

POST-GAME QUOTES

Statement from the UNM Athletic Department released prior to Sunday's game:

"Carlton Bragg and JJ Caldwell will not participate in today's game versus Houston Baptist. They are being withheld from competition and team activity until further notice. The athletic department has received information that requires further review. In the meantime, there will be no additional comments from anyone at UNM until that process is complete."

HEAD COACH PAUL WEIR

On a slow first-half performance:

"[Jalon Gates] made a lot of threes in the first half, and didn't make very many in the second. Sometimes when guys are making shots on the other end, especially the ones he was making, it deflates you a little bit. In the second half, obviously those shots weren't going in ... I thought that it maybe deflated them a little bit, and made us seem a bit more encouraged."

On Corey Manigault and Zane Martin:

"I think [Corey and Zane] consider themselves starters and I think in a lot of other years and teams, they are starters. We just happen to be a deep basketball team with a lot of good players, and those guys were able to step in and do some good things. They are older, more experienced, Corey has been here for two years, and I am happy that both of them did what they needed to do, especially on the offensive end."

On offensive performance in the game:

"As long as we were going to be patient offensively, I felt like we could get any shot ... I think we have always felt good about our offense, we have a very good offensive basketball team statistically, theoretically and practically."

"It is our defense that has to get to where it needs to be to in order to beat a San Diego State, Utah State, or whoever these teams are that are ahead of us ... I think for 10 or more minutes in the second half, we showed that."

On Makuach Maluach:

"I thought Makuach's shot selection tonight was awesome. Everything was at the rim, going to the rim or an open three ... him and Manigault are great basketball players, and sometimes because of the guys we have, who have played very well, they go unnoticed."

COREY MANIGAULT

On whether he will manage playing more minutes:

"I am for sure going to be able to handle it. Anything that comes my way I will be able to handle. It's just a new role and I am a senior so I have to step up."

On Zane Martin:

"I met Zane in high school so we are both from the east coast. We had the same mindset, we went in there, we blocked everything else out and did what we had to do to get this win."

On the break in games for the holidays:

"I get to go home tonight so it feels good to go home with a win and sit back. We still have a lot of work to do, a lot more work to do."

MAKUACH MALUACH

On mindset during the game:

"We control what we can control, and we don't worry about the outside noise and what is going on. Today we just had another game and we came in and did what we needed to do. Everyone is here for a reason, we are basketball players at the end of the day."

"I just came in and did my same routine like every day ... you may say that since I had 19 points that I took a step but I had the ball, I was open, I shot it, they went in, and that's it. Another day."

On responsibility of being a leader:

"Sometimes we are in a slump and we won't score for a while. So we try to get a block or a good rebound to motivate the team and get us going. I feel like it is my responsibility since I have been here for three years."