



Head Coach Wes Miller Press Conference
Cincinnati 83, East Carolina 55
Jan. 11, 2023

Opening Statement

"Twenty assists and the balls popping around tonight, nine turnovers and a couple were careless I didn't like that, but the balls popping around and thought that part was good. It's something we've been emphasizing and working on a lot and we've had some nights where that's really happened, and that happened for us tonight that was good. The rebounding, 46-29 That's the kind of stuff that gets me warm and fuzzy inside as a coach. And it wasn't just one guy I mean, certainly Nolley with 10 and that's been a huge emphasis for his development as a player so to look down and see that he has 10 is phenomenal but it's multiple guys. I mean, Jeremiah has six Viktor has six, Ody has eight. David was better chasing down defensive rebounds tonight more engaged on the defensive glass and those long ones. I was pleased with the rebounding. There are lapses defensively, that segment in the first half, we don't get back twice, that frustration. I thought there were some lapses defensively in the second half. We weren't ready when the ball came in bounds and that's something we take a lot of pride on. So again, we've talked a lot about just trying to continue to be more consistent. So, there's some things there that weren't good. But at the end of the day, it's good to get a win and get a little better feeling than we had leaving here on Sunday a couple days ago."

On the three-point shooting performance

"As I've told you guys before it's always for me. I mean, certainly when balls go in guys, you're going to feel better that's not rocket science. You guys all know that. It is always to me about quality shots. I didn't think we took bad shots. I thought Jeremiah and Landers making some early that really opened the game up for us. I thought we took pretty good shots and I thought it's because we were trying to play the right way and share the ball in the open court. And when you do that, you're going to give yourself a better chance to make them and then you're going to give yourself a better chance to get the offensive rebound when you don't. And there were a couple longer possessions, but we kept moving and kept trying to attack and we made some shots at the end of possessions too, because we were playing the right way. So, it's not always going in like that. I get that. It hasn't always gone in like that this year, but I did think we were playing the right way."

On David DeJulius' performance tonight

"Yeah, one thing I don't want us to ever take for granted is David's value to this team. Watching him grow in the role that he's in. We go as David DeJulius goes, we know that, and I don't mean

we go as he scores; we go as he goes. He's really growing in that leadership role. It's been really neat to see. And he's learning that his impact on our team is so much greater than any one thing on the floor. You're seeing nights over the course of the last month or so where he impacts winning by defending and setting the tone out front defensively and taking on challenges. You're seeing nights where he impacts winning by scoring. You're seeing nights tonight where he impacts winning by finding the right guy. And I think that's what we need him to be. And he's really grown into a role where the only thing he cares about is this program, taking steps forward, this team winning and he's willing to do whatever it takes, and that's been neat. And I can't state enough how much we value that and how much we need that from him."

On the offense playing well, translating to the defense's play?

"Yeah, to me it's the most important play is always the next play. We can't be circumstantial in basketball to be great. No matter what happens, we got to try to win the next possession. So, defensively it can't matter what just happened. That's always a fight. With young people that are still trying to learn what it's about. This team still has some work to do there. And I always say my favorite wins as a coach are when you shoot 20 or 30% because you can't go in the ocean. You still win because your team just defends and rebounds and, we still got a lot. Obviously, we won the game and that's all great and everything. We still got a lot of room to grow in terms of how we approach every possession."