



Head Coach Wes Miller Press Conference
Cincinnati 88, Tulane 77
Dec. 29, 2022

Opening Statement

"Before we start, Chad Brendel, who covers the beat here, really well, he's out because his wife has cancer and he's going to be out for a month in the hospital with her. And then they've been dealing with that as a family for a long time. I don't know how long. Since I've been here and a lot longer before that. So I hope he's doing well. I know he's always listening and glad to be looking forward to having you sit in here. And your wife Kelly, doing well in the future here. So thinking about you. Before you ask questions, Any league win is a good win. That's a really good basketball team. It's a really good offensive basketball team, and they're confusing and a good defensive basketball team. I thought we did a really nice job early in the game of being in a stance defensively, playing with purpose defensively, really working to make shots difficult, specifically around the basket on the three point line. And I thought that led for opportunities for us to get out and run and share the ball and you look down and 20 assists that's probably the part that I'm the most proud of. So you love to see the ball popping around like that. Defensively I want to be better. Guys, there's moments I'm proud of. And then it just wasn't consistent enough. They're a really good offensive team. So you're not going to just get stops all the time, but there's some breakdowns there. Specifically, in the second half, I thought to come out of the half, we just weren't ready to play early in possession. So you're playing from behind. You're not in the stance, you're not matched up in transition. And now you're playing from behind and they're a team that kind of comes up the floor at 30 miles an hour, and then all the sudden they're at like 70 before you know it. You got to be ready when they're coming up at 30. And, I thought that we just weren't alert enough. I should say early in the possession and there were some breakdowns there down the stretch. I've said this on the radio here a second ago but when you have a three possession lead under two minutes, you gotta use clock. I've never been one to start doing that too early in a game because I think when you lose your aggressiveness, sometimes that can really backfire. So you always want to attack and keep under control but under two minutes with a three possession lead, you gotta pull it out and try to use some clock and we had two opportunities to do that. One, Landers turns it over, and the other one we turn it over. Viktor and others out there in the middle of the floor that leads to a basket for them. So, finishing games out needs to be a little bit better, but you did see some stops down the stretch. And that's really how you finish games. And then obviously the turnover, in the press offense with Myka Adams-Woods you don't like to see that. So we got some work to do there and some work to do to be more consistent defensively. But, overall you win a league game at home, you have 20 assists, those are the things you're going to feel good about. And, finally Mika Adams-Woods, I thought he was terrific. A lot of guys were terrific, but I thought he was terrific tonight. They didn't pay quite as much attention to him especially earlier in the game and I thought he did a really nice job of attacking off the bounce and making the right decision with the basketball. And I think everybody looked down and go 7 for 8, 18 points, but I thought his decision making and aggressiveness helped our team. It's amazing how

basketball works when you do that sometimes the ball goes in for you too. So it was a really good night for him and he just keeps getting better and more confident at the point guard position.”

On the team’s culture

“There's a culture here, working and improving, not just on your game but your body. You never arrive from a cultural perspective. You're always becoming, you're always working at it. But there's a culture this past offseason that was established that you can be proud of as a coach, guys are in the gym. So, if I sit here and just talk about Shoey (Mika Adams-Woods) and his day-to-day approach on his body with Coach Rehfeldt and getting in the gym and shooting and playing pickup. Not just the stuff we do with them, the stuff they're doing on their own or with our graduate assistants and managers. I could talk about everybody on the roster, and that's something you're proud of, so you see the effects of guys improving because of the work that they put in. I think it all goes back to the work and then I think he's getting more and more confident and playing more and more to his strengths and who he is as a player.”

On offensive rebounding

“Six offensive rebounds. We missed 30 shots, and we only get six offensive rebounds. You guys know I'm not going to like that. And that's something we were talking about in every timeout it felt like. We had two of the six offensive rebounds in the first two minutes of the game. And one of them was Vik (Viktor Lakhin) on the offensive board. I think it was the first basket of the game. The second one was Vik (Viktor Lakhin) tipping it out and those were both in the first couple possessions, so you only have four for the rest of the game. We got to be better on the offensive board. We have to be better on the offensive board. I promise you guys were working like hell at it in practice. There's one there in the second half where you felt Vik (Viktor Lakhin) and Landers (Nolley) could have gotten it, and it drops. We let the other team get it and that kind of stuff drives me crazy but the Vik's (Viktor Lakhin) improvement it's remarkable right? But I still think he's just scratching the surface of who he is as a player. You're not seeing anybody close to their ceiling, like his ability is so elite. And he works like crazy like the rest of them and he's going to keep coming and coming to more questions.”