

Boy, once the season begins it's like a freight train. With almost a third of the regular season completed, now is a good time for some reflection on where we have been and where we hope to be headed.

Frankly, it's taken some time to find our offensive identity. At times we seem to have it figured out – then it changes on us. We have yet to put together a full contest where all pistons are firing. It has been frustrating not only of the coaches, but also for the players. Making shots can be a fickle skill set. So many variables can come into play both mentally and physically. But maybe the biggest thing is “knowing” the shot is going to fall. I've never played with, or coached, a good shooter who didn't think every shot he took was going to be anything but the bottom of the net. Lately I've seen glimpses of us getting that mind-frame back. I know we haven't tapped our potential in this area. This is where individual work comes in. Shooters need flow. To get that flow you need to shoot, shoot and shoot some more. More and more guys are coming in on their own to get extra shooting in and I think that is beginning to pay off.

There has been one thing that has been pretty constant and that has been our defense. Overall we've been solid. Our closeout discipline has been getting better and better, our number of charges taken is way beyond the past seasons' count at this stage of the season – something we have worked on. One thing we need to avoid is having a lull in the fury. Great defensive teams will defend all night long with the same intensity from the opening tip to the final seconds.

One of the tougher things about this time of year is the push for improvement. With two and sometimes three games a week, practice time becomes limited. So teams must make the most of the practices they have. The focus must always be on getting better. Sometimes this improvement can be quite visible, other times it can be minute. I think this team understands that concept.

On that note:

“Let us not be content to wait and see what will happen, but give us the determination to make the right things happen.” Peter Marshall

Go Tigers!
Ian Brown
Doane Basketball