

Postgame Quotes vs. Saint Francis (Pa.)

Head Coach Tony Bennett

On the emphasis of play in the paint tonight:

"I guess it goes without saying that was an area of focus the last four days. I really was pleased with our first half of playing. Now, St. Francis, they were without their key guard, and that when he played well, that's how they beat Pitt. So that was a big blow to them and I'm always realistic. But we played really good basketball defensively and offensively in the first half. And we got on the glass, as you mentioned. We touched the paint, scored in the paint and offensive rebounds, so that that was good to see, and just moved in, tried to do what we could. So I think that was a step in the right direction, in the first half. Second half, not so much, but first half."

On whether or not he was impressed with the play on the offensive side:

"In the first half yes. They outscored us 38-31 in the second half, and I felt we had again we didn't last or we weren't persistent enough defensively. There were breakdowns, and so they all play this in the second half but at least you have to say I this is what it looks like and how we do it. I thought we were pretty good defensively in the first half against San Francisco, pretty good against Towson and home the second half of this team has to again continue to find the ability to battle and to get to be better and better as the competition goes up and all due respect, and I acknowledge that they were out there, their top guy."

On the progress of Kadin Shedrick:

"Well first, you can't help but use your eyes to see his length, his dimensions. He's long and he's very active. And he continues. He plays hard on the glass and he's working. He's still learning since he missed a lot of the spring. Obviously in summer he had some knee issues so he didn't get to train the way he could or should have was some issues. He also had a mono-type of illness, so he lost a lot of weight. He couldn't train for a month so I think he's getting some of his weight back. I think he gives us a dimension that was good, and I was really pleased with his effort, his output tonight."

On the atmosphere of John Paul Jones Arena:

"It's different. It really is. I think they did a great job with how they put the banners over the seats and some carpet on that and they make it look good. This is how's it gonna be all year you know. It's a really different. It's so different. I think we've made this place so special. And so alive. And so now it has to be about between the lines and bring an energy and bring an execution. And there's familiarity because you practice in here but as far as crowd homecourt advantage, no more."

On Reese Beekman's poise:

"He is smooth. He's controlled. He's deceptive. Good hand quickness with his athleticism. And I think as he continues to physically mature strength-wise and improve out his shot, he'll just keep getting better and better. So yeah you know some guys just have it. It's the it, the feel thing. And so far he's shown that. That's what we liked about him when we recruited him."

Redshirt Senior Jay Huff

On Kadin Shedrick:

"I've seen a lot of improvement and I think a lot of it was the work that he did over quarantine, stuff that nobody really sees. I saw a lot of improvement, just in his mid-range jump shot and his three-point shooting as well. I know we haven't seen much of it yet, but he's improved dramatically in that area. Then also I saw a lot of fight in him today and that's something that we've seeing a lot in practice recently too. He's just been getting a lot of offensive rebounds. His long arms help a lot with that so he's going to be a big piece moving forward."

On the depth of the lineup:

"You know it's interesting. I don't think I've ever been on a team with this many players. That's really cool because we get to see a lot of guys, a lot of combinations. We just get to see how different guys work. And I think learning play with everybody is something that we're going to have to figure out and I think we're learning how to do that. We have a really young team. We have a lot of young guys that, you know, haven't necessarily been here as long as you know an old man like me. So, trying to teach them just the principles and the pack line and all of that, you know it's a lot of teaching through learning and through just guys that have to go through that fire I guess to learn the lessons that need to."

Redshirt Freshman Kadin Shedrick

Recovering from mono:

"So, I caught mono - I started showing symptoms sometime early October. I had it whole month of October. And I think when it hit, I was about 223 pounds and I ended up dropping all the way down to 198 pounds. And so, that's like 25 pounds I think I lost. Now I weigh about 216 pounds, give or take, and we're trying to get to the back to my weight, hopefully, by the end of the year, or by the end of the month."

On overcoming another setback after recovering:

"Yeah, it was very frustrating for me. Mono definitely had me pretty down and I knew when I came back I would just have to push even harder to try and earn what I wanted to get. And so that's what I did. I worked with Mike Curtis and I made sure I ate a lot, got plenty of sleep and got back to health, and Ethan Saliba helped me a ton with that too."

On if he has recovered from mono:

"In terms of play, I feel 100 percent. In terms of my stamina, it might be down a little bit still. You know, I get winded a lot faster than I used to, but it will come back in time. I think I'm able to play hard enough for the minutes that I do get before I get a break, so I say I'm almost back to 100 percent in terms of stamina."