

Post-Game Quotes 12-19 vs Rice

Head Coach Paul Weir:

"It's really just about the process and us playing well, but we flat-out needed (a win). Every timeout, every pregame, everything... we just talking about getting back and feeling good about ourselves. It was a tough, hard-fought game. Rice just wouldn't really go away. Their zone is very consistent and they do a really good job at it."

"I thought early in the game, we had really good movement, particularly without the basketball to where we were in a good rhythm and flow offensively. It felt like midway through the second half, we just stood a lot in the zone and just didn't get in a great rhythm and allowed them to get out and get some easy buckets."

"We were able to rally there late and thankfully our defense was able to get enough stops there down the stretch, which we haven't been able to do yet, and just to close out a game feels really good."

"I think we all wanted a huge, blowout win or whatever that may be to say that we're back and all that. But it's Division I basketball and you have to earn the right to win. I feel like we are earning the right to win, these guys work really hard."

"We spend a lot of time on the court. We spend a lot of time in the film room. We're trying to fix our weaknesses, and so far, these kids have bought in. There's not a lot of kids, at 3-8, that would look at a first-year coach and buy in, but they're still buying in and I'm thankful for that."

"I'm hitting them every day on defense, and if our defense continues to progress, we will be good. I think we have enough talented offensive players. I think we have a good enough offensive scheme. I don't think scoring was an issue for us against Arizona. I don't think scoring was an issue for us against Rice. We have to find a way to consistently defend in order to overcome whatever limits that people have put on this team, and now it's our time to go out and do that."

Joe Furstinger

On not starting for the first time this year...

"It's just like any other game. I've got to come out and compete. I didn't get enough deflections last game, so he's [Coach Weir] not going to change it for one person. I've just got to come out and get more deflections and I tried to do that tonight."

On going from Arizona to Rice...

“We can’t take any opponent lightly. Obviously, our record shows that. There are some games where we just have to come out with more intensity. We can’t play based on our opponent. It doesn’t matter what their record is. Whoever we are playing that night is one of the best teams. We just have to come out with great intensity and get a lot of deflections from now on.”

Chris McNeal

“It felt pretty good tonight. I credit my teammates for finding me to put the shots in and doing a good job of spacing the floor like we’ve done in practice. It’s going to be like that when we play the right kind of basketball. Recently we haven’t been playing pretty well. We work hard in practice and we got to display it tonight.”

“It’s a weight off our shoulders getting rid of that losing streak, hopefully we can just work off this (win).”