



CINCINNATI BEARCATS

THE AGENCY | COMMUNICATIONS & CREATIVE CONTENT

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POSTGAME QUOTES

CINCINNATI 94, NJIT 67

NOV. 24, 2025

CINCINNATI, OHIO | FIFTH THIRD ARENA

ATTENDANCE: 8,774

Cincinnati Head Coach Wes Miller

Opening Statement

"It's good to get back on the count after Friday night. I think the thing I like is that we are having high assist numbers, which means we are sharing the ball and making good decisions. As I look down here, there are 24 assists. I think we had 18 or 19 assists Friday night, so I like that. I'm glad we got to get some extended minutes for some guys that haven't gotten to get them, like Keyshuan [Tillery], he's so important to our team this year, as we move forward, with him getting out there and getting extended minutes and getting to play through some mistakes. I think that's really important because we are going to need him to become more confident and ready to compete and ready to play. I thought there were some really good moments from him tonight that he should gain some confidence from. Same thing with Halvine [Dzellat] getting those extended minutes and doing a nice job with them on the backboards. So again, those are some of the positives. Also with Jordi [Rodriguez], I thought he had a great loose ball that was a Bearcat type of play. You see that some of the guys who have been here are trying to get in. We had a second-to-last media timeout where I really challenged them to play Bearcat basketball and to play the right way. No matter what's going on and who the opponent is or what the score is, that group came out for the next couple of minutes and did that. I think we are still learning what that means, but there were some moments tonight that you could see that happening, and that's the good stuff."

On how to get Jalen Celestine going

"It's not just practice. He's done it at this level in this league, so I have no concern about that. I thought he looked a little stiff out there tonight, so I didn't play him. I thought he just wasn't moving well. I told him when he tried to give it a run to start the second half again, that he just didn't look good physically to me. So, I pulled him out and told him I just didn't think he looked good. He agreed, and we'll get back to it. He's a really important player to this team, and he's coming off an injury. We've got to have some patience, but he's doing a nice job in practice, and it's like what I said about Shon [Abaev] Friday night. Jalen Celestine is going to be fine, but we have to get him back up to speed again. I thought tonight was a great chance to do that, but he had some stiffness, so we couldn't really give him the kind of minutes that I wanted him to have."

On Tyler McKinley's impact through the first six games

"I don't use the term glue guy, so I don't have a definition of it. But I think what you're trying to say is that Tyler [McKinley] is a guy that does stuff that impacts winning. That's what I see. He just does stuff that impacts winning. He does the little stuff that separates how you win or lose a possession, which is pretty cool for a young player, because he gets it. He skies in there for that big offensive rebound. I think Mou [Moustapha Thiam] missed a dunk. We have to finish that stuff around the rim. And the ball's almost at its high point, and you see Tyler McKinley tracking it from five feet away, and he still gets it at the high point before anybody else. He gets winning stuff, his defensive energy, his physicality, his rebounding, and his offensive game is pretty good, and that's going to keep coming. I thought he had a chance to make some moves inside the interior tonight, you could see that coming. But I don't use the term glue guy. I use the term winning player; he's a winning player."