



POSTGAME NOTES

Big Ten Tournament – Second Round

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Lucas Oil Stadium (Indianapolis, Ind.)

5-seed Ohio State 79, 13-seed Minnesota 75

SERIES, ETC.

This afternoon's 79-75 loss was the 144th all-time game between Minnesota and Ohio State (vacated games excluded), and the Buckeyes lead the series, 90-54 (OSU leads 4-0 at neutral sites). This was the third meeting between the schools in the B1G Tournament, and the Gophers are 0-3 in those games, with previous losses to the top-seeded Buckeyes in 2010 and sixth-seeded OSU in 2015. It was the second meeting between the teams this season, as the Gophers posted a 77-60 win at The Barn on January 3. Minnesota ends its season at 14-15 overall, while Ohio State snapped a four-game losing streak and improved to 19-8 overall. Minnesota's all-time record now stands at 1,516-1,144 overall (not counting vacated games). Coach Pitino's eighth-year record at Minnesota is 141-123 and his nine-year career mark is 159-137. Pitino is 5-8 all-time versus the Buckeyes.

STARTING FIVE

For the sixth straight game, Coach Pitino went with a starting lineup of redshirt senior forward Brandon Johnson (24th start at Minnesota, 115th career start), redshirt senior forward Eric Curry (eighth start this season, 14th career start), redshirt junior guard Marcus Carr (29th start this season, 60th start at Minnesota, 87th career start), sophomore guard Tre' Williams (13th start this season, 18th career start), and freshman guard Jamal Mashburn Jr. (eighth start this season, eighth career start).

GAME RECAP

Unlike last night, when the Gophers jumped out to a 16-2 lead against Northwestern, they found themselves on the other end of the spectrum. Ohio State burst out of the gates in its first B1G Tournament game and took a 9-0 lead at the first media timeout. Ohio State stretched the advantage to 13-0 before the Gophers got baskets from Both Gach and Tre' Williams to cut it to 13-4. Minnesota extended its run to 7-0 to cut it to a six-point game. Trailing 21-11, a Marcus Carr three-pointer and a putback by Sam Freeman cut it to a four-point game. After an OSU trey, Jamal Mashburn Jr. connected from long-range to make it 24-20, but the Buckeyes scored five quick points for a 29-20 at the final media timeout of the half. At the break, the Buckeyes were back up by 12 points, 39-27. Carr led the way with eight points, while Brandon Johnson added six points and six boards.

Mashburn opened the second half by scoring seven of 11 points to reach double-figures for the Gophers, who trailed 48-38 at the first media timeout. Minnesota kept battling its way back, and three-straight treys by Carr, Gach and Williams pulled it within four points, 53-49, with 7:38 remaining. The Buckeyes answered with a 9-1 run to stretch the lead back to 12 points and led 70-56 with 3:24 remaining. But this Gophers team simply refused to quit, and an 18-5 run pulled Minnesota within one point on a three-pointer from Carr with 0:13 left. But the Buckeyes were able to make some clutch free throws to advance to play fourth-seeded Purdue on Friday.

CARR ENDS SEASON WITH 12TH 20-POINT GAME

Marcus Carr did everything he could to propel the Gophers on to the next round, as he scored 16 of his game-high 24 points in the second half and pulling Minnesota within one point of an upset win late. Carr made 7-of-24 field goals, including four three-pointers, and was 6-of-8 at the free throw line. It was Carr's 12th 20-point game of the season, a figure that also includes three 30-point games and a career-high 41-point performance at Nebraska.

MASHBURN AND WILLIAMS IN DOUBLE-DIGITS

Minnesota's young guard combo of Jamal Mashburn Jr. and Tre' Williams both reached double-figures. Mashburn finished with 18 points, three assists, two rebounds and a steal in 32 minutes, while Williams had 11 points, a career-high eight rebounds and a blocked shot in 29 minutes. Williams' previous rebounding high had been seven boards at Purdue on Jan. 2, 2020. The 11 points for Williams marked his fourth-straight double-figure scoring game and his seventh this season. Williams averaging 13.3 points per game over his final four games. Mashburn notched his 12th double-figure scoring game this season and his 10th in the final 12 games.

JOHNSON TURNS IN GUTSY EFFORT

Brandon Johnson turned in a blue-collar performance for the Gophers, as he had seven points, grabbed eight rebounds, and added two blocked shots and two steals in 23 minutes. Over his final three games, Johnson averaged 10.3 points and 9.7 rebounds, while playing on a sore ankle

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS AND NOTES

Both Gach came off the bench to contribute nine points, three rebounds and two assists, and he hit a clutch three-pointer during the team's late rally ... the Gophers were 0-9 when wearing their Maroon uniforms this season ... Minnesota outrebounded the Buckeyes, 42-37, and grabbed 16 offensive rebounds ... Gabe Kalscheur missed his eighth-straight, and Liam Robbins missed his sixth-straight, due to injuries ... the Gophers had a 20-4 advantage in second-chance points