



Head Coach Wes Miller Press Conference
Cincinnati 78, La Salle 60
Dec. 17, 2022

Opening statement

"What great support, we feel it and appreciate everybody that is coming out and supporting us. Especially this time of year when students are off campus and all that kind of stuff. So, appreciate that. I was impressed with David DeJulius tonight. Antoine Davis is a really good player. I mean a really good player. He's seen about everything you can throw at him. And I thought David (DeJulius) did as good of a job as you can do on him in the possessions that he guarded him which was the majority of the game. I can't imagine a lot of people hold him under 17 and a lot of that 17 wasn't with Dave (DeJulius) guarding him. So, tip my cap to David (DeJulius) because that was really fun to watch. And that's the kind of competitive spirit that if he can continue to have on both ends, it's going to really impact our team, but he was tremendous tonight. Victor (Lakhin) 18 (points) and 15 (rebounds). I'm sitting there and I'm coaching every detail of what he's not doing. And then you look down he's got 18 (points) and 15 (rebounds). I say that because I think he's still just scratching the surface how good he can be, but he was really effective tonight. That said, the zone stagnated us give Mike (Davis) credit. We didn't practice a whole lot against zone. We need to get back in the gym and work a little bit, which we will but there were stagnant times. I do think we missed some shots early, Dave (DeJulius) missed some good ones. Jeremiah (Davenport) is not going to go to two for 12 too often and I thought he had really quality looks. I thought Shoey (Mika Adams-Woods) missed one in the corner open. Dan (Skillings) missed one in the corner. I mean, we missed some shots early and there were times that I didn't like our possessions in the halfcourt, especially in the last 10 minutes of the game. But all that said, you defend like that as a team, you're going to feel pretty good about it from my perspective. 43 to 40 on the board, and finally, we win the board, but I will tell you I'm not happy about it. We got a lot of work to do on the backboard. This should be a great rebounding team, and we had not been what we need to be here the last couple of weeks. But it's good to finally win the board after the last couple of games."

On committing four turnovers, one off a school record

"Yeah, I like 16 to four (turnovers) no doubt. Now let's put it in perspective, their playing zone the whole game. There's not a lot of pressure, but four turnovers is four turnovers over 40 minutes, and that part you do like."

On summarizing the non-conference slate

"Well, I thought the first two to three weeks of the season were frustrating. You lose a couple of pieces. You're trying to figure out rotations, and you don't want to do that. You want to figure that out in the preseason. And I thought we were trying to kind of find our identity. I didn't think we were defending or sharing the ball. And so, we were really kind of just working through some things the first two or three weeks and I'm not making excuses. I was frustrated. Our team was frustrated over the last two or three weeks since we got back from Maui. I felt like we've started to establish our identity as a team. We've had more purpose in practice. We're figuring out roles and rotations and where we fit. And I do think

we've grown a lot in the last three weeks but as you mentioned, Keith I mean nonconference is over and it gets real when league play starts. So I do like our improvement here the last three weeks, but that doesn't get guarantee anything we get back we have to keep growing and we're gonna have to take this up another level that to compete the way that we want in the American."

On Jeremiah Davenport's play

"I think that I've been really pleased with how he's trying to play the right way here over the last week or so. There's a concerted effort to try to play the right way. And you want when guys do that. To all the sudden they also scored at a higher rate because I do believe that's how it works over time. And so I hate that it's the one night that he doesn't shoot it well, but if he continues to play like that, it's going to give our team and him the best chance to play and by the way, Dan Skillings, he's 1-for-7 tonight. But he's really made a concerted effort to play the right way and when he comes in the game, the ball is moving better. There's a couple possessions tonight we get a layup in transition because he just makes a simple play across the floor in transition. We get a swing around the horn and Shoey (Mika Adams-Woods) ends up driving to close out and gets a layup but it's because he put pressure on the drive.