

Northern Illinois Men's Basketball 2008-09

Northern Illinois vs. Southern Illinois

December 17, 2008 – DeKalb, Ill.

POST-GAME QUOTES

Southern Illinois Head Coach Chris Lowery

"I have been challenging [our seniors] for the last three weeks. I've been on the young guys to have energy and enthusiasm on the bench. If we have a chance to be good, we're going to have to get minutes from the young guys. We've got to hope this young team can continue to grow up.

"We wanted to make sure we won the game. It's a great series. Hopefully we can continue to do it. They are as young as we are and they're going to continue to get better.

"We made plays at the rim tonight. Last game, we missed nine layups. Rebounding has been huge for us, we're doing a much better job with that in the last couple of games.

"I did not feel comfortable. We're a young team and anything can happen. They have to learn the value of playing time.

"Mullins did a great job. Everyone was on Jake [Anderson]. He came in averaging 30.2 points a game so no one guy was on him. We tried to limit his shots. We wanted to make sure we didn't give Jake open looks. We stressed to put pressure on him every catch and every dribble."

Northern Illinois Head Coach Ricardo Patton

"I thought our kids battled most of the night. You can't shoot 36 percent from the free throw line and beat many teams. We saw where each of the programs are at this point. My only wish is that we continue the series.

"You don't expect Mike DiNunno to go 2-of-8 from the free throw line. Free throw shooting is about confidence in my mind.

"We knew going into the game that Southern is one of the best defensive teams we've seen in a long time. They are a very good basketball team defensively. They all shoot a high percentage and the reason they shoot so well is they don't take bad shots. Good defensive teams take you out of your rhythm.

"For sure if you can't learn something from them, you are probably playing the wrong game. Both defensively and offensively they played an excellent ball game. They played a superb game in my mind on both ends of the floor. Still, we forced them into 17 turnovers and we'll take some positives from this. We're a young basketball team and we'll continue to get better."

NIU Guard Mike DiNunno

"Defensively as a team we have to pick up the intensity in practice to simulate the defense we saw today. If we can pick it up in practice, we'll be more ready for the game. (on the free throws) You see some guys missing free throws and you put more pressure on yourself to make them. The confidence level is not there. Our minds aren't where they need to be.

NIU Guard Darion "Jake" Anderson

"They capitalized on our mistakes, but at certain times we played good defense and they knocked down the tough shot."