

12-22 VS PENN QUOTES

Head Coach Paul Weir:

On missing shots:

"We missed our first six free-throws which put us in a tough place to start the game. As far as shots down the stretch, I thought we had some pretty good looks at the rim. We missed some layups and even though we were getting to the free-throw line, we weren't making those plays."

On UNM's style of play:

"I thought we made a nice run in the middle of the second half and (Penn) responded very well to it. It was maybe just one of those nights where we had something on our minds that got in the way of us making any free throws."

On the zone defense:

"For two days, I thought it was pretty good. Based on a lot of the different things we were looking at, it was just something that we felt we needed to go to, and we did. It was great in the first half, at almost double the success rate of our man, but early in the second half they were scoring against our man. We probably stayed in the zone a little too long, and I thought Penn got into a little bit of a rhythm there towards the end of the second half."

On his technical in the first:

"At the end of the day, we don't have a margin for error. Every possession matters and when you see a play like that, you know the importance of it ... It was not the kind of behavior that I intend to do and not the kind of behavior I'm proud of."

On Drue Drinnon's time on the court:

"If you look at the totality of the season, our plus/minus is mostly stratified by experience. Our older guys are at the top while our younger guys are at the bottom. What we have been intending to do is just to get more experienced players on the court."

On the mental, physical, spiritual nature of the team:

"I really believe in this team even though there might not be many reasons to. We have enough. We did some things today that hinted at what I need to work on to piece the team together further. Bad stuff happens in life and bad stuff has happened to this team. There is nothing else we can do other than work and grind our way out of it."

#35-Carlton Bragg

On losing close games:

"We just have to keep grinding. We have all of the pieces of the puzzle, but we just need to start fitting them together and finishing out games."

On the attitude of the team:

"We are going in with a winning mentality and we are focusing on getting things done the right way. Unfortunately, things haven't been going as planned."

On the team's struggle and improvement:

"It's about being patient and going with the flow. This is a new system and we just have to let the hard things go. It is frustrating, but you just have to keep playing."

#32- Anthony Mathis

On the second half:

"I was trying to get my teammates the ball more and wasn't necessarily trying to shoot as much."

On keeping up their confidence:

"It is a process. Last year, we learned about that a lot. We started rough but ended up having a great season, so we can learn a lot from that. We are 5-6 right now ... I truly think that we can turn it around and still have an amazing season that these fans deserve."

On coaching:

"Our coaches are putting us in the right position to be successful. We need to get a little bit more disciplined and we need to get better at finishing out games. That will come with experience and we'll learn how to finish some basketball games."