

**Penn State Basketball**  
**Micah Shrewsberry Postgame Press Conference**  
**vs. Miami - December 1, 2021**

***Opening Statement***

The first thing I told our guys, and the first thing I talked about was, your defensive effort gives you a chance in every game. And this was something I talked about even before the game, how we're playing defensively. But if you look at our numbers and you look at our stats and how we're trying to play and what we're doing offensively, we're getting the shots we want. We're getting shots at the rim or we're getting, you know, open 3-pointers. But we're not getting enough shots, and that's us shooting ourselves in the foot. We don't value the basketball enough right now. So that's something that we're going to get cleaned up. Like, if you come every single day, we do a lot of drills at the start practice to work on valuing the basketball. And for us, to be a good team, we have to do that. We have to take care of the ball every single time. We have to value every single possession and that takes a lot of effort. Like we're spending a lot of effort on defense to get stops. And we're just basically getting a stop and just giving them the ball back and daring ourselves to get two in a row and we can't win like that. And so that's something that we're going to get cleaned up and something that we'll look at on film. We'll learn from film and we'll practice for two days and get ready to go because we got another good team coming in on Sunday.

***Q: You seemed as animated as we've seen you, especially in the first half after the turnovers. What was the message you were giving the guys during the game?***

A: There's games where you see things coming. I don't know what the outcome of this game is going to be, but I know what the outcome is going to be if we don't prepare the right way. That trip to Florida took a lot out of us. We had an okay day on Monday, but a lot of that was that the guys are banged up. They played a lot of minutes. It was a hard trip. It was a hard trip getting home, but we didn't prepare the right way on Tuesday and that's where our growth needs to come from. So, I tried to warn them that this team's going to be hungry in what we do and that's me learning these guys better too as we go. What buttons do I need to push in practice? We're on edge and we're fired up and we're ready to go and prepared for this group and that's what's going to happen now here on the court. There's nothing that they did that surprised us and that we weren't prepared for. We just need to execute better. I need to do a better job of helping these guys execute better so we can get better shots.

***Q: [Sam Sessoms] seems to be the best creator off the dribble for you guys right now. When they're as smothering as they are defensively, how does that create a challenge for you to 10 of your last 15 shots or threes? How do you get better in those areas?***

A: We're working to try and get better shots. I think we have to play with better pace, which doesn't mean taking the ball out of bounds and pushing it and playing a million miles an hour, it means we need to cut harder, and it means we need to dribble it and get to the right spot quicker. We're playing too slow in terms of when we get the ball in bounds to where we start in the operating area. We're not starting in the operating area, which is near the 3-point line. We don't get there, and we also don't get there with pace. Now you look at the clock, we're down at 18 seconds, 17 seconds. I want to move the ball from side to side. If you want to be a good basketball team, you want to be a successful basketball team, you have to move the ball, you have to play with some ball movement. You have to get it going from side to side. If you don't start until 19 seconds or 18 seconds, you're not getting it swung very much and then you end up with tougher shots. The threes we got in the end, we forced some late, we forced some action late, but we started the second half, and we shot a bunch of threes then too. Every possession that started in the second half, we got a paint touch. We moved it from side to side, we attacked, and then sometimes it results in a three. I don't tell them what we should be looking for, the defense tells them what they should be looking for and that's what the

defense is telling us right now. These guys over help, they run at the ball. I don't know what else you want us to do. We're going to move, we're going to shoot open wide shots when we're open and when they take it away, we're going to attack and try and move for somebody else to get a wide-open shot.

***Q: Do you see yourself playing with more pace? The last couple of teams have been pretty fast down the court. Do you prefer to play more of a half-court game and let that develop? How do you want to play in that regard?***

A: I want to play with more pace. I'll get the ball down the floor and that doesn't mean we're going to shoot the ball at 29 seconds on the clock. We're not going to play like Cornell did, we're not going to play like UNLV did back in 1990. We want to cut hard. We want to sprint of screens. We want to set screens. We want to move from one action to the next. That's what I mean by pace and we're not doing that. I'm not doing a very good job of coaching these guys offensively so that is something that we'll get better at hopefully as the season goes on. I think we'll get better and better and better so hopefully you see more pace. I know we're going to work on it and we're going to do it again. When we get back out there and practice, we're going to do it. We're going to push it down there as fast as we can and get there. We're still going to take good shots. That's what we're going to do.

***Q: You've had a couple of close games, LSU and today. What do you need to do better defensively in these closer types of games?***

A: 63 has to be enough; I don't know what else I can ask of our defense. That's a high-power team. All of those guards are capable of getting 30 points. [Charlie Moore] hit some threes early, [Charlie Moore] played for Kansas, and Kansas isn't just picking some dudes off the street and allowing them to be on their basketball team. They're all capable of putting up huge numbers and we held them down to 63 points. 63 points has to be enough, right? We can't turn the ball over 14 times. If we're sitting here and the other team has 63 points, I'm feeling really good about how we're guarding.