



Mizzou Men's Basketball Post-Game Quotes vs. No. 4 Alabama

Mizzou Arena - Columbia, Mo.

Final Score: No. 4 Alabama 85, Mizzou 64

Whitten Family Men's Basketball Head Coach Dennis Gates

Opening Statement

"Again, great atmosphere, our fans and our students did an unbelievable job. I thought we didn't do enough consistent things that we have normally done. We didn't shoot the ball well. Missed open shot after open shot. There are some positives within this game that I do see that I would like to carry over, but I am proud of our group. There's no doubt about it. One game doesn't define us. But I am proud of our team. Ultimately, my decision, no different than the statement that came out. I was just being cautious with Kobe Brown. And it's all in that statement. I'll repeat that statement if you ask a question about Kobe Brown, and what made me do that, I'll answer it the same way the statement reads. So just to help you guys out with that a little bit. But the number one team in the country, Alabama. I've said it all along. They have length, they have athleticism, they have shooting ability, which I thought we stifled in the first half because they rely on it. But also they do a great job getting to the free throw line. To be able to defeat that team, you can't give them these energy buckets whether it's 3-pointers and free throws. The more you see the ball go in, which didn't think we did a good job of getting to the free-throw line, especially in that first half. We shot seven free throws. Shot seven free throws coming off our season high of shooting free throws. We can't do that. To win games, you got to be able to shoot 30-plus free throws a game, and they did. And whether they drew a foul, whatever it was that got them to the foul line, I thought they did a great job executing and that's what the number one team in the country does. I am proud of our conference to have a team of such because it gives us all a barometer and be able to continue to grow throughout the season. Proud of these two guys up here. I don't predicate it on just overall stats, but I'm predicated on how they play. They play the game with an unbelievable amount of passion, and that's what made me regardless of Kobe playing or not, that's what made me put Aidan Shaw as a starter tonight. He was going to start regardless. He did a great job throughout this week, also yesterday, and I thought he was ready to start his first game."

On Isaiah Mosley's performance...

"I think I played him too many minutes tonight and he didn't have his legs underneath him to be able to execute the jump shots that we have normally seen him take. There's a level of conditioning that it takes to log minutes like that. I think it was too many. But for a guy to come away with 9-for-18, that's 50% and you give or take 1-for-8. He's one of the best players in the country at drawing fouls and he had zero foul shots. But for a guy like that to be able to play off the bounce, play off the dribble, is a weapon. And I think how this team has responded to him it's a tremendous quality to have because they put their arms around them. They celebrate him. He celebrates them. You just

have to be able to understand this game. We look at the fact that we still beat the number one team in points in the paint and we have one of the best 2-point field goal percentage shooters out. You know, that's what Kobe Brown gives."

On looking forward to the next game...

"It's important that we continue to grow. Again, we can't allow one outing to define us. Recovery is a part of the game you have to recover physically and emotionally. Think about you know, whatever shooting slump you may be in. We missed layups. We're not getting to the free throw line. I think those things are random things that deflate you. We have to continue to manufacture those plays that will give us a boost."

Graduate guard Nick Honor

On struggles shooting in the paint...

"I think it was just one of those days. I had a couple go in and out. I'm usually making those in practice every day, so we're just going to continue to put in that work and I look forward to Ole Miss as our next game."

On Isiah Mosley's performance...

"I think Isiah scored well. He knows how to get a bucket and he can where he wants to. You can see him getting comfortable each and every day. This team, we're a family, so like when Kobe is out and we all have to step up, we do that."

On taking charges...

"I'm not really someone who can block at the rim. Whatever advantage I can get, I'll get that work on that a lot at practice. Whenever I see an opportunity to get better defensively, I'll take it."

Freshman forward Aidan Shaw

On his first collegiate start...

"For me, I feel like I've just been preparing for it, so when my name was called I was ready to play 110 percent and be on the court for my team."