

Penn State Basketball
Micah Shrewsberry Postgame Press Conference
vs. Northwestern – February 26, 2022

Opening Statement

John got 20 rebounds. I can't wait to see how many he gets on Sunday. If you're going to go out in your last two home games, getting your career high in rebounds is one of the ways to do it. I just appreciate our guys—we've been really resilient the entire year. We've really fought. We haven't won them all, but we've had a chance to win them all. We've played well most of the time, here at home. I want to give credit to the Legion of Blue and the students who have showed up for us, every single game. I want to give credit to the fans from the community, from campus, and everywhere else that have come. Our guys are just playing hard, they play hard for each other, and they play hard for them. They play hard for those fans. We want to take this homestand and finish it the right way. We really want it to give us some momentum heading into those last two games next week and then the Big Ten tournament.

Q: What was different about how you guys handled Northwestern's three-two zone compared to how you handled Maryland's? Why were you able to have more success tonight?

A: It still took us a while to get going. We were a little bit slow in terms of how we started to attack it and what we wanted to do. I think sometimes we let their pressure or enthusiasm defensively, speed us up instead of just being totally comfortable out there. I tell those guys all the time to shot fake, pass fake, and be a threat. I know it sounds corny as can be, but that's what a basketball player does. You shot fake, you pass fake, you make people guard you. Now two people are guarding you. Punch a gap and then you can move it. We were slow a little bit. I know he only played six minutes and 41 seconds, but Jaheam Cornwall, some of the plays and passes he made against the zone—he is a basketball player. I had no fear of putting him in ever because I know he's going to try his best on defense. And then he's going to make smart basketball plays. He hasn't shot the ball well. I know he's disappointed in how he shot the ball this year. But he's always a guy that that tries to do his best. He makes basketball plays. He made two plays against the zone that were shot fakes. He punched the gap. He swung it out. I think Dallion Johnson drove it and got fouled. Then, the next time he kind of moves it and we cut somebody on the baseline. He pass fakes, he hits either John Harrar or Jalen Pickett in the middle. Once we had that, then we started really moving it and getting going. It was sending in the guy in hadn't played very much lately, I just asked him to be a senior for me.

Q: What does the overall senior class mean to you?

A: They all put their blind trust in me. They didn't have to, none of them had to. They'll always be remembered; I'll always remember these guys. I talked to them the other day about getting allies when they leave here, right? If somebody is here for eight months, nine months, whatever it may be, don't just leave with "I played basketball at Penn State for a year." Leave with allies, leave with people that are going to fight for you. Leave with people that are going to be there for you and help take care of you. Not just basketball-wise, just people in your corner,

whether it's professors that you have, or people at the Morgan Academic Center that you're working with, or people that you just run into on a daily basis that you see on campus somewhere. Leave with more than just "I scored 200 points at Penn State." They have me for life, they're always going to have me, but I'm only one man. I can only do so much, they have the rest of our staff. I want them to leave with allies across campus because I think Penn State people will take care of them. If they do the right things, if they handled themselves the right way. I think that's important for them to do. For everybody that's here, I want them to take advantage of Penn State, take advantage of the people that are here, that you run across. You never know who's going to be in what position to be able to help you in your career. It could be a classmate of yours, or it can be one of your professors. Do it genuinely, right? Don't just do it. If you're genuine in terms of your pursuits, people will want to help you, and Penn State will help you. That's something that I'm learning here. And I want these guys to take that away.

Q: How did you feel your guys weathered the back and forth play down to the last minute? Do you see that this team has grown? How do you look at the big picture?

A: We've been in a lot of these games. Northwestern has been in a lot of these games. They go either way, very quickly. You feel like you have some momentum, and you build a lead and then you look at the scoreboard and you're only up three or now it's tied or now they're up. It's back and forth. I think we try and just focus on one possession at a time. I thought our defense was really solid the entire game, even though I'm on the sidelines, I don't have hair but pulling my imaginary hair out with every possession that they score. Then I go back and look at the stat sheet afterwards, they shot 36% from the field. They really struggled in terms of the shots that they took, or we forced them to take. It just doesn't seem like that in a low possession game. Our guys are fighting, and digging, and clawing each and every possession. Throughout the year we have gotten better offensively as the game has gone on, for the most part. If you go back and look at the numbers, the last ten minutes of the game is usually our best offense because we have had a chance to see what people do. We haven't turned it over as much, in that period. We get tighter and tighter as the game goes on. I think that's a product of playing our guys with the ball in their hands. We have a purpose offensively, in terms of what we are trying to look for and how we are trying to attack. We played great. We moved the basketball, they shared it, and guys made big shots. We were sure handed and didn't turn it over. We guarded the entire night. I'm proud of that effort.