

Big Ten Conference Men's Basketball Tournament

Thursday March 14, 2019

Tim Miles

Nebraska Cornhuskers

Nebraska - 69, Maryland - 61

TIM MILES: Well, I thought it was a great effort by the Huskers, and the kids really came out and established, I thought, very good defense and rebounding, very solid defense and rebounding, and then we got some offense going later in the first half, and then just kept going the second half and then kind of held on at the end. But Maryland plays really hard. Mark, I think, has an excellent defensive team especially. I thought we did a good job on Bruno, and we needed to.

Q. Tim, you're constantly running with seven players throughout the course of the game. How do you keep doing it, and what's your philosophy as you move forward in this tournament?

TIM MILES: Well, yeah, we are who we are, not who we not are, you know, and I don't know that Thomas is ready yet. I think he's still maybe in the next week before Thomas Allen is ready. So we're just -- we're trying to put players out there. We know it'll get a little crooked sometimes, but the kids are -- I think what's cool, and I've said this before, is that the walk-ons, okay, they come in -- they're in the bench last year, right, and they're just playing as hard as they can for the team, and the guys like James Palmer is an all-league guy, Isaiah Roby, Glynn Watson, they accept them. They don't look at me and evaluate me, they just accept them, like okay, this is what you can -- and they play off each other that way. Not every team is like that. And so I think that says a lot about our young guys, and that's really important. You wouldn't win otherwise. A lot of teams would just say, we've got seven guys, there's no way, and they'd quit. Not just say I quit, but they just wouldn't do those things. So I think that is probably that mentality is the thing I'm most proud of.

Q. How big was the 16-minute timeout, getting that second chance? It seemed like you guys were sort of teetering and then you scored those five points.

TIM MILES: Yeah, there's no doubt Maryland was on the attack and we weren't able to slow them down. You know, any time you get an extra possession like that and you're able to run a little more clock, it's like a running game, right, and I think that was huge. The plays that James and Hon made, even Isaiah Roby, were really huge, and the defense they played was



great, too, but that was a key moment, and then James made some really difficult shots.

Q. What was the game plan for Bruno coming in, and how were you able to take him out of the game?

TIM MILES: Yeah, we just wanted to aggravate him as much as possible, just make him play in a crowd, send different guys at him, whatever it took. And then you really run some risk. I always worry about Anthony Cowan, too, going off the way he can, but we had to get to Bruno, and we did. You don't beat Maryland without trying to neutralize those two big kids.



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#13 NEBRASKA 69 (18-15), #5 MARYLAND 61 (22-10)

Nebraska will play #4 WISCONSIN at approx. 2 p.m. CT Friday on BTN



NEBRASKA POSTGAME PLAYER QUOTES

Nebraska senior G James Palmer Jr.

On the team's belief factor with the odds against them...

"Our belief factor was strong. We're always going to come into the game always thinking we're going to win. We're never going into the game thinking we're going to lose. We just went out there and proved it. We just went out, played hard, followed the game plan. Coach had a great game plan and we came out and followed our game plan and came out on top."

On when the outcome started to become a reality...

"The belief doesn't come to reality until we see all zeros on the clock. We just wanted to stay focused, locked in and finish the game."

On how important it was to build the lead early...

"It was definitely big. We knew they were going to come out and make a run. We had an advantage in playing yesterday so, I guess, maybe they weren't hitting shots and we were playing terrific defense too. I just know we were playing terrific defense and we were just ready to come to play today."

On the defensive emphasis...

"It's a big emphasis. You have to play defense in order to win games; That's our main focus coming into these games. We're going to try to do that again tomorrow."

Nebraska senior G Glynn Watson Jr.

On looking at Wisconsin tomorrow...

"We've got another good team on our hands tomorrow, but we can do it."

On how Coach Miles put the team in the right frame of mind going into today's game...

"We just knew it was a new season. After Sunday, we had a great win so it gave us momentum coming into the tournament. It's a new season - anything can happen and you're seeing it right now. We stand together, every guy putting in work to help us win. I think that's the major thing."

On Johnny (Trueblood's) ability to rebound...

"Johnny always works hard. I think with me, it's just keeping his poise and playing big minutes; I mean, he hasn't played in three years or whatever. It's him just being ready at the time to get in the game and things like that so that's the thing that I'm most proud of him. Johnny can do a lot of things."

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Mark Turgeon

Maryland Terrapins

Nebraska - 69, Maryland - 61

MARK TURGEON: You know, we weren't very good today. I'll just be real with you. And Nebraska, I thought, was terrific, especially when they needed to be, shot clock going down, made a lot of shots. You know, we just never had it. Made mistakes defensively throughout the game. We let our offense affect our defense. We couldn't make a shot, couldn't handle the double-team. So there's a lot of things we didn't do very well today. Because our offense was so bad -- I've already said this, it affected our defense at some critical stages. But we never quit. We tried. We had a couple opportunities late, cut it to five, I think, but they just made big plays. Give them credit. They deserved to win. They were much better than we were today.

