

MSU Head Coach Ben Howland

Opening statement...

"I thought that our defense showed a lot of improvement from our first outing against Georgia Tech and the reason I wanted to play this game is because the team is really well coached. Coach Boone does a heck of a job with that team. The way they grind out each possession and make you play long periods of defense. Devin Schmidt is a heck of a player that we did a great job on with our team defense. Obviously, they know how to play but you know 38.9 percent is a good number for us to hold them to. Offensively, we are still playing too fast. We are so young we don't understand pace and the pace we have to play at. That will help us improve our defense when we don't take good shots. The first eleven minutes of the second half we held them to 9 or 11 and I thought our defense was really good. No one played more than 25 minutes which was good for us today. You saw I.J. upchucking at the end of the first half and it was great to have him back in the second half and play with no issues. He only played 17-18 minutes and we have to get more minutes than that out of him which will happen. You look at our turnovers, 16 is probably a few to many. We forced some turnovers, though. I thought Tyson did a good job in the second half defensively. He was one for six, but I am not worried about Tyson Carter making shots, I am worrying about him defending at a high major level. I thought Eli had an excellent second half defensively and offensively. Lamar had four steals and he creates a lot of havoc on defense with his quickness and athleticism. Aric had a double-double, which is great. Quindary manufactures points out there and had seven offensive rebounds, which is terrific. Overall it is a good step, and now it's real, no more exhibition or scrimmages."

On Schnider fouling out...

"I am concerned. They're making it a point of emphasis this year when you come down the floor and post up that you have to show your arms. You have to learn to use your gluteus to seal with. You can't use your hands. He has got to have his hands up and use his lower body. He will learn, he is a bright kid. That was disappointing that he only played eleven minutes."

Delta State Head Coach : Jim Boone

Opening statement...

“This was outstanding for our team. We just obviously aren't going to see this level of athleticism, length and size. Coach Howland and his staff do a tremendous job as you guys know. I don't know if we've played against anybody that cuts as hard, or plays as hard as his group plays. They made it really hard on us the entire night. We have a lot of new guys and young guys. To have the opportunity to play against this, where execution is of the most importance was absolutely tremendous for our team and our program. We appreciate the opportunity to be here and to play in this environment. Obviously I don't think that Devin played up to his capabilities tonight, he tried to force things a bit. A lot of that was because they really stayed on him and did a great job of taking him out of the play. What I did like about Devin's play tonight was the six assists and when he settled down and looked to find teammates because he was so heavily guarded. One of those guys was Brett Warner, who did a really good job of capitalizing on his open opportunities. As a group we played fairly well defensively, we had some breakdowns with fouls early in the season and we have to get better with that.”

On Mario Kegler...

“He's definitely a mismatch nightmare. He has the athleticism and size to guard most foremen and i'm certain he will have the ability to do that at this level as well. When you couple that with his guard skills and his ability to shoot the basketball he's hard to stop. I told our team in the locker room afterwards that he was the difference maker in this game with his ability to step out and shoot the three. Usually when you play teams at this level they just don't have that guy. He was definitely a big factor in the game.”

MSU Player Quotes: Delta State

#4 Mario Kegler: G Fr.

On his first collegiate game ...

"It was a sight. I had fun out there tonight."

On offensive game ...

"I just play from what the defense gives me. They gave me the inside at first then they started sinking in and left me open outside. I took what they gave me."

On playing the four position ...

"I think I was in the four position the whole game and for my first time in that position, I think I did alright."

#35 Aric Holman: F So.

On comfort compared to last year ...

"I got my legs back under me. Last year, I didn't feel comfortable running and jumping so I played timid. I felt more comfortable all around tonight."

#11 Quinndary Weatherspoon: G So.

On playing with a new team ...

"I just wanted to come out and play hard. We have a different and young team this year. I just tried to get a lot of experience with them this first game and tried to see where their head is to let us know what we have to do during the season."