

**Penn State Basketball
Student-Athlete Postgame Press Conference
vs. Purdue – January 8, 2022**

John Harrar | F | Sr.+

Q: Obviously [head coach] Micah [Shrewsberry] going up against his former team, his coach and mentor. Could you tell if that meant any more to him? Was there anything a little bit more intense about him this weekend into today?

A: We prepared the same. Coach's whole message leading into this game is you don't have to do anything special, you just have to do the right things. And as long as you do the right things we would have a chance at the end of the game, which we did. And I think we all bought into this message and tried doing the right things. Don't get out of yourself. Just play how you play, be yourself and we'll live with the results.

Q: John for you defensively, they have [Zach] Edey who you guys handled pretty well. And when he's in foul trouble, they're able to bring [Trevion] Williams off the bench. What kind of challenge does that present when they have two difference-making big guys down there that can hurt you?

A: Yeah, for sure. I think I did a good job of trying to get them in foul trouble in the first half, trying to make them think like once or twice about [me] going in and then just to start the second half I wasn't doing much. I let Trevion get two offensive rebounds which set the tone for the next 12 minutes of the game. I'm supposed to be the one going and getting an extra possessions for my team, not giving up extra possessions for the other team. Trevion is a great player, he's All-Big Ten for a reason. And then we decided not to double [team him] and I tried my best to make him miss but he has unbelievable touch around the rim and as I said [he's an] All-Big Ten player for a reason.

Q: John you mentioned things starting to kind of slip there at the start of the second half. You guys got down by double digits. What flipped then? What allowed you guys to kind of get back into it down the stretch.

A: Coach was kind of talking [during our] pregame speech like a boxing match. Purdue was going to throw their punches, like go back to your corner and go back when it's a timeout. Let's go throw our punches, it's just a basketball game, you try to go on your runs. They were the tougher team and set the rules for that when we came out. You have Jalen Pickett who hit a couple big shots for us, and then other guys got involved and [I] think once our offense gets going, we get back and we can set our defense, which I think our set defense is one of the best in the Big Ten.

Jalen Pickett | G | Sr.

Q: How do you think your defense stacked up tonight against some of the best players in the Big Ten?

A: I think our defense did pretty well tonight. We definitely had some lapses, but we got them to miss quite often. They just got the offensive rebounds. So we have to finish possessions but overall I think we played really well on defense, long arms and a lot of talk.

Q: Jalen, has the last couple of games been validating for you at all. Not that you necessarily have questioned your abilities at all but to watch the Big Ten from a distance for a long time [to] now play in it and play the way you've played the last couple games. Does that kind of add a little 'I belong here' aspect to that?

A: I think it does a little bit but it's all on the preparation. Our team comes out and everybody works really hard and prepares really well because we all want the best for the team and we want success and we want to win. So just doing things right and everybody getting in and work and everybody bringing in a commodity. It's really good for us.