

POST-GAME QUOTES

HEAD COACH PAUL WEIR

On overall thoughts on the game:

“We have lot of potential, but I don’t think we are going to reach it unless we can find a way to become a good defensive basketball team. I think we showed some flashes of it tonight, but obviously not anywhere where we want to be, but that’s expected.”

“We have really taken a process-oriented approach to this fall, and hopefully that process-oriented approach will continue to serve us well, not only Saturday but as the season unfolds.”

On UNM’s defense and concerns:

“We really focused on our half-court defense and trying to get reps in it, improving it, and just focusing on getting stops when we need to. I think the extent of our defense will vary as the season unfolds and as these games unfold, but tonight obviously we did some three-quarter court pressure ... We wanted to go in and say ‘let’s get 75-90 great defensive possessions where we can just improve, get good film, talk, grow, and hopefully allow us to get better for Saturday.”

“Offense isn’t my concern right now. We need to value the basketball more, which I think [was tonight] a little more careless than it is skill.”

On playing time distribution:

“With Drue not being here, I think getting minutes for someone in particular like Zane; to get in there and get those repetitions was really important to us. We have had two scrimmages where we have played everybody so we needed to kind of get the guys we are going to be playing in a groove with each other and [get them] used to the substitution patterns to go out and win a basketball game.”

On attitude of the team:

“Our team is not lacking for confidence. We just have to make sure to find a way to harness that the right way. I thought that in the five-six minute stretch early in the second half, these guys finally found a bit of a groove and played with the kind of intensity that I want them to play with all of the time.”

Thoughts on Makuach Maluach’s performance:

“I think Makuach serves a huge role for us because he’s an energy guy that can guard positions and he is good at playing without the basketball.”

On JaQuan Lyle’s offensive play:

“He was spectacular. I thought offensively, particularly in that first half as we were trying to all shake the rust off and find our groove, he carried us through that stretch. Then as the game wore on, other guys found their groove.”

JAQUAN LYLE

On how it felt to be back on the court:

“It felt amazing to finally just get up and down and do what you love again. It felt amazing.”

On how he believed he performed:

“I think I did a pretty good job, but I just have to keep getting better, helping the other guys make better reads and take that next step.”

Thoughts on how the team flowed:

“I think we flowed good. I think somebody said Vance didn’t get a shot until the 13-minute mark, so we have to do a better job of making sure we get him in his spots ... he is a very valuable player to this team. Other than that, I think everyone else went smooth.”

ZANE MARTIN

On how it felt to play again:

“It felt good. I am still getting in a rhythm. I haven’t played a game in 18 months ... Like coach said, I am trusting the process, but it was good to get after it and get to go against some different guys.”

On how it felt to play point guard:

“It felt good. Something else I need to get used to, being a shooting guard coming up ... I also have good facilitators around me that find me in spots. I feel like for me, I need to work on my point guard stuff some more, but I feel like I am going to find it.”

On how Coach Weir helps him improve:

“Just staying on me about the little stuff ... In my opinion, there was a lot more that I thought that I knew when I came here and I have learned so much more with Coach Weir and the staff that I didn’t know, and I appreciate them for that.”