

DUKE HEAD COACH JON SCHEYER

Opening Statement:

"It was great to get that first win under our belt. The very first thing for me walking out there today, we're playing on a Monday night. It's nine o'clock. And just to see our crowd show up, the students, the fans, just to see how we showed out was an incredible thing for us I never want to take for granted. I thought the environment was great. It really helped set the tone. I thought our team was ready to play. Mark [Mitchell] couldn't play right before the game. He sprained his ankle. He's day-to-day, I don't know what's going to happen with him. But having a guy like Ryan [Young] that can just fill in and step up right away is a big luxury to have. It put Flip [Kyle Filipowski] in a different position. I thought the experience for those two guards, Jared [McCain] and Caleb [Foster], were really good. Jared, I know had the foul trouble, but I thought he had a look, I thought he was in a great space before those fouls happened. So really, really happy overall. Obviously, there's a lot to clean up, a lot we can do better. But we knew at Dartmouth, they shoot a lot of threes. Those two kids, [Ryan] Cornish and [Dusan] Neskovic can really shoot the ball. Overall, we do a good job and Neskovic had some tough shots. Cornish, I thought Jeremy [Roach] did a great job on him-a great collective effort. And for us, it's back to work, learning from it, how to build, and get ready for Friday."

On the backcourt and Jaylen's performance:

"I thought what Jaylen [Blakes], what he did was huge for us. We had kind of stalled out a little bit there in the middle of the first half. And then Jaylen had the steal, and the and one, the three from the corner, which is icing on the cake. But I just love the energy that he brought. Jaylen's built such a trust level with me knowing on defense, what he's going to do, the energy that he brings. And then for Caleb, I thought he had some really nice plays. I thought he, once he settled in, he's a guy that can really get in our paint. He can create for others. He can create for himself. And the thing with Caleb and Jared, they're not afraid at all. They've been battle tested and playing in this environment, I thought they were really ready to go."

On playing a different type of team to start the season:

"Seeing different defenses is important. I would expect it's not the last time we're playing against zone defense. And they're different too because, look, they shoot a lot of threes, generally, and tonight they only took 18. They can take 30 threes in a game. And now did they get layups? Yes, but you're trying to take away the thing they do best, and that's shooting threes, so to hold them to four for the night, negative assist-to-turnover ratio, I was really, I was really happy overall with our defense. There're some communication things we need to clean up. And then offensively, when we share it to move, I think we're tough to guard. Our guys can create shots on their own too. So, it's giving them the freedom to do that, while also moving the defense and working for the best shot at the same time."

On getting as many positives as possible out of the game:

"I would say no matter who you play, but like, there's a ton of respect. We didn't talk about anybody else besides Dartmouth. We're going to do the same thing heading into Friday with Arizona. We know they're a high-power team and really good, of course, but for us, it's about growing and maxing out who we can be as a team. And so for tonight, I don't think we played a 40-minute game. I thought we played close to it. There's some lulls. And again, there's plenty we have to clean up and do better but then the goal is for Friday to get close to that. And then for next Tuesday to get closer and then from then on. Just keep making strides throughout the entire season. But I did think overall, we were ready. I thought the end of the first half was great. And I know for these guys sometimes there's only so much you can say. Experiencing it is the best thing. And so now that we experienced that, I think we have a lot to learn from, a lot we can grow from there."