



**Postgame Press Conference
Head Coach Wes Miller
Feb. 18, 2022**

Head Coach Wes Miller

Opening statement

"I thought we had our opportunities there in the second half. I'm frustrated, disappointed, hurt, all the kind of stuff that happens when you lose, there's no doubt about that. I think everybody in that locker room feels the exact same way. I thought the way that the game started has happened a handful of times this year and has happened last week against Houston, that makes it tough when you're digging holes. They score 16 points in the first four minutes of the game... we've got to find ways to get off to better starts and not dig holes. We're going to continue to work to do that. You look down, and they (Memphis) shot 50% both halves. I think when we've been at our best this year... I look up and 10 days ago we're 25th in the country in defensive efficiency on KenPom, which is a stat ranking system that I really value. So, you're guarding, a top 25 defense in the country 10 days ago. I thought at South Florida we were back to that a little bit. Outside of the South Florida game, we haven't defended like that. If we don't get back to the defending, we've got to get back to defending like that to consistently compete in these types of games over forty minutes, and we weren't able to do all that for forty minutes tonight. Give Memphis credit. I didn't think we had a lack of effort. I didn't think we had a lack of "want to," a lack of togetherness. I don't have any problems with our team's approach or the things going on within the locker room. These kids have been fantastic, we've just got to continue to stay together, got to continue to work, and if we do that, we'll get out of this little thing that's been going on here this last week."

On the quick turnaround

"We've got 48 hours. Wichita State is back to playing like Wichita State. We've got to turn the page and get ready. I was proud of the ways the kids dug back into it in the second half. I thought we had our chances. We didn't get enough stops, we had some chances to convert some things and we didn't do it. I'm disappointed in the outcome but we've got to stay together, turn the page and get ready for a game 48 hours from now."

On Memphis' defense

"Their pressure in the first half, their pressing, I thought it just had a tremendous impact on us. Offensively, it took us out. They tried to do it in our first game, and I thought we handled it

really well, but it took us out of our running game, took us out of our half-court offense, they're doubling Dave (David DeJulius, senior guard) on what felt like every on-ball action, and we struggled to handle that and convert and make plays. That had an effect on the possessions in the first half where they didn't do that. It had us so out of whack, then you start pressing, guys aren't in the right spots. It had a big effect on us, then I thought we adjusted late in the first half and we talked about it at half time. That had a big impact on the game, and you've got to give Penny (Hardaway, Memphis head coach) and that stuff credit for that."