Q. Did you feel like you guys had a chance to win when Bruno was not scoring?

MARK TURGEON: No, it's not that Bruno wasn't scoring. They doubled him every time. It was that we didn't make them pay for what they were doing, and that was a disappointing thing. I'm not going to get into why that was happening, but that's disappointing, and Bruno usually is good for a couple of offensive rebound put-backs, and he couldn't get them today. The ball didn't bounce our way a lot, either. Even when I thought we still had a chance, the one bounced on the rim three times, and then they got the offensive rebound. One of those days, but we've got to be able to overcome it. But we had a lot of guys, a lot of coaches, a lot of people that didn't do well today. That's why we lost.

Q. The technical when you were down nine --

MARK TURGEON: I think it was down seven. It was nine, yeah, that's right.

Q. What had led to sort of -- I know it wasn't a one-time outburst. There was a lot going on through the game.

MARK TURGEON: Yeah, I just got on the floor too much. Shouldn't have done it. I thought Darryl got fouled, but they didn't. That's really what matters. Shouldn't have got the technical.

Q. You have a real inexperienced team, a lot of guys this is their first postseason stint. Do you



think some guys learned some things about the difference between the regular season today?

MARK TURGEON: Oh, I don't know. People make a lot out of that. What are we, fourth-youngest? We were fifth. I don't know how we got to fourth. We're the fourth-youngest team, and we played like it today. I don't know if it was the building, we didn't know who we were playing. We seemed locked in. When we found out it was Nebraska we had a good walk-through last night, good film session. I felt we were prepared, we just didn't play well.

We have to learn from this. Last year we were sitting here, we lost a game to Wisconsin in New York, and we were praying to get into the NIT, okay. We're in the NCAA Tournament. It's been a heck of a year for us. We've got the fourth youngest team. We played, I heard, the eighth-toughest schedule. We've overcome a lot. We'll overcome this. We just didn't play well today. We'll get ourselves ready to go and hopefully play better in the NCAA Tournament.

Q. Going off that, what can you do in the next couple days, in the next week, to get your team ready to make sure that this doesn't destroy their confidence?

MARK TURGEON: Well, we've bounced back all year in a lot of situations. So I plan for us to do the same thing. We're going to have extra practices now, obviously, that we didn't want. I think the game experience probably would have been a little better for us than practices. We practiced well this week. That's the thing that's tough for me right now sitting in front of you. We really practiced well this week. So we've got to get our minds right moving forward. We'll do a lot of things that way and get back to some of the things that we were doing with them, and hopefully it'll carry over and we'll play well. But we'll be excited. We're going to be real excited when our name pops up. Whoever it is is going to be a really good team, and we're going to have to play better than we did today to have a chance to win.

Q. They matched you in rebounding today statistically. What went wrong and they were doubling Bruno a lot and that leads to Jalen getting offensive boards normally.

MARK TURGEON: Yeah, not today. I wish I had an answer for you on that. But it just wasn't -- we weren't

in it. We weren't in it today, we just didn't play well. I can't explain it. I'm disappointed. Players are disappointed. But we just did not have it, couldn't get it going, and if we did for a minute or two, we couldn't sustain it. You know, Emily asked me a question about Bruno's three points. Normally he gets some offensive rebounds. He had zero today. He's a tough box-out. So there's a lot of things that just didn't go our way. We didn't play well. And I think Nebraska deserved to win. I thought they played well. I thought they were into it. I thought their two best players made plays when they had to, and they deserved to win. Happy for Tim.



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MARYLAND POSTGAME PLAYER QUOTES

Maryland freshman G Aaron Wiggins

On energy on the court...

"We just didn't come prepared to play as a team. Coach prepared us really well in practice. We had really good practices in the past and we just didn't come out with the energy we needed to compete. They got off to a really good start, made really good plays, and we just weren't able to fight back."

On his contribution to the energy of the game...

"There was definitely one point at the end of the second half where I think we cut it to maybe five or seven. At that point, we had a lot of energy and had shots falling for us. It was just they were able to make really good plays down the stretch. The point guard and Palmer, they were able to make really big plays, and we just weren't able to capitalize on a couple of opportunities."

On expectation of the game...

"I think every basketball player goes into a game expecting to win and having confidence that they are going to win. We, of course, had the same confidence. We just didn't come out and show it. We didn't play with the same confidence, we didn't play with them same energy and that's something that we can't do. We can't continue to do that, but we're fortunate enough I think we've been able to play and create opportunity to be in the NCAA Tournament. Getting there, we have to learn from this and bring the energy and the confidence."

Maryland freshman G Eric Ayala

On Nebraska being up and breaking out to a first-half lead...

"It was little mistakes. We are talented, we can play with anybody, but it's the little stuff in the college basketball game that are the major keys to winning the game. Everybody is talented, everybody can play, but little things like boxing out, ball screen defense, people never know watching the game or pick up on."

On rebounding...

"It's tough, you know, for teams to get second chance points against us. It's kind of a letdown when you guard for that long and have to do it all over again. We just have to box out. Coach always preaches to us 'box out, box out.'"

On Nebraska's defense...

"They switched their defense a lot. They doubled Bruno hard and they put three guys on them. They had a good game plan to come out. They know we go through Bruno on our offense. He's a great player -- it was just one of those games."