

Red-White Game

October 20, 2017

Head Coach Mike Anderson

Opening Statement...

"For the fans that came out, I appreciate them coming out and creating more like a game atmosphere for our guys. The guys probably extended a lot of energy out there on the floor and I think that's why you saw there were lulls in the game. You could see it gave these guys an opportunity to play in front of fans and, quite frankly, give people an opportunity to see some of the guys that we've been talking about. Guys that you guys have been covering such as a Daniel Gafford or a C.J. Jones and his improvement. Also, Darius Hall, a guy who I think is really going to impact our team from a defensive mindset. Of course, Arlando Cook was one of those guys that we just reinstated to the team. From a conditioning standpoint, that's why he didn't play tonight. He wasn't up to par, let me put it that way. You can imagine, he only practiced one day so that's why he didn't play. Overall, I thought our guys came out and just had fun. One team, obviously you've got Daryl Macon and Jaylen Barford, two of your better players. I thought Daryl set the stage right out of the gate making a couple of shots. He had some easy opportunities. The assist totals are always something I look at after the game and the white team really did a good job of sharing the basketball to make easy opportunities. But again, we play a game of runs and you saw that, but the potential is there. Daniel had a big night. I've got to commend the guys for getting the ball to him in the right spots. He does a good job on the glass with 15 rebounds. But you look at the white team and there's more balanced scoring, a lot more balanced scoring. They got to the free throw line and of course, they dominated on the glass. To me, the most important thing in this kind of game is nobody got hurt. The great thing about it for all the fans and you guys covering it, the Razorbacks won."

On what impressed him about Daniel Gafford's performance...

"Well, he started off slow, I thought. I thought he got more engaged as the game went on. It wasn't just the way he scored. I thought our guys did a good job of penetrating and getting it to him and he got a lot of offensive rebounds. I think his energy is contagious. When you get a big guy that's that active, it just goes throughout your team. He's long back there at that basket, too. He probably didn't block a whole lot of shots, but what he does is he changes the trajectory. What I like about him is he rebounds above the rim. He goes and gets rebounds. He still has a lot of improvement to do, but you can see the potential there. Like I said, they were playing against each other so let's play somebody where they aren't your buddy or they aren't your teammate and let's see what takes place then. But I think these guys in practice are getting him seasoned. They've been pushing and shoving him and he's got some fight in him. That's what I like about him. But I think his energy and effort, you see him run the floor like a guard, he runs like a deer. He's has got in better shape. I think he's probably in the best shape he's been in. To play, especially in this style of play, I think

it benefits a guy like him very much like Bobby [Portis] was. He can run the floor. Around that basket, he has good hands too. He's a big guy with good hands. That length, that athletic ability. He can make some plays."

On how good Daryl Macon can be this season...

"I think the biggest thing is maturity for Daryl. You know, last year was a lot of things going fast. I think this year it's kind of slowing down for him. As it slows down for him, these guys will play off each other. I think you saw it tonight where he and Barford, they kind of played off each other. I think when you win, all the individual accolades will come. Obviously, different things motivated different guys different ways. The most important thing is the team and I think he's worked on his game. That's why when you look at the percentages and his shot, right now it's effortless because he's put the time in. When you talk about having a chip, whatever you want to call it, yeah we've all got it on our shoulder. The key is you have to go out and get better and prove it each and every night when you go out and play teams. We're through playing each other, so now we get a chance to go out next Friday and play someone other than ourselves in the exhibition. It'll give me another opportunity to see these guys in a game setting playing someone other than themselves. But I think the motivation is different for a lot of different people, and of course, they feel like they're some of the better guards in the country. Not only in our league, but in the country. I feel that way too, but it's enough talking, let's go play."