



**Postgame Press Conference
No. 25 Texas 74, Cincinnati 73
Jan. 9, 2024**

Wes Miller's Opening Statement

"First off, congrats to Texas. That was a heck of a college basketball game. When you lose a one possession game, it hurts. Losing always hurts, but when you lose like that, it stings in a serious way. The first thing I was proud of was how we kept fighting all night, but I didn't think we were engaged early defensively. We certainly had a ton of trouble with Dylan [Disu] and Max [Abmas] in the high ball screen and they kind of kept going to it over and over again and the one guy that we found that could defend it was Jamille [Reynolds] and that's honestly why he was playing so much. We found that he could defend it and then he kind of finds his way on the other end scoring on the box and that was good to see him come alive because we've been seeing that from him since this past summer. I think it was helpful for his confidence. I was disappointed in how we defended the ball screen there, and the turnovers are disappointing in both games here in league play. We've just turned it over at an incredibly high rate and that hadn't been the team we've been, but you look down and you know you got multiple guys with two turnovers, and you got a couple guys that are starters with three and four turnovers. We have to do a better job taking that away because they turned turnovers into easy baskets all night. This type of stuff is the reason we lost the game. What I don't want to hear about is our free throw shooting. That is the thing that I've heard every time we lose, and our players hear it every time we lose. Nobody's going to beat themselves up more than John [Newman III] tonight and that just breaks my heart. It isn't fair because he shouldn't do it because of one missed free throw on a one and one and that does not define the game. Unfortunately, he's going to do that to himself, and I just hate that and we're going to have his back because that isn't why we lost. We had two chances to get stops to win that game and we didn't get the stops. That's why we lost the game not because of free throws. We had some good performances tonight. I thought Simas [Lukošius] was special. I thought he was special tonight. He made big time plays down the stretch when our team needed them. That is what big-time players do and we've known that about him for a long time. He's been battling a bunch of injuries all fall and a bunch of crazy stuff, but he was really special tonight. It was good to see Jamille [Reynolds] come alive and you know Viktor [Lakhin] has been consistent all year. but I thought Dylan [Disu] was a load. I thought him at the five with the pick and pop thread. makes them a completely different team. You know, when we didn't we thought they might do some of that but Kadin [Shedrick] must have got I think he was grabbing his back in the last game. So that must be why he didn't play but I think Dylan [Disu] was just everything we can handle. And you know, we talked about everything we could possibly do at halftime, but Jamille [Reynolds] kind of gave us the best chance in the way building was garden it was the way that we tried to get Viktor [Lakhin] and Aziz [Bandaogo] to guard it a little bit but that they didn't have quite the same level of success."

On the demands of Big 12 play from start to finish

“Playing in the best basketball league in America it's going to take lead effort and you can't have possessions you take off. I don't think anybody that watched the team would say to our guys you'd be disappointed in our players' effort. But the effort plus the focus and attention to detail for 40 minutes we can get better there. We got a lot of work to do there. It's going to take a lot of effort in these games. That's what it is. It's the highest level of college basketball. It's awesome and there was an incredible atmosphere there tonight. That's what we all came here for and it hurts when you come up with possession short.”

Guard Simas Lukosius

On his confidence in being a leader in high-pressure moments

“Yeah. I don't know what else to say. Especially when my shots are falling, and I know I can make the right decision upgrading myself for myself or for a teammate. But again, we have a lot of guys that have that capability. It's not like I'm sitting here saying ‘I'm the go to guy’ because more than five people can be there.”