



# Duke University

## Postgame Quotes

*Saturday, January 6, 2024 (at Notre Dame)*

### **DUKE HEAD COACH JON SCHEYER**

#### **Opening Statement:**

"First of all, we're excited to get our first road win. We knew it wouldn't be easy. Credit to Notre Dame. Coming into this game, we knew how tough it was going to be. You've seen what they've done. I credit Coach [Shrewsbury] with what he's done with his team. I think that Marist game was a really important game for them and really, they've been a completely different team ever since. We told our team, the three conference games [Notre Dame has] played - Miami, Virginia, NC State - all three teams struggled offensively. And for us, it has not been easy. But the last five games, we've scored in spurts pretty well. So, I really credit what they did on defense. They made life hard for us, they're physical, they're tough. Offensively, they make you work, they put you in a lot of low shot clock situations and you have to have great discipline. I thought late in the clock we got out of our stance a little bit and some of those plays hurt, and they add up through the game. But for our guys, I thought we showed amazing toughness. The way we closed the first half, I think it was 14-3, that's huge if you can end a half that way when you don't play your best. And then the job that Mark Mitchell did - let me just tell you how proud I am of him. He's been working his butt off, consistently, he's been really decisive. Playing more confidently. I love the two three's, I love the shooting, but what I love the most is the 14 rebounds. I think that shows how much he competed, and he really came through for us tonight in a big way. Proud to get our first ACC road win and our second ACC win."

#### **On what adjustments were made to help Mark Mitchell be so productive:**

"Teams have played him differently this year. And so, it's kind of different than what I've seen teams do in the past. We basically play five guards. That's how we play. Teams can have different approaches. This has been a consistent approach - teams have tried to play off him just so there's protection in the paint. The thing that Mark has done is he's been so open to coaching. He's had to continue to transform, whether it's what he thought in terms of who he is as a player or who he needs to be. But you see what he's done as a screener for us, getting guys open. You've seen what he's done attacking the basket. And the biggest thing is that we talked to him about being decisive with his decision. If you shoot it, great. If you drive it, great. If you cut, great. I thought he did an incredible job of doing that. Will Avery on our staff has really worked with him on his shooting and done a terrific job. I've enjoyed working with Mark because he's such a coachable guy. To see it translate this way, the last couple of games, is great. I want him to keep doing this because it changes our team."

#### **On the importance of the 14-3 run to end the first half:**

"Yeah, no question. We got stops. We couldn't string together stops consistently enough to get separation. But it's very different if you go into the half and it's a double-digit lead for them or if it's a lead for us. I think it was right around eight minutes, the TV timeout, all we talked about was winning those four minutes. Not to get ahead of ourselves, not to look behind us, just win those four minutes. We won them, and then I asked them to win another four and then to take it possession by possession. You could tell very early it was going to be that kind of game. It was going to be a possession by possession game. The stops are really what got us that lead."

### **SENIOR GUARD JEREMY ROACH**

#### **On securing the win while not shooting the ball well:**

"Give credit to Notre Dame. Obviously, they came in locked in and they've been locked in probably the past four or five games. They beat UVA at home, they almost beat NC State the other night. They came in prepared. They made it tough for us all night. Made it tough for [Filipowski]. Gave us some different looks. Made it tough for me to get in my rhythm, but to come out with this win on the road is big time. We've just got to keep going and hit some shots."

#### **On the mindset of the team when a player is making a run like Mark Mitchell did:**

"I mean, Mark is just a guy that's going to find it. He's going to find his openings. He was getting offensive rebounds, he was hitting some three's. He just is doing a little bit of everything. He's such a unique scorer, he doesn't really need any plays run for him. He's just getting his stuff through the offense."

### **SOPHOMORE FORWARD MARK MITCHELL**

#### **On if he did anything differently in the second half:**

"Yeah, I don't know if I did anything different. I took what the defense gave me and when I'm playing hard, sometimes good things happen when you do that."

#### **On what he felt after hitting two three-pointers:**

"It obviously felt good. I didn't let it get to me, get to my head. I've been shooting the ball my whole life and the time was going to come. I work on it every day with [Will Avery] and Coach [Scheyer]."

#### **On any takeaways from back-to-back career-highs:**

"I think it's just coming to me. Obviously, my teammates have been helping me. I've been working on my game and talking to God. So, when you do those things, good things can only happen. The good comes with the bad and tonight was a lot of good."