

# Washington Wizards Media Conference

Wednesday, January 7, 2026  
Washington, DC, USA

## Coach Brian Keefe

Media Conference



76ers 131, Wizards 110

**Q. Second night of a back-to-back. I know you don't use the schedule as an excuse, but did it seem like there was tired legs out there?**

BRIAN KEEFE: You all know me. You already answered the question. I don't use that. I thought the guys who came in off the bench, AJ, Malaki, Marvin, those guys gave us a great boost there, got us the lead there in that second quarter. Just played in crowds too much tonight. A little bit of turnovers and that led to some easy baskets for them. Some good lessons to learned.

**Q. Undermanned with the roster, but you mentioned, as James told me at halftime, the stay-ready guys. I know they play in the stay-ready opportunities and get a lot of work in practices and shootarounds when they can, but the ability to just have the mentality to stay ready, specifically a guy like Malaki and AG who spot minutes here and there, what does that say about their character?**

BRIAN KEEFE: Yeah, those guys got the highest of high character, and then that goes up and down our roster. We've had guys, and this happens a lot, they get an opportunity and they're in the rotation. Every time those guys have that, they've stepped into it and taken advantage of that. I thought that was a great example tonight. Really was pleased with those guys coming off the bench.

**Q. I thought that second quarter they seemed to have control. What were the Sixers doing in terms of getting out there and dictating the pace of play?**

BRIAN KEEFE: Yeah, turnovers -- give them some credit, physicality on their end, causing us to play in crowds a little bit. That led to some easy runouts. I thought that was the turning point for the game.

**Q. How tough is it to try to find anything to counteract**

**that? How tough was it to --**

BRIAN KEEFE: I thought we found some of that stuff tonight. They had to call a time-out, we made a little spurt. When we were passing and getting into the paint, kicking out, we were getting wide-open shots. We just didn't do it consistently enough tonight.

**Q. You guys have had a pretty good streak of games recently. Is this a minor setback, or just move on to the next one?**

BRIAN KEEFE: No, I think they're all learning experiences. This is the second night of a back to back for us. This is new for a lot of guys on our team, so how do you prepare and how do you get ready for that. These are great learning experiences. We don't just move on. We're going to reflect on it, review it, and then move on to the next game.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports