

Stanford Head Coach Johnny Dawkins

On the team's defense tonight...

"I thought our first half defense was as good as it has been all year. I thought our guys really did a good job of making it difficult [for them]. We were really playing as one out there on the floor. I am really proud of them for that kind of effort that is required to hold them to 24 points in the first half."

On the bench play...

"I thought some guys came in and really gave us lifts. I thought Dorian Pickens came in and gave us a big lift, not just because he was scoring, but defensively he got a lot of deflections which we created a lot of steals from.

"I thought Marcuz Sheffield as a freshman came in and gave us some good minutes as well as Cameron Walker. Our bench really gave us a lift in this game during different periods of time."

On avenging last season's loss to DePaul...

"I am happy that we played a lot better than we did last year [in the loss]. I thought last year was one of our worst performances, and I give them credit. They made us play that way. I thought this year our guys were really focused. They all remembered that game and they wanted to do better, and did."

On freshman Cameron Walker...

"I think Cameron [Walker] is progressing well for us. It's a difficult road. He is 6-6/6-7, so he is kind of a unique player at the position [point guard]. The thing I learned about watching Cameron play in high school and watching him in practice is that he has a unique ability to find guys and get them the ball. He delivers the ball to guys very well and he enjoys it. He enjoys that to me more than he enjoys scoring."

DePaul Head Coach Dave Leitao

Opening statement...

"They got off to a quick start and we were slow physically and mentally right out of the gate. They were aggressive; that made them make more plays. They made early shots because they were ready. Conversely, when we were on offense, we were really sloppy. So we ended up turning over the ball, and turnovers are touchdowns. That's the way the game started, and we had to play uphill from there."

Q: DePaul got to within 10 points of the lead at 47-37 with 14:25 left in the second half, but Stanford called a timeout, and the momentum shifted back to them. What happened there?

A: You've got to try to win possessions when you're down like that, when you cut to the timeout, 'Did I cut three or four points off?' We started to do that and, to their credit, they responded by executing better, by toughening up on the defensive end and taking some things away, and that's how they got the lead stretched out again.

Q: How do you right the ship in mid-game against turnovers?

A: That's really hard. We talk about how we have to play on offense, and we don't have a large margin of error. When they don't believe in what we're doing possession by possession, turnovers are a result. I think what happens, and it's a natural thing for young guys when they're struggling, is to look and see that we're down 10, then they say 'Hey, I'm going to make a 10-point play, and take it upon myself to make a play for the team.' Sometimes that works in reverse. When you play good teams, particularly as they were defensively, they're in good positions all night long, then you make a play right into a defender. That's what got us.

Q: Did this lead to the low frequency of free throws for your team?

Yes, when a team plays that style of defense, if you don't move them around, there's no places to go. You don't have a driving lane; the only thing at your disposal is an open jump shot or two. We've got to move people around to create lanes to drive in, that people have a chance to be a little late on help, or play back to your man, and then you drive them, and then you can pick up fouls. If you don't stick to that, then you're buying yourself some trouble.

In the last 10 days, we've haven't practiced or played well in our system, and we have to get back to doing that.