

**Head Coach and General Manager  
James Wade  
Media Availability  
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**On how he's feeling 24 hours before tipoff**

"We're probably going to get together [to] shoot tomorrow morning and just go over a couple of more details. You can never get too much time. I kind of want to be a little more relaxed and things like that but we're okay. I'm anxious to see it. I'll put it like that. I think we're prepared. I'm just very anxious to see what we're going to do."

**On the league's social justice initiatives**

"I'm all for it. What I don't want it to come down to is where people say, 'Oh yes, it's political.' What people need to understand is it has been 134 days since Breonna Taylor was killed in her sleep. OK, 134 days. It's been 57 days or 58 days since the Attorney General of Kentucky, Daniel Cameron, made a statement and said that they were going to wait for Louisville Metro Police Department to do an investigation. Now imagine if I or someone close to me were to take the life of someone, and then they say, 'OK, we're going to let you investigate it, and we're going to wait on you to investigate it.' That's not political. That's just justice and that's what we're looking for. And that's what [the] WNBA is looking for. I am so proud to be a part of this league that has taken a stance-that has been at the forefront of doing everything that they're supposed to do as far as speaking up and being a voice for the voiceless. And so I'm excited about what this season stands for. I'm excited about how all the players from all the teams have come together and saying we're not just going to sit idly by and let injustice prevail without saying something. So, I'm excited about the season just for that as well. So there you have it."

**On last minute preparations**

"I think one of the biggest things was we wanted to make sure that we would defend them without fouling. So that was the thing that we went over, a couple of of our after timeout stuff. We want to be out, whether it was blue or gray team responded without knowing what we were running. So those were the two things I think the last two drills we focused on in practice. It was pretty spirited but I think they left with their tanks on E[empty] so hopefully they can replenish tonight."

**On the one thing he wants the team to know heading into the game**

"That it's going to take each one of them to accomplish what we need to accomplish and they have to lean on each other. They have to bring a level of energy that's infectious, that's the main thing. It infects the other person, and once you have that and everybody's infected with that energy then it can take us to good places."

**On what he expects the atmosphere with no fans to be like**

"I expect just a basketball focus. I saw one of the games earlier today. As much as I love the fans I was so into the basketball that I wasn't really focused on it as much. If you've played around the world and been in different gyms, you played in gyms with 20,000 fans and you've played in gyms with 100 fans. So I think that's a different aspect of it but I think the goal and everything around it

is just playing the game and I think you just get a chance to focus on the game even much more.”

### **On if there is a designed gameplan for the opener**

“We have a game plan, that’s just how we approach every game. This is probably going to be more personnel based as far as how we’re going to stop them [Las Vegas] because we don’t know what they’re running. Everything’s kind of blind but Bill’s [Laimbeer] been in the league for a long time. We know his go-to stuff but it’s just about us executing and being able to stop them and that’s going to be a tough tale.”

### **On what he expects from the officials**

“I expect to be on the road for 22 games.”

### **On what demonstrations the team will be doing tomorrow**

“I think you can probably see something similar to what we saw today. I think this is a league-wide initiative. I think everybody’s playing with Breonna Taylor as a person that’s at the forefront of, or that stands for what we’re trying to reach as far as the everybody’s mattering, black people mattering, black women mattering, their lives. You’re going to see ‘Say her name,’ because we want to make sure that she’s not forgotten and as well as heard. Other young ladies, young black ladies, young black men, their names are not forgotten as well. So, you’ll probably see a little bit of the same thing. Us not standing for the national anthem and just coming out to play the game and just dedicating the game to her and so many others.”

