

**Penn State Basketball**  
**Micah Shrewsberry Postgame Press Conference**  
**vs. Purdue – January 8, 2022**

***Opening Statement***

Sorry to keep you waiting, but what Coach Painter has done for my career—I'm going to talk to him after the game. We're gonna spend some time talking. We're gonna talk about our teams. I'm gonna call him to try and get help from him too. Hopefully we don't have to play him again, but we can help each other now. I thought our guys really fought and competed. We knew how tough this game was gonna be. They had lost the game before, and we talked about what they were doing in practice and how hard those practices were gonna be, but also that doesn't have anything to do with us. Like we play hard because we're supposed to play hard every single time. Whether we won two games in a row or lost two games in a row, whether we're playing the number three team in the country or the number 353 team in the country, and our guys are doing that. I'm proud of their effort. I hate losing. You guys know this. I hate losing. But when you prepare the right way, when you play, and you leave everything out there on the court, you can feel okay with the results. I feel okay with the results. Like I said, I hate losing, but we were a good version of ourselves and we left everything on the court, and we'll get back to work tomorrow and get ready for Rutgers.

***Q: Micah, it seemed like Seth [Lundy] couldn't really get going in the first half. How much of that was what you guys were doing offensively and how much of it was he was guarding Jaden Ivey at times too?***

A: Yeah, you know, he's guarded this whole season. He's been on the best player on the other team almost every game, if they have a weak layer that's like that, so I think he's okay. I don't think that really took anything from him. They did a good job of, in our split cuts, taking away the initial handoffs or the quick hidden ball screen—things that we wanted to do. That just made that tough on us. I think he was slow to get going in that way because they were denying the ball on those cuts. So, we needed to do a better job of cutting and tight curling to get them off of our bodies a little bit or using the five and then screen in, so we tried to do more of that. I think late he got some open shots just you know off what [Jalen] Pickett had done which had to help. Those are all things that we got to continue to correct and we need to be better out of timeouts when we have opportunities to get him the ball and do stuff for him. We got to be locked into that we got to execute. That'll help him get more shots as well.

***Q: What are the positive residuals of a game where maybe at the end of the day, they're just a little bit better than you and it's not so much that you shot yourself in the foot or didn't play well? You do a lot of the things that you want to do and they just beat you. I mean, is there a residual there that you can kind of work with moving forward?***

A: I mean, the residual of that is that it kind of ruins my night, I guess. I'm gonna walk upstairs, watch this film, and figure out how we can get better. The residual of this is I'm always fight for our program—I'm gonna do that first and foremost. What I don't like and I feel disrespected by—but I feel disrespected by everything though so you got to take this with a grain of salt—is when people say 'that loss sucks for Indiana, and that's a bad loss.' Like we're not a bad team. We're not. If you look at the teams that have beaten us: Miami's like 12-3, should be ranked or is close to being ranked, I don't know. We've lost to Michigan State who's ranked, probably top two in the country. We've lost to Ohio State, we've lost LSU—who are in the top 25. There's four losses. Now we've lost to Purdue, number three in the country. So, we're not a bad team. It's taken us a little time to get where we want to be, but if people want to come here and take us lightly, they can do that every day of the week that they want to, but I'm always gonna fight for this group. They play as hard as possible. We just went toe to toe with the number three team in the country and matched their intensity. Shot the same for basically the 3-point line, the free throw line, the field, everything else. So, people that don't

watch basketball think this is a bad loss when people come here and get beat. Alright, watch the game, understand the game, think about the game, and then make your decision about what's a bad loss and what isn't.

***Q: Are there challenges that come when you prepare a scouting report all week for a team that's going to have a giant center on the floor all of the time and then they don't because of foul trouble? At the end of the first half, obviously they played without Trevion [Williams] and Zach [Edey] on the floor. Were there challenges to that to you on the fly and in a backhanded sort of way?***

A: Not too much. We did not prepare for Caleb [Furst] to play the five, but it kind of really goes back to, you know, they're not going to run as much stuff for him. It's going to be more ball screen actions for Jaden [Ivey] or more things for Sasha [Stefanovic]. But yeah, we just go back to playing our regular defense and how we do it. You just kind of adjust to who is doing what and you just know. It didn't change how we prepared or what we did or had to adjust.

***Q: How do you think your team played overall tonight guarding Jaden [Ivey] and Trevion [Williams] and overall, what still needs to improve down the stretch?***

A: I thought we did pretty well defensively. They scored 74 points. They came in here averaging a lot. We got them to play a little bit more of our tempo and more in half court play against half-court defense. We did a great job of getting back, they're so good. You just do the best you can, and I thought our guys did that. I thought we fought as hard as we could. We played some zone, we played three different zones. Sometimes it worked, and sometimes it didn't. But, you have to change things up. With the way we compete, the effort we play with, the togetherness we play with, we have to play the exact same way no matter what.

***Q: What has Greg Lee's presence unlocked for you guys - whether it's on the glass or offensively - and what impact did he have tonight?***

A: We obviously missed Greg at the start of the season, not having him until right before Christmas. He needed the three games that we missed more than anybody, to get his rhythm back. He got it a little bit. Greg can really score the ball. He can score the ball, we can throw it to him in the post, he can score it, step out, face up and shoot. When we need some baskets, we got it to him around the basket. He made some nice plays. We didn't hit him. We didn't make those threes. But, he made nice reads when people started doubling. He is a weapon for us. Since he has been back and we've been back, since Christmas, we were plus-10 on the glass against Indiana and we were plus-12 on the glass at Northwestern. We're starting to dominate on the glass and he's doing it. His effort, John [Harrar]'s effort, Jalanni White's effort, the total team. But, those three guys are doing a great job. We keep Greg's rhythm going because he can help us get easy baskets, which is what we need.