

**Penn State Basketball**  
**Student-Athlete Postgame Press Conference**  
**vs. Cornell - November 22, 2021**

Sam Sessoms | G | Sr.

**Q: Talk about the job you guys did offensively in like the last seven minutes, because it seemed as if you were very efficient compared to some of the turnovers that were occurring earlier in the game.**

A: We just kept our poise. Me and [Jalen] Pickett both played a lot of college career games, whether it was here or at another school. Like I said, we just kept our poise, trusted each other, part of a lot of drill work that we do in practice every day.

**Q: Sam, I think you took more threes today than you've had all season. What does it sort of take for you to want to take those shots more?**

A: When I shoot them, I make them. I'm so confident at beating my man off the dribble. A lot of my teammates get mad because I would pass up some easy ones. I kind of started the game off slow as far as the shot attempts and a lot of my field goal attempts before this game were all layups. So they were kind of playing back, so I got to start shooting it. I've seen one drop and I'm like, 'Just keep shooting until you miss it.' That was how my mentality was today.

**Q: How did it feel to tie a program record tonight in threes? You guys had 15 threes which tied the program record.**

A: It was just a great feeling, just to be a part of basketball history at Penn State. You know, hopefully we could just build on that and keep it rolling.

**Q: Do you guys feel like an experienced team because it seems like there was this moment where you go, 'okay, we have to do all the things we need to do to win.' And that kind of comes from having played a lot of basketball. Do you feel like even though a lot of you haven't played together, that you still have that sort of collective basketball IQ?**

A: At moments we feel like we're an experienced team - one of the oldest teams in the country. We're experienced, me and [Jalen] Pickett both are experienced. We need to get it towards the group because this is a new team. We have all new players. We all have confidence in ourselves, Pickett is confident he can beat his man, I do too. But we have to bring that together and bring that experience together as trusting one another as a new group. So, at times I feel like that and at times not so much.

Jalen Pickett | G | Sr.

**Q: How did it feel to tie a program record tonight in threes? You guys had 15 threes which tied the program record.**

A: Well, I guess it feels pretty good. We feel like we can do better than that. We had a couple people shooting really bad tonight so we should go keep working. I think we could beat that.

**Q: Jalen, it seems like you had the ball in your hands a lot more than we'd seen the past couple of days. How do you kind of feel about that one for you? And how do you kind of feel like you're coming along, you know, as a newcomer to this team?**

A: Definitely. We got a lot of good players and a lot of people come from different places. And Sam [Sessoms] is also a great point guard. So being able to play with him and figure out how we're going to have the ball in each half and how we're going to come down on offense

is really gonna help us out, so just keep learning and keep grinding. I mean, I thought it was pretty good.

***Q: Jalen, how do you kind of feel that you have worked with the other guys that you're starting with? Because obviously they've played a lot of basketball together and that is different than sort of acclimating yourself with them. Where do you sort of feel like you are in the comfortability right now?***

A: Still getting pretty comfortable with the team. We've tried a couple of different lineups, and people will get hurt and get down. So we're still working on that cohesiveness. So hopefully right around January and December we'll get everybody healthy, get everybody going, we'll really get that consistency.

***Q: Jalen, when your shots are not falling from deep, how important is it for you to get to the line then just to sort of see the ball go through the hoop?***

A: Very important. I put a lot of time into shooting the ball. When it doesn't go in, you do get a little discouraged, but you got to do other things on the court to be able to help the team out and driving the ball and really trying to force the issue and spray it out to other people to make them better is good. And seeing one going at the free throw line definitely boosts confidence.

***Q: Jalen, to what extent do you feel like that lack of familiarity at this point in season is impacting you? Can you feel that on the court? Do you feel like it's having an impact or not really?***

A: Oh, definitely. That's why we play the non-conference games before the conference, so you can get a feel for everybody like real life game and see where people like to be and see where people like the ball. We do that in practice, but you know the game time is always different than practice.