

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Purdue Player / Postgame Quotes

[21] PURDUE 91, Illinois 68 / Mackey Arena (13,920)

QUESTION: On runs to take an early first half lead...

Carsen Edwards: "I just focus on the defensive end and know that my offensive game will come. That's just what the coaches tell me. Just focus on defense and the offense will come, so I just want to focus on my defense and then the shots will follow."

QUESTION: On quick start in the first half...

Isaac Haas: "It gave us confidence and it definitely let us get our head up because we were getting open shots. We were moving the ball and getting wide open looks. That just gives us confidence and we kept moving it and ultimately that led to winning the game."

QUESTION: On breakout performance...

Isaac Haas: "It was definitely surprising that they didn't double-team me as much as I was expecting them to, but when I'm left one-on-one on the block, coach always tells Biggie and I to score it. I was just one-on-one and my mentality was just to score it every time I got the ball because they weren't doubling and ultimately that's what led to a good game with all the work I've been putting in."

QUESTION: On scoring 18 points in the second half...

Caleb Swanigan: "I was just being soft in the first half missing lay-ups. They were the same shots I was missing in the first half."

QUESTION: On Spike Albrecht's performance...

Isaac Haas: "He was unbelievable. He was wheeling and dealing and putting those guys in a mixer and it was good. He was getting open shots and making the good pass. It was fun. It was fun to play with him on the court putting those guys in a bind and getting us easy baskets."

QUESTION: On Purdue's defensive performance...

Caleb Swanigan: "I thought we played well. When our offense is clicking, you have to go into a set defense every time and it's harder. We knocked out a lot of their stuff and they made some shots, but for the most part we stayed disciplined."

QUESTION: On defending Malcolm Hill...

Carsen Edwards: "He can play. We watched the game film on him and knew what his tendencies are and just try to guard him. We go into every game just trying to get stops and we knew he could score and we just wanted to stop his tendencies and things like that."



Coach Painter / Postgame Quotes

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QUESTION: On coaches saying “You have to pick your poison when you play Purdue” ...

Coach Painter: “We have to have a balance no matter how it plays out. I think the thing that people pick, and what happened the other night at Iowa was that they continued to make our perimeter guys beat us, and then after we hit some shots, you have to rethink it. At times we beat ourselves, you’ve seen when we’ve had too many turnovers and that’s what we want to work towards. Whatever Illinois wants to give us we have to take, don’t sit there and try to force it if Illinois wants to put three guys on a big guy then you can’t throw the basketball to him. Obviously that didn’t happen. Tonight we were able to get the ball inside and then if they doubled him we played off that. If they didn’t then we tried to play one-on-one basketball, and our guys do a good job of just moving the ball and taking what the defense gives us. That’s so important for us because when we don’t do that we force things and that’s where we beat ourselves.”

QUESTION: On Carsen Edwards going on runs...

Coach Painter: “Tonight his drives he made and he made his layups. He’s had the same drives and the same decisions where he misses his layups, and I think that’s a little demoralizing for him and you drop your head and you lose a little confidence. Obviously he was five for five in the first half, made some nice reads, obviously he got fortunate on that one three that bounced in, but everything else I think he got in rhythm, and that’s important for him, just being able to get things in rhythm but it did go his way tonight.”

QUESTION: On Isaac Haas having a pretty easy time around the basket...

Coach Painter: “We didn’t know how much they were going to zone versus man, we tried to get him to work towards of starting his race in terms of posting up at the best possible position, and if he starts at that rate early and works towards getting deep position he really puts people in a bind. I think tonight he worked hard to get as deep as he could, and at times they got him out on the court a little bit too far but he made good decisions. I just think when he gets deep position, he does his post move a couple times and he showed his foot work and step through and made a couple nice plays. Most of the time when he gets that deep he just has to be simple and shoot one of his post moves. When he gets away and starts to alter what he is trying to do that’s when he struggles a little bit.”

QUESTION: On the defense...

Coach Painter: “I thought it was better especially at the start of the second half, you know we struggled the other night so it was good to kind of rebound from that and I thought it was a lot better. Any time you do a better job of taking care the basketball and you make shots, you set your defense and it helps you so you’re not in transition as much. We had some things and we had a couple collapses at the end of the first half and a couple breakdowns but I thought for the most part our guys did a pretty good job.”

QUESTION: On Caleb Swanigan's ability to rebound from a slow start...

Coach Painter: "That's a great sign as a player, when things don't go your way. I think he was one for six in the first half and ends up seven for fifteen for the game. He knocked down a couple perimeter shots, one was a three during that run in the second half. But it is good to see guys have some struggles and then still have success in a game. Sometimes guys can't do that, especially younger guys. You know some guys struggle with being able to recover and be a productive player throughout the course of a game, they have to wait until next game. It was nice seeing that from him."

QUESTION: On what he would have liked to see improve before the game...

Coach Painter: "Defense, yes, but overall just our concentration level. A lot of times defensively it's not getting behind a play because you didn't concentrate and I thought our concentration was a little better tonight than it was the other day against Iowa. We have intelligent players and we have good guys, but we also need to be mature in our approach. Sometimes in our approach we are not as sharp as we need to be. As long as our approach is good, I really like our team and I think we'll be productive. We just have to keep on doing little things on both ends."