

Penn State Basketball
Micah Shrewsberry Postgame Press Conference
vs. Michigan - February 8, 2022

Opening Statement

First of all, congrats to Michigan. I thought they came in here and won a dog fight. That's kind of what it became in the second half. They made the plays when they needed to, and we struggled to get them off the glass there in the second half and that hurt us. I told our guys in the locker room, I apologized to them. I have to be better. I got to keep my composure. I got to coach these guys and I didn't help them tonight. They kind of took my lead and played a little bit more frazzled than they needed to. I got to be better for them, and I will be. I promise I will be for those guys because the way that they're fighting and what they're doing, they deserve that. I'm going to fight for these dudes. Nobody else is going to fight for my team. I'm going to fight for them every single day of the week.

Q: You guys started 15-22 from the field and finished 7-33 in the last 23:55 of the game. Did they do something defensively or what happened with you guys offensively that changed the offense?

A: They played more zone and they do a good job from mixing man to zone in the same possession so it kind of keeps you off guard, it kind of slows you down. We tried a couple different ways to attack it. The shots that we got were a little bit different. Early on, we got some open threes that we just didn't hit. They were wide open. They mess up sometimes too, but it felt like we got good shots, we were attacking the rim. We were getting all the way to the rim and getting shots right there, we just got to make them or we got to draw fouls and get to the free throw line a little bit more.

Q: You went with a unique personnel group that I don't think we've seen with under-4 in the first half. What was the rationale there and what didn't go right?

A: It probably bit us at the end of the first half and maybe I should have called a timeout. We had five people on the court and all five of them were asking to come out because they were so tired. Unfortunately, that's probably a rookie mistake. I should have called a timeout and let them rest there and finish the half the right way. That was a really important stretch for us, but I also believe in those guys, too. All those guys. They work hard every single day in practice and if I didn't believe in them, they wouldn't be out there. I believe in their situations. I believe they prepare the right way. You throw them into the game, they should do what they need to do but it just didn't work for us. I thought we were slow getting into a play against the zone and ended up throwing up a late shot clock. We took another late shot when we didn't need one. We just didn't play the right way offensively. We were doing some different things defensively. They got a couple threes when we were doubling the post, it just felt like Hunter Dickinson is so good down there you got to give him different looks and we tried to change it up throughout the game and he did a good job of finding some guys on those kickouts. It took us not executing offensively, but it took a couple special plays for them to get back into it. That's probably a part right there where I'll be kicking myself all night about how we finished that half but at the end of the day it was still tied at halftime and now you're in a 20-minute fight, and I like our chances most of the time.

Q: When you're attacking the rim, is there a point in the game when the whistle isn't happening and you feel like you have to change course?

A: I don't think so. It's still a good shot, right? How many times this year do you watch Sam Sessoms drive in there and get that shot up on the glass and it goes in? It's still a good shot. We run the offense to try and get layups, try and get open threes, force people to help. They weren't really helping because they were allowing that drive to get to the basket. That's something that we can work on a different way to counter, keep going with your dribble, get

on the baskets, and bring it out and get the switch. There were a couple of times when we got switches, we didn't attack it the right way. Again, that's on me, I need to be better. I need to help these guys be better and get better shots in terms of when we get the mismatch that we want. We have to capitalize them. But I still like us attacking around. You continue to do that, you attacked the rim every single time, be the more aggressive team and most times it works out for you.

Q: Coach, you enjoyed having a little back and forth across the coach's box [with Juwan Howard] that ended with laughs and smiles. What are those relationships across coaching?

A: I have a great relationship with Juwan Howard. I have so much respect for him. We were in the NBA at the same time as assistant coaches, him at Miami and me at Boston. So, we played a lot over those six years. We kind of built up a friendship. Then, he ended up getting the Michigan job when I went back to Purdue, so two more years there in the Big Ten. Now, this year. I have so much respect for him. Howard Eisley, the same way, who was there in the NBA, he was with the Knicks when I was coaching in Boston. I have respect for those guys and like for what Howard's done, coming from the NBA and never being a head coach and now what he's doing at Michigan, that's helped me in my career. If he has success as a guy that's a first-time head coach in high-profile situation at Michigan, it gives more guys that are assistant coaches an opportunity. And, there's a lot of good ones out there. There's a lot of guys that are really good coaches, and if they get an opportunity, I think they'll do a great job. I give him a lot of credit. I tell him all the time, thank you for going there and having success. Thank you, Mike Boynton at Oklahoma State for going from an assistant coach to a head coach and having some success. I texted with Fran McCaffery today, just checking on him, seeing how he's doing. I talk to Coach Painter probably two or three times a week. Greg Gard and I spent time standing out talking after the game on the court. That's how it is. There's a lot of rivalries, but they're friendly rivalries and I think a lot of respect. I hope it stays that way when we start beating them.