UAB Head Coach Robert Ehsan

Opening Statement
I thought it was a good performance by our team. We talked about building some momentum going into next week and I thought today we did that. There were some times we could have played a little better, a little more sound and efficient, but for the most part the basketball moved. The guys really moved together and they played with a sense of confidence and you could see that tonight, that’s what we’re going to need for Saturday and going into next week.

On how much better the bigs have gotten this season...
It's been a huge emphasis for us. One of the things is when teams don't play a zone we really want to punch it inside and pound it to those guys. It's been working really well because we've been practicing and working on it. The team also knows that the bigs are willing passers out of the post and that helps. The team has bought into that a little bit and it's been good.

On (Chris) Cokley's spurt in the second half...
It was huge. I didn't call a lot of plays for him to be quite honest, he had five offensive rebounds in 18 minutes. In Chris Cokley's career I've always felt that he was a guy that, like tonight you knew he played well and then you look at the stat sheet and wow, he is a guy who fills up the stats naturally. I didn't call a lot of plays for him, he just went and got the basketball. He was playing with a lot of energy, which he did on Sunday, and it was good. I was shocked he scored so many points considering he didn't play a lot in the first half.

On it being tough leaving Cokley on the bench when he gets in foul trouble...
It is and we were thinking about going back to him. We didn't, but part of it was Tosin (Mehinti) was playing really good, Thomas (Smallwood) came in and gave us some really good minutes in the first half because they had a guy he matched up with. Tyler (Madison) is a guy I'm still trying to get into the rotation. Chris has not been starting even though we all know he is good enough to start, he's an all-conference level player. For him to not start and then to come in and do what he did is a testament to the type of guy he is. When his motor is running he's really, really good.

Senior guard Denzell Watts

On how the guys played tonight...
I feel really good. We shared the ball and got momentum going. Our defense was really good, we locked down on our sets and got some stops and it allowed us to get up and down. It feels good to get the win.
On the difference in the front court and all three of the big scoring in double figures...
We just got them to ball. My thing is I know if I get them the ball 90 percent of the time they're going to make the shot. The hardest part is just getting them the ball, honestly.

On how much of an impact Chris Cokley made...
He was a huge impact. You'll look up at the scoreboard and be like, ‘Man I can’t believe he has that many points.’ He scores in bunches and he's hard to stop. We need that going down the stretch to make a run.

On what it does to the team when Tosin Mehinti scores a lot of points...
It just builds confidence for us and him. He builds confidence within himself because he knows he can go out and make plays that we need them to make. It’s big for us – Chris Cokley, William Lee, and Tosin Mehinti they're all going to big coming down the stretch so tonight was big for him.

Junior forward Chris Cokley

On if the second half made up for lost time in the first half...
I had two quick fouls in the first half. I’m a team player and I don't really dwell on myself or if I’m having a bad first half. It’s a team thing and I’m always going to cheer them on.

On the openings found down low...
Coach Ehsan was stressing that we were a lot more physical than them. In the way the bigs matched up we were more physical. He stressed to get deep post touches.

On how fresh you are in the second half if you don’t play a lot in the first half...
I try to take advantage of everything I can. If I do get in foul trouble early and don’t play that much in the first half I’m pretty much 100 percent energy level whereas other guys are not. I try to use that to my advantage.

On the mood in the locker room tonight compared to the last few weeks...
The mood lately had been to attack and play together as a team. We knew if we played within each other we will be fine.