

**Penn State Basketball  
Student-Athlete Postgame Press Conference  
vs. Winthrop – November 7, 2022**

**Andrew Funk | G | Sr.+**

***Q: Andrew, it's just the start, during your Penn State debut coming out with that kind of shooting performance. What was that like for you? When do you feel like you are in that kind of zone and it's going to be that kind of night?***

A: Yeah, obviously it felt really good coming in and getting the win like that and shooting the ball the way I did, but I don't even know if I was a zone. I think a lot of [shots] were really open as a result of playing with really good players alongside me. I think coach highlighted it after the game we had 24 assists, which is ridiculous. So, if we are playing with that many skilled guys and we are going to share the ball like that, I think we are going to be really hard to guard, so I think it's kind of a testament to the way our offense runs and our unselfishness overall.

***Q: Andrew, you grew up playing against Myles Dread and Seth Lundy. Tonight, you finally got to suit up alongside them. What was that experience like for you?***

A: It's awesome. Like you said, they were guys I've grown up playing against and heard about since fifth grade. Myles has been giving me a lot of credit in the preseason, but he used to kill me growing up. He would always go at it. It was a lot of fun playing alongside them, like I said earlier with the unselfishness. It's just guys that want to play winning basketball and are super talented. So, it's really refreshing and a really cool experience to see it come full circle for all of us.

***Q: How much different was it for you playing tonight then you had to play at Bucknell, where everything ran through you and you had to create a lot for yourself? What was it like to play on the ball a little more and be a little more active in that way?***

A: I'm really comfortable with the ball, and when you're able to play with guys like Jalen [Pickett], Cam [Wytner], Dallion [Johnson], Seth [Lundy], and guys who are going to really make plays, it just makes my life a lot easier. Obviously, it was just a different team last year, the way we were made up. This year, the main thing is that I feel really comfortable, and I know they're going to make the right plays and I have a tremendous amount of trust in them. So it makes my life really easy.

**Jalen Pickett | G | Sr.+**

***Q: Jalen, it looked like you were, sort of, playing more comfortably out there, because you had more space to operate with and you weren't taking as many of the mid-range shots that you would take last year. Is that more of an emphasis for you this year to either get to the rim or finish from beyond the arc rather than taking those mid-range shots?***

A: It's just finding the right spot and finding the right shot for our team. There's just so much spacing on the floor. I mean, Funk can shoot it, Seth can shoot it, you have Myles [Dread], Dallion, and Caleb [Dorsey] shooting it well. You don't really have to take those unless it was a late shot and you have to make something happen but, there's just so much space. We were getting great looks all night.

***Q: Jalen, forcing turnovers wasn't a big part of what you guys did last year, but you had 17 [forced turnovers] leading to 28 points. How much of a key is that for what you guys are going to do this season, especially when you go a little bit smaller?***

A: It's very important. Like you said, we're small in size this year. We are going to have to create opportunities for our defense with our offense. We don't have a big giant down there in the post. So, we are going to play with long arms and we're going to have to do some things like doubling up post and trying to transmit teams over more.

***Q: Last year, we saw the offense move at a little more of a deliberate pace, a lot of low scoring games. Today they felt a little more wide open. Is that what you feel like this offense can be this year? How do you see this performance foreshadowing the rest of the season?***

A: Definitely. I think we played at a really good pace today. I definitely think we can pick it up a little faster. After they make shots, I think we can get the ball out a little faster. So that's how we want to play. Last year, we had to play slow, less people, less players, so this year, I think we have a lot of guys who can rotate and it's going to help us play the more exciting brand of basketball.