

Penn State Basketball
Student-Athlete Postgame Press Conference
vs. Miami - December 1, 2021

John Harrar | F | Sr.+

Q: John, Coach Shrewsberry seems a little bit frustrated by the number of turnovers you guys were committing. What was his message during the game when that was happening and then after the game?

A: I think it's just like about the little things. The best basketball teams I've been a part of, they love doing the little things. This game our turnovers came from just not doing the little things like chinning the ball or throwing the eyes. Coach does five to 10 minutes of passing and dribbling drills to get open, get separation, pass fake, going around your man to make the clean pass. That's where his frustration comes, we drill it every day. We got to take care of the ball, value the ball. We are shooting a better percentage than teams, but we're taking less shots every game, so it's going to be hard to win if we keep turning the ball over 14 times a game.

Q: John, do you feel like those turnovers are a product of learning a new system, learning a new way to play, or do you feel otherwise?

A: I think it's little things. At the end of the day, we're fourth- and fifth-year guys who have the ball in their hand. So, I think it's just lazy play. Every possession matters. I've been told that for five years now. I don't think it's our system as much as just wanting to be great at your job and just doing those little things to the highest level.

Q: John, how do you feel like you guys performed defensively tonight?

A: Our defense is pretty stamped, I think. We all know what we want. At the end, they were making tough contested twos. That's what we want from our defense, we want the guys taking the shots that we want. We don't want to have them drive every time, they got it a couple of times though. Their whole game plan was getting downhill, get down going right. I think we kind of took them out of that for the most part. So, I think our defense is pretty stamped. I'm excited to see how it correlates to the Big Ten.

Q: John, as a leader on the team, what do you need to do to rally the troops in these closer games?

A: I sent a message in a group chat like "we just got to get better." Every team has that message but it's not the message as much as the mindset. Like when you wake up after we beat Oregon State, Oregon State was drained. They just played at 11:30 at night. They got done and back to the hotel at 4 a.m. and got no sleep. Like we can't take that game and think we're LeBron James, you know. So, it's that mindset of waking up and seeing how we can get better, watching the film. It's hard to get better every day, it's a hard thing to do. I think we got to keep changing our mindset to just take in every day one day at a time and see how we can get better. It's not easy, it's going to be hard but it's basketball.