. Give AW'S (Hamilton) team credit. They're going to be pretty good. I thought they could have gotten discouraged there, the way that we jumped on them early and the way the game was going, they kind of just kept coming, kept coming and I've known AW, shoot since I was in high school playing against him. We're from the same area, didn't grow far away from each other. His team takes on his personality and they're going to be tough and they're going to keep pressing and they're going to keep coming at you and he's going to play a lot of guys and have a good year in their league. So, give them credit for their resilience. I thought the offensive board was the biggest factor in the game early on for us. I think we had 14 at halftime and I was pleased with that, like Ody [Oguama] and Jarrett [Hensley] and [Jeremiah Davenport] a little bit and Rob [Phinisee], we had some guys really beaten up the glass and that's something we can build on. You didn't see that continue in the second half; I think they had three in the second half. But I thought that was a really big factor early in the game."

On how playing this team helps them in the long run

"Yeah, everything that we're going to go through as a team is going to be good for us. In anything you go through, if you handle it the right way and learn from it and grow from it, it's going to be good for us. It's good to play a pressing team early. It forces you to work on dealing with pressing. It's good to play a team that plays a different style of play. So, if you see something like that later [in the season], you've already dealt with it. There's definitely some good stuff that will help us down the road from tonight's game."

On offensive rebounds

"You look at lineups and we have a lot more guys not just going to the offensive board, but they have the ability to get their hands on it because of size and length. And then Rob [Phinisee]'s not the biggest guy, but he's got a good feel for tracking down balls on the offensive board. I haven't looked down at his stats yet tonight, but I think he got offensive rebounds. He had two, one of the first half and one they're in the second on the free throw line, all those are big plays. So yeah, I think it's a little combination of lineups and sending more people was."

On the importance of fastbreak points for UC this season

"Well, we want more easy ones. We want to play fast and the best way to get easy ones is to get a stop. You get a stop, you get a chance to really get out and run and with our running game, it's one of those things got to have some patience for, because it'll get better and better as the year goes on. We're going to be committed to it. So, you look down it was good to see some stuff in the open court, but I want more."

On the frontcourt making plays to end the game

"It was great. I love effort. It was it was great to see our fans recognize that too. I keep telling the guys, we will just play our tails off. We'll just make plays with effort and intensity, and these people will scream and yell for you louder anybody in the country. So that was great. It was great to see some plays on the ball late in the game."

On responding to adversity during the game

"Let's just figure it out. I could sit there at every timeout and critique every possession, and there's times that I do that. I probably can be difficult to deal with. But you get into games, especially in the second half. It's just about trying to figure it out, and that's what we kept talking about during timeouts. Hey, they're making a little bit of a run. Let's just dig in, and this is part of becoming a good team, we got to go through this. I thought [Eastern Kentucky] tried, we had a couple good possessions, they made a couple shots late, we didn't secure a couple balls around the basket. We put together some possessions, but then there were some frustrating plays behind those possessions. But I thought in the last four minutes that kind of happened for us, and it was it was good to see the group come together."

On Jarrett Hensley's ability to adapt and his importance to the team

"Man, his value to our team is more than what you can see on the court because he's got the ability to slot around and play all these different positions and different lineups. He's intelligent enough to do it. So, it's not just can you guard the position. That's a big part of it. He can defend different positions, but he's also intelligent enough to know our offense from different positions or to know our schemes in different ways. So, he's incredibly important to this team because of his ability to give us that versatility with different lineups."