



Duke University

Men's Basketball Quotes

February 12, 2024 (vs. Wake Forest)

DUKE HEAD COACH JON SCHEYER

Opening Statement:

"This was a great step for our team. To be able to get this win without Tyrese [Proctor], who is clearly a key part to this team, has been from the beginning of the year - a lot of guys stepped up. I know we're going to talk a lot about Jared [McCain], as we should, but I thought Jaylen Blakes and Sean Stewart, the minutes they gave us - it's not going to show up in a box score but it came at critical times. Florida State just keeps coming at you. The minutes they played, I just thought was huge. Sean, in the second half, what he did. He got a few loose balls, those were critical. Caleb Foster, for a freshman to handle the ball for 34 minutes and have three assists and one turnover, again you're not going to necessarily see it in the box score but it was key to the win today what those three guys did. And then Jared, it was a special performance. I've been lucky, in my 15 years but especially as a coach for 11, to see a lot of special performances by any player, but especially freshmen, and that was up there with any of them. It really was. For me, it was his grit. His will. His determination to win was special. So, I'm really proud of this win. Proud of our team, stepping up a little bit under-manned. We need to keep on building from here."

On what he was thinking in the first half watching Jared McCain:

"I was thinking, 'how can we get him the ball more?'. Clearly, he had it going. You could just see it. It's hard, because with [Florida State], they switch everything. It's not like you can call plays all the time. We got stuck a little bit, we got a little stagnant, playing too much one-on-one. But to their credit, that's what they make you do. Jared manufactured a lot. There's a couple calls in there maybe, but for the most part it's just literally saying, 'get the ball and go do what you're doing.'. And he did. Not only did he have 35 but it was in critical moments too. The beginning of the game; I didn't think we came out with the right defensive mentality at first and he steadied us with his scoring. And then to close the half, he had a couple big three's as well. That moment in the second half, he hits the two free throws and the three, I don't know what that stretched the lead to but that was a critical moment."

On winning loose balls and the rebounding battle against a taller team:

"I think we were just tough. We were really tough throughout. We weren't perfect, and very rarely can you be perfect on the road. Especially here. You have to be able to turn the page quickly when you make a mistake, when they turn you over, because you're not going to walk out of here with zero turnovers. It's not going to happen. There were a couple of key plays, that's why I mentioned Jaylen and Sean, because they got loose balls for us. Our guys were all over the floor. To out-rebound them by nine and have 15 offensive rebounds, I think that's a big step and something we need to learn from."

FRESHMAN GUARD JARED MCCAIN

On when he knew he was going to have a big game:

"Every single game I feel like I can come out and make every shot. It's just the confidence I have in myself and my work ethic. When I saw the first one go in, I'm just going to keep shooting. And they happened to go in. As a shooter, your confidence stays up, even if you miss or you make, so I'm going to keep shooting. And they happened to go in today."

On playing in a tough road environment:

"Yeah, I love playing against away crowds. It's always fun playing against away crowds, getting the crowd going. Whenever they're booing you, you know you're doing something right. It was exciting."

On his record-breaking performance, including matching Zion Williamson's freshman scoring record:

"It's crazy. I just thank God, I'm just so grateful for everything that I do. Grateful for this life and it's a wild, wild company to be with."

SENIOR GUARD JEREMY ROACH

On his thoughts watching Jared McCain during the game:

"Yeah, when a guy is hitting like that, he has 25 in the first half, you just let him do his thing. You don't even ask for the ball. Probably know the shot is going in. A historic performance for a freshman. Big-time, in this arena, at Florida State is a tough environment to play in. Duke has had some trouble playing here some times, so a special night for him."

On playing in the backcourt without Tyrese Proctor:

"We did it earlier in the year, so we're kind of used to playing without Tyrese but definitely wish him a speedy recovery. We need him back because we definitely can't do it without him."

On the team's 17 turnovers being a result of Florida State's style of defense:

"That's definitely the case. They play such a wild defense. They run at the ball, gamble for steals a lot, and they can turn you over. They switch one-through-five, so it makes you play one-on-one a little bit. Takes you out of your game a little bit, but I think we did a good job tonight."