

Penn State Basketball
Student-Athletes Postgame Press Conference
vs. Michigan - February 8, 2022

Jalen Pickett | G | Senior

Q: It seems as if Micah [Shrewsberry] is pretty vocal from the bench. Tonight, it looked like that was Mike Farrelly. What's it like to have them screaming at you guys from the bench, especially at the defensive end?

A: It's really good for us. They both do a great job with the scouts, and today was a good scout. Michigan, they had great sets and we played solid defense. So, it's just more people who know the game plan and just trying to help us out on the court.

Q: Is there anything you can sort of do in those situations to stem that tide? Or do you just kind of have to keep shooting through it?

A: Definitely, I think we beat ourselves basically. I mean, we were struggling at one point turning the ball over a lot this season and then now we're getting it down into single digits, where we want to be. We're just missing a lot of shots. We guard fine. We just got to keep getting in the gym and keep working.

Q: You guys shot 40 percent in the first half, and it dropped significantly in the second half. Did you notice a defensive adjustment from Michigan or was it just not making shots?

A: They went to a zone matchup, but I think we moved the ball great, and we got whatever we wanted. At the end of the day, we just have to stay focused and stay locked in and just make shots.

Sam Sessoms | G | Senior

Q: You guys finished 7-of-33 in the last I think it was 23 minutes of the game from the field. What happened that they did or that you guys did that sort of allowed that stretch to happen offensively?

A: I wouldn't say it was more so them, or anything they did. It just came back to us making shots, making the right plays. I told a couple of guys after the game, we got to make shots. We get to the shots, [Jalen Pickett] missed some of the shots he usually makes. We both missed a ton of shots that we usually make. Whether we are missing open threes, and they were open. So, I really wouldn't say it was much of them. Some days you just have that type of night, and it was unfortunate that it was a couple of us.

Q: Is there anything you can sort of do in those situations to stem that tide? Or do you just kind of have to keep shooting through it?

A: I was 5-for-17, I kept shooting. But I don't know. It was there. You know, we are so confident. We work on it every day. And Shrewsberry tells us to shoot that, our teammates tell us to shoot that shot, because they know the tables always turn. But it was just that type of night.

Q: Sam, just before you came in here, I saw you back out on the court working on some shooting. I mean, is there anything in particular when you go back out there right after a game that you're trying to work through or anything that stood out from you from this game when you were back out there?

A: Yeah, I was missing all of my layups. That's what it felt like during the game. It felt like I was just missing all the layups that I usually make, that I worked on every day. You know, so afterwards, I was just so frustrated with myself. I guess I just vividly remember a handful of

opportunities where I missed a layup where it was more so me than the defender. So, I wanted to get out there and end the day on a good note and just move forward.