

New Mexico vs CSUN Post-game Quotes

Coach Weir

On improvement from the last game:

“It was a step for sure defensively tonight. Probably a bigger one than I even anticipated. (CSUN) is a good team. [They had] a seven-point game at Oregon State with six [minutes] to go. They play hard, you could see the way they came out. They have good athletes, they made some shots early and got into a bit of a rhythm and fortunately our defense was able to still settle in after that and get enough stops to take a step. Its crazy that this isn’t really about winning and losing as much as it is about just trusting our process and continuing to grow.”

On implementing the press

“Tonight we forced 16 turnovers. The three previous games we [forced] 20. We are continuing to turn teams over. We’ve done some zone presses and some three-quarter court [presses], we did it again tonight ... today was probably the first game where I want to come in and hang our hat on our defense, but we got stops tonight.”

“The reality is the teams that we’ve played are smaller and quicker than us and we have to be able to guard those kind of guys. We’ve had issues with that in the past. That’s my priority number one right now.”

On fast-break plays

“We could feel them getting tired. I thought they came out with some great pop. They were excited to play. They played hard. They are a very quick team and they came out with good energy. I think at some point you could feel them losing a little bit of [energy]. That’s when we found our rhythm, and hopefully we are able to put our imprint on the game.”

On Manigault’s game

“I thought his first half changed the game. He came in and the game was going back and forth and I think a lot of people saw the offense but his defense in the first half was exceptional. His defense in the second half, we still have to improve a little bit, but everyone knows Corey is an amazing offensive player, very gifted. One of the best low-post players I have ever had. Getting him the ball down there, good things are usually going to happen. We just need him to help round us out with the defense and the rebounding, so he becomes more of a complete player. We all know how good of an offensive player he is on the block.”

JaQuan Lyle

On team defense

“We just compete. Everyday we come into practice. You see how it is we compete ... We’ve finally been able to compete against somebody else. We haven’t had that, I haven’t had that in two years a lot of guys haven’t had it in a long time, and we are just taking advantage of it. We’re playing hard. Fighting for forty [minutes] and it’s fun.”

On progress towards returning to the game

“I’ve got a long way to go. I’m committed to getting better every day. No matter how my body is feeling, no matter what it is I’m just trying to get better every day. I’m just happy to have the game back in my life. That’s the biggest thing. Every single day I want to get better. Whether it’s the weight room, taking care of my body or on the basketball court, I’m doing something every single day to get better and I’m going to continue to do that.”

Corey Manigault

On defending without fouling

“We definitely have to watch our fouls. It’s hard, we just have to play smart on defense. The way our defense is, it adjusts to it. It keeps us in the paint and makes us defend the rim the right way.”

On team camaraderie and Keith McGee’s friendly gesture

“It’s very important. We are all going to have our ups and downs. Some days it might be him or the opposite way around... Even if I’m having a bad day he always knows how to make me smile.”