

Rod Barnes
Georgia State Head Coach
Courtesy of UTC Athletic Communications

On the game

"Not just because we won, it was a great tournament to come to. It allowed us to play against some really good competition. Our guys gave some great effort over the last two days, and as a result we got two wins. We also shot the ball a lot better than we had been. Dante Curry, who got tournament MVP, was really special this weekend. He had been shooting the ball well in practice. We gave him the opportunity to start tonight because Jihad Ali, our second leading scorer, was out with an injury. It was a hard fought game tonight. We got off to a good start, but we just couldn't put them away. I really like Chattanooga's team. I think they have a chance to do special things in their conference. We played other teams in their league, and there is no question in my mind that they are one of the better ones."

On Jihad Ali and Dante Curry

"Ali had surgery this summer, but I don't think that was the injury. He pulled something in the back of his leg. He did it in about two minutes into the first game against Texas A&M – Corpus Christi. Curry has been playing some. He is a senior and has been around. We have been waiting for him to play the way he did this weekend. What a great time for him to step it up. Hopefully Ali will be back, but we are not sure right now."

On team's shooting

"You shoot 50 percent, you win. I said if our team can score 72, our defense is good enough to beat anyone. It took a whole lot more than that tonight. We just have to keep getting better defensively. I am sitting over on the bench seeing us make every shot. I am looking at the scoreboard and we are up by four points, six points. I told the guys we have to get a stop, but we just couldn't get one. We responded and made some shots. If we didn't shoot it well, we didn't have a chance to win the game."

On preparation for the game

"We played so many different type of teams. It helped us to prepare for the game. We have played against match-up zone, 2-3 zone. We have played against a lot of different teams, which is unusual because I like to played teams that plays man-to-man. We struggled last year in conference against zone teams, so we played a lot of zone teams early this year to prepare for conference play. It helped us tonight, because our guys knew what was going on, and knew exactly what we wanted to do because we had seen the defenses before."