HEAD COACH BILL SELF

On the 97-64 win...

“I thought we did some really good things. We took care of the ball, first half we only had one turnover—we didn’t shoot it great—but we only had one turnover. In the second half, we had six, but still. I thought we took a few more chances the second half, but when we did, I think we had more good plays than bad plays. We didn’t shoot the ball great in the first half, but we came out and shot it very well in the second half. I thought everybody played well. If I was going to be critical, we didn’t really force enough turnovers, but I thought we played pretty well, I thought we rebounded the ball pretty well, we shot it pretty well, and the guys looked like they enjoyed themselves out there playing together.”

On Bryce Thompson...

“The kid is coming off of a broken hand. As of three days ago, he hadn’t practiced in six weeks. He did great. He handled it well and made a couple of terrific passes, his floaters were good, he made a couple floaters and everything. He may not look quite as good shooting the basketball with range just yet, but that will come, that’s just a few days away as he gets more mobility and range of motion in his wrist. I thought he did well. We have to turn right around and play the same team. We can enjoy this a little bit, but certainly, it’s going to be a lot harder winning up in Ames.”

On Jalen Wilson...

“I though he played great. I though Jalen was great, Ochai was efficient, CB was really good—although the pass that he made in transition, that would rival one of the worst passes, that was as bad as a quarterback leaving the pocket, running to the sideline and then throwing the ball in the stands so he wouldn’t take a sack. That was the equivalent of that pass. But he did play well, he made a couple of great other passes, he got David a dunk and he made some shots which was good the second half. We were just pretty efficient tonight. I thought Marcus dominated the game for about a four-minute stretch in the second half and didn’t score a basket because he got his hand on every ball, so it was good, good attitudes. The bench didn’t play as much tonight early, but I thought they all closed pretty strong.”

On when is enough of a lead to rest the starters...

“I don’t really have one, it’s probably more the time total than the point total. When it got to 25 or whatever, I felt like we could do whatever, but I wanted David to get his confidence back a little bit because he obviously struggled the first half. I don’t know if he had a point—he had one point at halftime and he got his third foul right off the bat, so I wanted him to get a little confidence. That was a slow-paced game. There wasn’t a lot of energy being exhorted—I don’t think—on either end in the first half. I think all five starters could have played 20 in the first half because it didn’t have that pace. The second half had a bit more pace to it, so I just wanted to keep all the minutes down to as close to under 30 as we could.”

On the next 24 hours and looking ahead to playing in Ames...

“We will have a recovery lift in the morning, and then we’ll eat, and then we’ll leave out of here around 12:30 and get there by 4:30 or 5. We’ll go to the arena to go shoot and to walk over stuff, maybe practice for 10 or 15 minutes, and then we will go back to the hotel, so another scout report—although the guys should be pretty familiar with it—but we will look at today’s game to see if they did anything different, and then go to bed and play the next day. It’s not very good, but Iowa State has it worse than us. They went from Fort Worth, to Ames, and then drove here today and they’re driving back tonight. They have it worse than us, but it’s just a good opportunity for us to go up there and get another one, and hopefully develop some momentum.”