



Duke University

Men's Basketball Quotes

March 9, 2024 (vs. North Carolina)

DUKE HEAD COACH JON SCHEYER

Opening Statement:

"Congrats to North Carolina. It was a disappointing loss for us. It would be one thing if you felt like if you controlled the things that you can control, and I don't think we quite did that. But you have to give them credit, the way they came out. That's really the story of the whole game for me. They came out and got a 15-point lead. We outscore them the rest of the game. You cut it to one in the start of the second half, and I thought just for us we didn't take – we took some tough shots, and the tough shots led to their runouts in transition. You know, [Cormac] Ryan sees the two threes, he's wide open, and it all started from bad possessions on offense. Not being strong with the ball or taking some weak shot, and it's disappointing. I just want to thank our students, our fans, everybody. I mean, this environment – I don't care where you go – it's the best environment in college basketball, and there's a part of you that feels like you let them down. And as a team, you know it's senior night, and I think we probably got caught up in some of that stuff – and all well-intentioned – but we didn't play like we've been playing. The connectivity on offense and you've got to get some of those loose balls. Still, like I said, it's a one-possession game start of the second half, you cut it to three late, you're still right there, but just too many plays throughout. I told the team afterwards, it'd be one thing if we lost and we weren't good enough or it's something you can't control; I feel everything here is what we can control. I really do, like this group can do it. We have to learn from this. You have to learn and understand those possessions. It's not just a bad shot; it's a bad shot now you're down three and they have momentum. You know, I could go through the game. This group has always responded, I think it's going to be nothing different now. But it hurts, it's disappointing, and we have to get refreshed and regrouped and go into ACC Tournament fresh and understand what we have to do to get better."

On what needs to happen to get the team on the right track:

"First, I just want to connect with the students. They're amazing, they're incredible. But for us obviously I need to digest the film still and take a step back, but I just thought [North Carolina] came out and hit us first. Really, the last nine games. We've been hitting other people first. Offensively, I think we have great firepower and we can be explosive. We score 79 points – I want to go back through the film – I bet there's 15 or 20 shots, I think, were just not the right shots for us. And to their credit, they bait you into some of those. That's the way their defense is set up. They're just paint, paint, paint. They're giving [Kyle Filipowski] threes, but that's how it's set up. If you just go into it and after the first pass or the first movement take a shot, you're just living and dying with that shot. If you break them down, I felt we could get whatever we wanted. When we did that, we did. But really, I thought our offense hurt our defense. I thought Tyrese [Proctor] did a great job on [RJ] Davis; I thought he competed his butt off. With [Armando] Bacot, we battled him in a big way. But too many wasted possessions on offense and we're going to fix that."

On why Harrison Ingram and now Cormac Ryan have had big games against Duke this season:

"You've got to not give Ryan two open threes to start the game. You would feel pretty good if, coming into Cameron, it's just two wide-open threes to start off. That sets the tone for the night. It happened to us against Pitt earlier in the year with [Blake] Hinson. The whole dynamic of the game shifts, and so for us, we're playing catchup the whole way. But still battled back despite all that. I mean, despite [Ryan] having 31 and making almost every shot, we're still – it's a one-possession game, it's a two-possession game, but we just couldn't sustain the stops you needed to get over that hump. Tip your cap, they played well, but really when you gift them two shots early, that's what we control. You've got to give him credit where he hits – you know you've got make shots to win at the end of the day – you give him credit. But we didn't do a good enough job there."

On Duke not getting many second-chance points or loose balls:

"Look, second-chance points is 12-10 [in favor of UNC], but that wasn't as big of a thing. We rebounded well. I just thought they beat us to loose balls. That's what veteran players do. I felt we've been playing like veteran players, but tonight, we were slow to the ball. And that's what these games come down to. You've got to get loose balls, you've got to hit, and we didn't do that to the level we needed."