

Head Coach Tony Bennett

On Kihei Clark's performance:

"He inverted, and he made some really nice plays. Last year a lot was asked of him and early, it was a lot. I remember we put a lot on his plate, and he battled and struggled through some hard games with some turnovers. I think that prepared him for more situations like this, and he showed up and he was tough. I told him a couple times he let [Prentiss] Hubb get by him at crucial times, so I hold him in high account. But you look at Hubb's stat line and he did a pretty good job on for the most part, guarding the ball. He scored, banged a couple threes, some nice drives. And I'm glad actually at the end of the half and we thought he had a layup, he passed up and they threw one in and I thought 'oh that's what not what you want,' but thankfully that didn't count. I realize their guy got hurt, one of their key guys Trey Wertz, but you still got to play it. But, yes, Kihei, good stat line. He was aggressive, and at times we threw it to him in the post and he can make some plays whether it's for himself or create for others, so I like that."

On key plays in the game:

"In the postgame I talked about weeble's wobble, but they don't fall down. Our young guys, they don't know what a weeble wobble is but all of us do. I think we got wobbling a few times, you got to right the ship and get back up. I think there's just some good offensive plays. [Justin] McKoy gave us some plays, we kept some offensive rebounds alive. Actually Reece [Beekman] got his hands on a couple balls that were huge to save some easy buckets. And then, just key baskets from Kihei and Sam [Hauser], and just other ones, McKoy, so I really agree. I thought we made enough good offensive plays, took advantage and then enough key stops. It was hard at times [Nate] Laszewski was really good. He went, actually it was his dad went to SPASH where Sam Hauser's from. his dad was there when my sister was there, actually was a very good player. Laszewski has really improved, and he was a load and Durham the Laszewski hurt us. We've had some trouble, we got to kind of sure up guarding some of these guys that are the good fours and fives and do the job. But enough good plays defensively and offensively. Still some breakdowns but hopefully we'll, we'll keep getting better. It was kind of everyone chipping in and that's how it'll have to be with this team and then we got to chip in and help each other defensively and offensively."

On perimeter shooting:

"It's to be determined right now. We'll see. I mean Kihei was good, he gave us some scoring last game and this game. Again, our scoring and shooting, it's coming from some more of the interior and Kihei and that's why we did some things offensively to try to feature them and put them in situations and then hopefully more guys will step up. We were better effort-wise, we were sounder with the ball and we'll take it and improve a little at a time."

On Jay Huff foul trouble:

"I think you got to be defensive, you got to be ready early, you got to be alert, you can't you can't pick up any of silly fouls. You might disagree with one or two, but you can't pick up like an unforced error, so to speak, you know, and just you got to be really in position. That's where Sam and Jay gotta keep coming defensively, they got to sure up our defense better and be more alert. They did some wonderful things offensively. That was showing tonight and yeah,

Jay got in foul trouble against Gonzaga and he did tonight, and other guys stepped up. Again, I think it comes down to just having an awareness and alertness because it's happened repeatedly so that's got to change. I want Sam and him to take a step defensively and they got to keep working. It's got to matter, and again they have gifts offensively no question."

Redshirt Senior Guard Sam Hauser

On hitting the three to seal it but not shooting the way he wants:

"Yeah, that's a good way to put it. Obviously I've missed some open shots and it's frustrating but you just got to stick with it and just shoot like the next one is going to go down and that is kind of what my mentality was and it went down and came at a crucial time in the game. I'm going to stay with it, I know they're gonna fall. Every shot felt good tonight but just got to stay after it."

On working on defense:

"I just got to work on my on-ball defense, I think that's an area where I definitely need improve. I work at it every day. I think I've gained a lot of experience in this packline in last year and a half. I think I've gotten better and made the right strides to getting better. So, just got to stick with it in practice. I know coach will be on me for that. Ready for that challenge."

On strides as a team defensively:

"Yeah, we definitely made a step in the right direction. Gonzaga really exposed us on that end of the floor. That didn't leave a good taste in our mouth, so we took that personally and it showed the night. We played pretty well on the defensive. Obviously there's still some things to clean up, but definitely improvement for sure."

Junior Guard Kihei Clark

On play tonight:

"Being a point guard, you got to take care of the ball so I'm just trying to be conscious and just be more sound as coach Bennett calls it. I was just trying to pick my spots in the offense when we're in three-game and we got two guys on the wing and me, Sam and Jay are moving around. You can get catches anywhere in the middle, so whether it's up top or in the post, once I get in a post, I just take my time and I'm just trying to work on it. We work on it a lot in practice, something that we worked on in the past, so we call it the playmaker spot. Just trying to pick my spots during the offense and just being aggressive and taking with the defense gives me."

On hosting Virginia Tech Saturday:

"It is just like another game coming up. Our focus, we just always got to be focused. It's the ACC, everybody in the ACC is capable. I think we play on the second, so I'm not sure if we have a day off tomorrow or not, but we just come in and get ready, watch film and just prepare the same way like every other week."

On progress defensively:

"We just we watched film, we made some adjustments. We've got a guy called the 'MIG', we put him in the middle when they're when the ball screen action and we are two guys away. I

think that really helped, but I think we did a better job of anticipating when getting to the ball and getting to shooters. I think we could still improve. I think there was times where we did make a couple mistakes, but that's going to happen. I think defensively we did take a step in the right direction tonight.”