CINCINNATI BEARCATS
THE AGENCY | COMMUNICATIONS & CREATIVE CONTENT
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POSTGAME QUOTES
CINCINNATI 79, AMERICAN 53
NOV. 2, 2026
CINCINNATI, OHIO | FIFTH THIRD ARENA
ATTENDANCE: 9,420

Cincinnati head coach Jerrod Calhoun

Opening Statement

"You have to give American a lot of credit. I thought they were really ready to play. We had a lot of really bad breakdowns in the first half, and then thought we let our inability to score the basketball affect some of our defense in that first half, but I'm proud of these guys. In the second half, you have to go through some things to really learn what you have as a group. I thought we took a lot of 'me' shots early, so we settled. Four of our first five shots were contested threes. I hadn't seen that group do that. Not to say we're selfish, I just think we were way too antsy and hopefully will be more settled on Thursday."

On different combinations

"This is going to be a trial by error type of deal, when you have so many new guys. I've only coached four of these guys for a full season. There are going to be no excuses made. Like, 'hey, this is year one, Coach Calhoun has time.' I joke all the time, the reason I've survived in this business is because I think I'm going to get fired every day, and I don't want to take a day off, and I don't want to let fans down. So the expectation is to go to the NCAA tournament. The expectation is to win at a high level, and I've got to figure that out. Typically with lineup data, you have to give it four or five games. Now we're in game four, so about one more game, we will start to break that down. Certain lineups, two-man lineups, three-man lineups. I really like (Eric) Mahaffey and TC (Trevian Carson) in there together because those kids can flat out guard the ball. I really like David (Iweze) in there with that group as well, and that's why we kind of went to some of that."

Fifth-year guard MJ Collins Jr.

On players taking accountability at halftime and importance of players stepping up

"It's a player-led program. Coach harps on that every day. He wants to watch us and see what we can come up with, so that they don't have to always coach. It's peer-to-peer coaching, as he tells me. Us being able to just step in and acknowledge and kind of critique each other is always important because we're the ones out there together. So we're going through the wars every day. We're the five that's out there. It's always important to kind of piggyback off of each other and see what each other sees and what we don't see, and there is always room for growth."

Sophomore forward David Iweze

On game performance impacting confidence and where he wants to be towards the end of the season

“I feel like our preparation as a team has been pretty good. I feel confident going into every game and feel ready and prepared to step in, whatever the case may be.”

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