

POST-GAME QUOTES

NIU Head Coach Ricardo Patton

**On his perception of the margin of defeat ...**

"The story tonight was the difference between a veteran ball club, and one that has a lot of underclassmen that are still learning how to play at this level. It was a classic example of experience vs. inexperience. The game was allowed to be played very physically, and that was certainly to our disadvantage."

**On whether the long trip (due to inclement weather) had anything to do with the loss, and MU's presence in the post ...**

"Well, the weather did turn a six-hour trip into almost a nine-hour trip last night, but we don't make excuses in this program. Give Miami credit; they got into us defensively, and took us out of our offense. We got no easy looks underneath the basket, and for a stretch of the game, that was the only place that Miami was scoring. The story of the game certainly wasn't three-point shooting; they made four, and we made three. They got easy buckets, and I thought they did a nice job exploiting our inexperience with our primary defensive players."

**On whether he was concerned about Miami being frustrated about its previous loss to Buffalo, and how they would respond ...**

"That is always a concern. We knew they would come out and try to rectify that loss on their home court. When you are playing with a solid group of seniors, it is good for your team, because they understand how to bounce back from adversity. Sometimes, that is very difficult for young players to understand. We expected them to come out and play with the urgency that they did tonight."

NIU sophomore guard Darion "Jake" Anderson

**On Wednesday's effort compared to Saturday's loss vs. Central Michigan ...**

"Our effort tonight was definitely greater than it was against Central Michigan. We just didn't execute the other day, and didn't play with as much intensity as you need to in order to win a ball game. Miami executed very well tonight, and took advantage of some of our weaknesses. They got into the lane, and got to the basket however and whenever they wanted to."

**On the team's mentality at halftime, when NIU trailed by 20 points (40-20) ...**

"We were in the same situation at Western Michigan. We stayed focused on trying to make a comeback. Lots of teams have come back from greater deficits than 20 points. We wanted to come out, execute the game plan and try to chip away at the lead. That's all you can do when you fall behind by a large deficit. We obviously weren't able to accomplish that in the second half."

**On whether the especially long road trip had an effect on the team's performance ...**

"Everyone has to go through this tough part of the season when you are traveling a lot, and making long road trips. That doesn't have an effect on us, and we won't make that excuse. They (Miami) played a lot better than we did today, and that was the story of the game. They are a veteran-laden team that came out and really executed their offense and their system. They made the plays they needed to make to take advantage of the game, and we let the lead get out of hand."