

HEAD COACH LARRY HUNTER QUOTES:

On Michael Porrini:

“Well, Mike is really a good athlete, number one, and he brings a good measure of toughness and physicality to our basketball team that we’ve really needed. He can jump up and dunk it with both hands as a point guard, he’s really cut well, physically strong, and he was a high school football player at Massillon High School. He played both ways, as a defensive back defensively and a wide receiver offensively, was a captain. That’s a pretty high powered football operation for a high school program. I’ve really been impressed, he’s picked up our system really well, he plays with a lot of confidence, and he gives us some leadership as a freshman.”

On the SoCon:

“I think when you think of our league this year, you think of Davidson number one, they just have a great basketball team, they’re so well coached, and they play with such great confidence, they execute so well on both ends of the court, they’ve just really got it going right now. But I think there are a lot of good teams in the league. I think you’ve got to look at them as a cut above a little bit of everybody else, but I think this is the year where you can go from two down through maybe the rest of the league, and you can put them in a jar as a marble, and roll them out, and anyone could almost end up anywhere. I think everybody’s excited about some of their young players, and their programs, and there is some awfully good coaching in this league, people that are really working hard at it. That’s what makes our conference what it is. In my three years, I think the league has gotten better each year, with the caliber of players, and people doing a great job with their programs. It’s a really positive time for Southern Conference basketball.”

On Nick Aldredge:

“I’ve really been pleased with Nick’s development. Basically a year ago, he was a scorer. He knows how to score, he can score at the basket, a lot of ways, that’s where he scored a lot last year. He didn’t have much of a jump shot a year ago. I think people will be surprised on how hard he’s worked, and he’s got a really good jump shot, we’ve got him playing away from the basket some. We’re not going to be crazy and keep him out there a lot, but we’ve got to move him around so people can’t find him as easily, and I think he understood that, and he’s developed some of the face up aspects of his game, he’s more accelerated than I thought he would at this point. He’s an exceptional passer, and he’s got very good ball skills, so he would be a very good perimeter guy, but he’s one of those guys who is so good around the basket, that we’re not going to keep him out there on a steady diet. We’re going to move him around, have him inside out, but he’ll still try to be a force at the basket.”