



Mizzou Men's Basketball Postgame Quotes vs. Arkansas Pine Bluff

Mizzou Arena - Columbia, Mo.

Final Score: Mizzou 101, Arkansas Pine Bluff 79

Whitten Family Men's Basketball Head Coach Dennis Gates

Opening Statement...

"I have so much respect for UAPB. We knew that they would come out and expose certain things and they would have good guard play. Last year on opening day, they were up 11 at TCU and ended up losing the game by one point on a three-point basket made by TCU with a minute left. So we knew we were going to have a fight. We did it by committee. It's the fortunate part of having unselfishness in your program. I think this season, we'll have multiple guys lead us but more importantly in different categories. We need Aidan Shaw to use his athleticism and show up in a stat sheet with five blocks, seven defensive rebounds and nine overall. That's the challenge that I've been fighting with him for the entire offseason. He knows that if he doesn't rebound, he doesn't play. The catch is this... he played well and Jesus's minutes went down. But I couldn't even get Mabor Majak in the game because of what they presented. I think we will have different guys play and different guys not play. We are going to need Mabor Majak this season to be able to win and I publicly apologize to him for not being able to find minutes for him because of the other success. These two on my right and left played tremendous basketball and led us in different categories. But more importantly, we had a positive assist-to-turnover ratio. We ended up shooting close to 90% from the free throw line and we were above 30% from three and 40% in total. But again, that's tremendous stats and a great job from our guys"

On the support from the fans...

"My key takeaway was that our fans are here. That's my key takeaway, on a Monday night we had over 11,000 here. We are going to need them to show up this Friday, it is going to be a tremendous atmosphere. I hope our fans are listening, we need them, we need them here to pack Mizzou Arena and be able to help us no different than they did last year with a tough opponent that is coming in, and we just want to go out and play our best. So I just wanted to shout out our fans."

On what he wants to see going forward

"To have 17 assists on 36 baskets, that's not what I want. I want 20-plus assists on 36 baskets. When you have that type of assist-to-turnover ratio, that means that the ball is moving, it's moving up the court and you're not having a high time of possession as a player. I want our time of possession to be low, therefore our shot selection will become better because guys are shooting more threes that are catch-and-shoot. That last one that Sean shot was off the dribble, so I would rather him toss that back to Caleb Grill and Caleb hit him back for a two versus one, and then he shoots a catch and shoot three. Ultimately, he made the first one in the first half which was a tremendous shot. I just want our guys to understand that 36 baskets and 17 assists is not a good ratio for us."

Guard Tamar Bates

On Missouri's depth...

"It translates to the game from the standpoint of sub in the game and play as hard as possible. If you get tired you can sit down and we always get fresh legs out there. That's what we see in practice and that translates to the game. That's what the coaches preach and they always tell us that our depth is one of our biggest strengths. So knowing that we just go max out every time we check in the game."

Guard Sean East II

On being a returning leader...

"Coach has been on us about that since March Madness was over last year, that we are going to have to build this new culture with the new guys coming in. He was going to recruit good guys and we, along with the staff, would just come in and push the culture on everybody. That's just what we have been going hard at for pretty much about six months now."