



POSTGAME QUOTES

Dec. 15, 2020

State Farm Center

Minnesota at Illinois

Richard Pitino, Minnesota Head Coach

On Kofi Cockburn's impact on the game...

"Yeah, we needed [Liam Robbins] on the court, and Kofi [Cockburn] does that too you. He puts you in foul pressure, and then you have to sub. It's just hard. Unfortunately, we weren't able to put him in foul trouble. He has a tendency to do that, like most big guys do, so that was the challenge there. He was terrific, he catches so deep, so it was hard to trap, it was hard to help, because he was going quick. We weren't great all around, but they were really, really great as well."

On the offense's cold streak throughout the game...

"I didn't think that we were taking bad shots, but I thought that we had to do a better job of adjusting throughout the course of the game. It definitely felt like we were getting trigger-happy, and we needed to be able to get into the lane, and maybe not even shoot a layup, but maybe kick it out to someone else and create a scramble. That's where we need to get better, our offensive flow was not great. They have so much speed and talent so that if you take long shots and don't get offensive rebounds, you're going to allow them to get on the break. We have to be sharper, continue to get better. It's only worth one, so we're going to watch the film and move on."

On why Both Gach's struggled to get going tonight...

"I don't know. He's a really good player, but it seemed like it was snowballing a little bit. He missed a couple layups at the basket, and it was just one of those nights for him. He's a terrific player and I have no doubt he'll bounce back and be fine."

Marcus Carr, Minnesota Guard

On Liam's Robbins confidence going into B1G play...

"I think his confidence is fine, really. It's not really a confidence thing. I think sometimes when you're on the road, things don't go your way and you pick up a few quick ones at the beginning that you maybe want to take back, so really it's just about being smarter."

On the opportunity to prove themselves in the B1G down the line...

"We play in the best league in college basketball, so night in and night out, we're going to be playing tough opponents. We're going to prepare like we always do and be up for the challenge."

Gabe Kalscheur, Minnesota Guard

On where Illinois ranks as the B1G opponent this season...

"They're up there. They got a lot of talent and play well with each other, but we've come a long way. I've played a lot of good teams over the years, and this season, this conference is full of great teams. Us included, I think we're a great team, but there's a lot of great teams in this conference so every night is going to be a battle."

On the key to the hot start at the beginning of tonight's game and what changed...

"I think we were attacking well. Finding openings throughout their defense and taking good shots. Not taking bad shots which helped them get in transition like they did. They got to their transition after the second media timeout and I think that's what hurt us a little bit."