

## **Head Coach Tony Bennett**

### ***On biggest difference between two games:***

“Well first, I think San Francisco, defensively, they were physical, they were quick and they made it hard and they had some rim protection. The times that we got to the basket, we really labored to finish, partly because of their shot-blocking and at times we just weren't physical enough on finishes. We avoided some contact. So that was it. You make a lot of threes against Towson and that's the game and that can be, I don't want to say ‘fool's gold’ but it was. It's never that easy. I knew San Francisco, their space, and if they start making shots, they put you in in a lot of tough spots and they made enough big plays and we had enough breakdowns. They ran good offense. Whenever we kind of broke down or weren't sound, they took advantage of it because of their ability to shoot and their quickness with their guards. Again, offensively, you know your initial question, when we got to the rim we didn't finish. We weren't great, that's for sure and you look at the stats back that up.”

### ***On lack of execution or energy level:***

“Hard to say. San Francisco played three games in three days, so they had, I mean they played hard they were scrappy. You could see that the way they were. It ebbs and flows, but we talked about that, playing as hard as we can. Whenever we had maybe a two or three possession lead, we would do something either uncharacteristically or unsound that cost us or they'd make a big play, and that stuff's there. The energy level, you know, we didn't look like we were moving real hard and we looked a little lethargic at times. I don't know. I'll watch the film, but some of the looks were good. Then you got to get down and get gritty and work like crazy to get stops and again, as I mentioned, credit to them, they space you, they spread you and they have some good ball screen actions with quick guards and shooters around them.”

### ***On what wasn't working:***

“As I said, whenever we had a breakdown, they took advantage of it. If we didn't help and recover. If we closed out, stayed too long, closed out with our hands low, left the ball screen defense to soon, boom they really made you pay. Then at times they certainly hit some tough shots. They hit a bank shot at the end of the shot clock, made plays that were there, and our defense wasn't sound enough for long enough. There's going to be runs. They're going to make tough shots, but you got to start eliminating some of the breakdowns. That's something that this team has to keep addressing. We lost two terrific, physical, active defenders and could play on the glass and that's some that's something that we got to keep fighting and trying to find our way in regards to that.”

### ***On message to the team:***

“Look at it in the mirror, grow from it. Forget about it. If you at all think ‘oh we won the first game handily and look at our ranking’, I mean we've all been down that road. That means nothing to start. We have to keep being as good as we can be, and that's just not coaches speak. We got to kind of harden up, we got to get gritty, we got to be tougher to score against and be the best version of ourselves. Nothing is assumed, just because of what's on the front of your jersey. You just work and I think some of the concerns or question marks we had showed

and they didn't get answered. Wo we now go to work and say, 'What can we do to be better'. And use this in the best way possible, and that's all I know how to do."

### **Sophomore Forward Justin McKoy**

#### ***On anything drastically different from the first game:***

"Yeah, I would say the first game we were we started out very hot. We seemed like we almost couldn't miss, and this game became a little more difficult. We didn't shoot it as well and that definitely plays part of it, but I think also, our coaches prepare us, we just got to attack in different ways on the offensive end. But yeah, it was definitely a big difference between the two."

#### ***On being a bright spot today:***

"I feel like I've definitely worked for it but at the same time, that's not my only goal. One of biggest goals is just a win. We definitely need to look at that, but on the side, it is definitely a lot, it's a really good thing or a really good feeling I would say. I feel like I've worked for it but, kind of on to the next goal, which is just winning games."

#### ***On what do you take away from this game:***

"We take it for what it is, San Francisco played a great game. They definitely out hustled us, had have more energy than us. Everything is a learning experience, whether it's a win or loss. This is definitely a learning experience. We take it for what it is, we move on, kind of a neutral mindset to it. And just set the past for what it is and move on to the future."

### **Freshman Guard Reece Beekman**

#### ***On surprise in San Francisco's energy level:***

"I felt like they played a great game. They had a lot of energy from start to finish, so I didn't really think they were just gonna burn out because I could see that they would keep pushing and pushing and like guards kept going downhill and stuff. I just felt like they played a complete game and they still had energy even though it was their third game."

#### ***On if team is in bit of disbelief:***

"No, I would just say, it is just a game. We played hard so, yes, we're down on ourselves, we could have played better but it's not like we are just all sad. We just got to move forward and look forward to the next game."

#### ***On what to take away from this game:***

"I would say just doing whatever my team needs to win, so just improving on defense. I know I had a couple mistakes. So just trying to figure out just be more sound on defense and moving around the ball on offense, trying to get everybody involved, because sometimes the ball can get stuck in places so just moving around for others that get involved."