

Miami head coach Jim Larrañaga

Opening statement... “We are struggling so bad at every category of the game, except maybe our man-on-man defense was pretty solid for most of the game. But we just can’t make any shots, can’t make free throws, can’t make threes. We ended up going 5-for-24 from three, 20-percent. You just can’t win games when you can’t make open threes and free throws. You go to the foul line 31 times, that’s great, just need to make them.”

On Elijah Olaniyi’s performance... “Elijah, we told him on Monday, ‘Hey, looks good.’ Yesterday, I told him, ‘Ninet-nine percent you’re going to be able to play.’ He missed some shots early that I think he’ll make. He was 2-for-12 from the field but played 37 minutes. And until we get guys back healthy, we’re going to count on him a lot.”

On poor shooting from 3-point range and the free-throw line despite shooting well in practice... “Well, I said that earlier when Chris Lykes and Kam McGusty were healthy and playing. Now it’s just, I think guys taking on a more of a major role than they have had in their careers. So, you give the ball to Harlond Beverly at the point and Isaiah Wong, they got a lot of minutes last year and I expect they can play a whole lot better. You know, Isaiah ends up 6-for-10, but he goes 6-for-9 from the foul line. If you know last year, he came into this season with 32 free throws in a row under game conditions. I would say some of it might have to do with the lack of practice, like legitimate practice. Like, Monday we did not have six guys. And then yesterday, Matt Cross had to have his shoulder looked at, he was not at practice. Neither was Chris, Kam, Rodney [Miller], Sam [Waardenburg]. If you think about our team coming into this season, we had five starters return, and four of them are injured not playing, and haven’t played in the last several games. So, guys take on a new role and it’s more challenging. They put a little more pressure on themselves and they start doing things that maybe if their teammates were available, they wouldn’t have to do.”

On what the team will be working on for Saturday’s game against Jacksonville... “I’ve been asked that, what are we going to work on? The guys that played tonight played almost a whole game. We’ve got no guys to practice against. So, we’ll shoot some free throws, we’ll shoot some threes and then we’ll talk about our opponent. But, it’s not like we’re going to go out and practice like normally would when you only have – Like I don’t know what Matt Cross’ status is. We only have six scholarship players. We have three guards- Harlond Beverly, Isaiah Wong and now Elijah [Olaniyi]. We have three frontcourt players – Nysier Brooks, Anthony Walker and Deng Gak. Not going to be running our offense, not going to go against the zone, there’s nobody to go against.”

Pittsburgh head coach Jeff Capel

Opening statement... “First of all, I’m really proud of my team. Big-time road win for us. When you’re able to get a win, it’s a big-time thing. We got off to a slow start. We fouled them a lot. We turned it over in the first half, but I thought when we didn’t foul, our defense was pretty good. In the second half, we did a better job ... only three turnovers and we executed. It was great to see Ithiel [Horton] step up and start making some shots. That’s something that we’ve seen a lot in practice and hopefully this is a game that gets him going, that gives us a weapon when he’s shooting the ball and playing with confidence like that. So for him to do that in his first ACC game on the road is big-time. I thought Au’Diese [Toney] was terrific. He was a steady guy for us. We were in a lot of foul trouble in the first half. I thought John Hugley in the first half was terrific. He gave us a presence down low and was able to score and was able to draw some fouls. I thought Femi [Odukale] played really well and got extensive minutes with us being in foul trouble at point guard position. I thought he came in and did a really good job of running our offense. We defended them well. For the game, I think they were shooting 32 percent and for us, we were 48 percent. Teams have been shooting about 35 percent against them and so we were obviously able to make some shots. Proud of our team to be able to come on the road and get this win and now we have to move on to the next play.”

On Ithiel Horton’s confidence increasing throughout the game... “I think anytime when you see the ball go in the basket, that gives you confidence. That makes you believe in yourself a little bit more. We believe in him. His teammates believe in him. You know, Ithiel has to believe in Ithiel. His teammates were so excited for him. We’ve seen him run off points like that and shots like that in practice. It was good to see that happen in a game.”

On other players stepping up in scoring other than Xavier Johnson and Justin Champagnie... “Again, we think we have more talent in the guys. When the opportunity presents itself, they have to be ready. It was great to have Nike [Sibande] out there and as he continues to get in game shape ... You saw that he got us going with a three, but you saw the rust. He hasn’t played a game since early March. He’s another person that gives us another weapon. I thought Noah [Collier]’s minutes were really good for us in the first half. We had more options and more guys who could do stuff, but we needed Xavier and Justin to be in the game and not be in foul trouble and be good players for us.”

On better shot selections from Ithiel Horton... “As long as he takes good shots, I’m okay with it. If he doesn’t take a good shot—and that’s for anyone—I let them know. I don’t mind—look, you’re going to miss. There’s not a perfect player. If it’s a good shot and it’s our shot, then we live with that. The thing we talked to our guys about, especially guys that we think are good shooters. The good shooter has to have convenient amnesia. If you’re missing and you’re taking good shots then you have to forget about it and feel like if you get going and you make one, then that’s going to get you going. Ithiel is a kid who can shoot. He works. He’s gotten in the gym and done extra stuff recently. It’s good especially after the first half and didn’t play as well and didn’t play as much. I thought he was terrific in the second half.”