

## ***POST-GAME QUOTES: UNM VS UTEP 11-24-18***

### **HEAD COACH PAUL WEIR**

#### ***Opening Statement:***

"Great game on a lot of levels. Obviously to get over the disappointment of our last home game, but to get a crowd like that today, meant a lot. It meant a lot to me personally and it meant a lot to our guys. Quite honestly, I prefaced them all week that we might have lost some fans with what we did last weekend. To have our fans respond like that, it's just a blessing to be a Lobo."

"I'd be lying if I said I loved where we are at, but we're winning and this was a game a year ago that quite frankly we would have lost. So, there is growth in that regard and hopefully we'll be able to grow here as the season progresses."

#### ***On the poor shooting in the first half:***

"Towards the end of the game, we were finally coming to stops and finishing properly. It was better, but for the first 30 minutes, they had us really sped up and we were just really rushing. Eventually we got in rhythm and got to where we needed to get to. Fortunately, our defense was good enough to where they didn't get out to too crazy of a lead and we could overcome it."

#### ***On the play of the younger players:***

"A lot was said about UTEP and their young players. I'm looking out there at Drue (Drinnon) and Tavian (Percy) and Jordan (Arroyo), and we have youth too. I think people just assume we are this veteran-oriented team, but we are young. There's a lot of young kids out there that are making a lot of youthful mistakes, but I'm glad that they are getting the minutes that they are."

#### ***On the floor leader:***

"I think Anthony (Mathis) is definitely a vocal leader. I think Anthony right now has yet to really get in a consistent groove because of these fouls that are becoming an issue ... We've got to get Anthony playing the minutes we want him playing and subbing him at the times we want to sub him to allow him to be a floor leader."

#### ***On the reliance on Mathis and Kuiper:***

"The reality is, we need more than just them. I thought they were both really good (tonight). I thought that was the best defensive game Dane's had this season. I've challenged him over the past week to give us more defensively because he is such a tremendous defensive player ... Dane can't have a night off for us, and Anthony can't have a night off for us. Those two ... just have to be automatics. It's those other guys we've got to coach and get those games out of them. A Makuach, a Vlad, they can't have nights off either because we need our team. We need our whole group of guys in order to be an effective ball club."

#### ***On Makuach Maluach's impact:***

"Makuach was on the fly, moved back to his old position tonight. We slid him over to the four and I thought when he first went there, he created some offense for us when we really needed it. Then we just left him there the rest of the game. It was good for him to finally see some shots go down. That's the shooter that we all know."

### **#32 - Anthony Mathis:**

*On becoming a leader of the team:* "I got the chance to be leader of this team and I appreciate the opportunity. I lead by example and I lead vocally. I try to speak out and be demanding when I need to be, but overall I try to be a positive guy."

*On getting the offense going in the first half:* "It was a slow start, but we were actually playing really good defense. They only scored seven points in the first five minutes so to hold the team that long was pretty good. Our defense worked really well the first couple minutes but our offense was lacking."

*On the half-time meeting:* "We had to play desperate and with a sense of urgency. We have to remember that every possession matters and every rebound matters, and Coach Weir really emphasizes that."

*On the first-year guys:* "Everybody did really well. I'm really proud of Tavian because I was in his same position my freshman year. I've been talking to him a lot about staying ready and I'm so proud of him for what he did tonight."

*On the three-point feeling:* "I get chills every time I get a three. People don't realize how fortunate we are to play at The Pit, it's unbelievable. I'm so grateful to be here."

### **#10 - Makuach Maluach:**

*On the win and the team's chemistry:* "It's huge. Tavian, Karim and Jordan came in and gave us great minutes, we needed them tonight."

*On going on the road:* "The road is always tough but we're going to prepare and coach is going to help prepare us. I'm looking forward to it."

*On why UTEP was so tough:* "They were pretty tough to face. We knew coming in that Coach Terry was going to bring his guys in ready to play. They played great defense and they made great shots. Coach Terry brought his team ready to play and they stuck to the system."