

Penn State Basketball
Micah Shrewsberry Postgame Press Conference
vs. Youngstown State - November 10, 2021

Opening Statement

Looking at the box score as I'm walking back, I go to the things that we talked about before the game. What are the four things that we want to do as a team each and every game? We want to dominate defensively. We want to be a boss with the ball. We don't want to turn it over. We want to take great shots and we want to dominate effort. When you look at that, I felt like we did it and we did it right. Our goal is to hold people under 60 points, and they scored 59 points. We're 10 turnovers or less, but we had 10. Take great shots. We shot a pretty good 51 percent from the field. We didn't make threes and I think part of that was us being tired and first-game jitters. Still shooting 51 percent was pretty good. And then dominating effort, 43-25, on the glass. I'm proud of what we did and I'm happy for our guys. I want to really thank the students, all the students that came out, and all the fans. There were times where we needed to dig in and gets stops, and I think that they helped us in that way. They propelled us in that way, and that's something that we need each and every night. I said it the other night, gritty not pretty, and that's who we want to be and I thought we were that tonight. I'm excited about the first one and I'm ready to get back to work for the next one.

Q: You've worked a long time to get to this spot. What was this day like for you?

A: Yeah, it was a long day. I knew the 8:30 p.m. start was going to be a challenge. I probably should be better, I couldn't sleep so I was up for a while. I did sneak down in my basement and play some Galaga to try and break some high scores down there until I could fall asleep, but then I was up early and I couldn't nap after shoot-around. I was just anxious to start. A lot of that was nervousness, but a lot of it was like I knew this would be a challenge. I've watched Youngstown State play, I've lost games to Youngstown State. When we went to the Final Four at Butler, they beat us during that run, so I know how good they were. I knew they wanted to come in here and play really well. They had scrimmages. They had scrimmaged one of the teams that we scrimmaged, so I knew this was going to be a challenge. That's why I was nervous. We got a bunch of older guys and sometimes they probably could have coached themselves not saying that I don't need to be out there or anything, I like being out there with them but we had older guys and I knew how they were going to respond, how they were going to compete so it wasn't nervousness for me, it was nervousness for how they were going to change defenses and do things to really challenge us.

Q: Was there anything in particular that caught you off guard about today? You obviously had a lot of months to prepare for this. Was there anything whether it's pregame or during the game that you kind of didn't expect to happen that did happen?

A: Not really. Our staff has never gone through this together, so I bounce ideas off of Mike Green, the things we did at Butler in practice or day of game. I bounce ideas off of him about things that we should do at shoot-around and then the other assistants. We want to take all of that in and give our guys the best chance to be prepared to win so I think we did that, we put our heads together and came up with the right plan and I felt like we did that. But they present a challenge, having no film on them is really hard. You're going on word of mouth from a couple of people that they played, but what they did in a scrimmage is different than how they played tonight, they played more zone in scrimmages than they played tonight. They put guys in different spots and on different people and we had to adjust to that as the game went on. Having older guys, putting them in positions to make plays and really trying to take advantage of what they were doing by they made it hard. They challenged us, they're a good team.

Q: What did you learn about your team tonight?

A: Those guys are just warriors, you could see it, we were wearing down we were tired. I ask a lot of them on the defensive end. I ask them to play extremely hard and when get stopped I'm asking them to run the floor, sprint to the corner, run to the rim, do all this stuff that takes a lot of effort. We try and manage that in practice so they're at 100 percent but you know guys were cramping up, that happens early in the year guys play a lot of minutes. Jalen Pickett played 36 minutes and Sam [Sessoms] played 33. That's a lot from those guys, but they battled, they fought. I think we got a little loose defensively when we got tired that's where I think we need to get better but I thought we executed fairly well down the stretch to get the shots that we wanted to get.

Q: What was the mood like of the team throughout the day and then also after the game in the locker room?

A: They were excited to play. You could sense a little bit of nervous energy. We were a little quiet at shoot-around, which they're normally not a quiet group. They love to talk and there's a lot of guys that love to talk like Myles [Dread] and Sam [Sessoms] they're going to talk nonstop and they were a little quiet. You could sense the kind of nervous energy but they just wanted to do so well. I think that's the biggest part. I'm excited for them and how they played in front of this fan group and I kept saying we want to make Penn State proud and I hope they did that tonight with their effort, with how they played, with how we tried to share the ball and defend and dive on the ball for loose balls and everything else. In the locker room they were great. I had some bad self-awareness that I didn't realize each guys had two bottles of water in his hand waiting on me after I finished talking. That's probably part of my self-awareness a little bit. They were excited, they wanted to celebrate for me, I wanted to celebrate for them because they deserve it. These guys have been through a lot, they fought through a lot, they've stayed together and we're going with the mantra of win anyway. No matter what happens. No matter who's in, no matter who's out, no matter who's got fouls, no matter who's tired, no matter who's injured. Find a way to win anyway. And I thought we did that tonight.