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POSTGAME QUOTES

Indiana vs. Alabama A&M
Nov. 5, 2025

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INDIANA HEAD COACH DARIAN DEVRIES

Q. On what this team can do offensively...

DEVRIES: Yeah, that's what we've been talking about. That's what they've been every day in practice. I was really excited to see it carry over on the game floor. You get fans and stuff, sometimes things can go a little differently. But I thought the guys did an unbelievable job of continuing to just do what they've been doing in practice.

We've got a group that has a really good IQ and feel, and for a group that hasn't been together very long they really play well off of each other and have a great understanding of some of the concepts that we're trying to do, but they're just out there playing. I think that's allowed them to play fast and really trust their instincts.

Q. On holding up the defensive standard...

DEVRIES: Yeah, it was mentioned a couple times in the second-half huddles, and I know it's challenging. I get that. Human nature kicks in sometimes there. But it's also great for us to have something to talk about tomorrow. But yeah, the first half I thought defensively we were great. I thought we had them uncomfortable. I thought we had them pushed out and got them in areas that they weren't able to take advantage of some of their scoring opportunities.

The second half I thought some of those things that we did a really good job of in the first half, we weren't quite as in tune with. They want to get baseline, so in the first half we did a great job with it. The second half they were able to get baseline and they were able to get opportunities. We worked on a couple things in the second half, but again, we should still be able to execute some of those things on the defensive end even when we make some adjustments just to try to work on some stuff.

Q. On tonight's shooting performance...

DEVRIES: Yeah, I thought, again, a lot of that shooting percentage is a product of ball movement and getting the right kind of shots, the right kind of threes.

But we have a really confident group. They're very sure of themselves, and they know that they have the green light. They put in the time and the work, so on game night, let it rip. That's kind of our philosophy. We don't want them to hesitate even when they miss one. I don't care where they take them from, just know that it's something that you work on every day, and we're good with it.

It is going to be a big part of who we are all season long, and certainly there's going to be nights where they're not falling at a high rate, so you're going to have to go to other things. But I think our guys are very capable of that. They understand that and can make those adjustments if needed.

Q. On Lamar [Wilkerson]'s shot selection...

DEVRIES: If you watch his tape from last year, he didn't even have to prove anything this summer. He can shoot, and some guys just have that ability. He puts in the time. He's one of those guys you've got to kick out of the gym because he's in there so much.

He works on all those. He has incredible range. He can shoot it with ease from anywhere. We want him to be super aggressive. Whenever he gets a space that he wants to let it go, let it go.

Q. On using the mid-range area...

DEVRIES: To be honest with you, we don't really talk a lot about not taking mid-range shots. It's just kind of how the offense ends up. We feel very confident in our guys when they do come off, if they want to play in a deep drop with a big way back at the rim, they can come off and shoot those too. It's just I thought tonight they did a really good job because of the spacing, and when you start to make those threes, defense can tend to get stretched. Then we were able to get some slips and some rolls to the rim as guys are chasing shooters out the backside, and they just didn't have a lot of help. I thought the guys did a good job of taking what the defense gave them tonight.

Q. On Tucker [DeVries] reaching 2,000 points...

DEVRIES: Yeah, I thought -- again, very happy for him. I think it's a credit to all the hard work he's put in. I recognize the fact that he just doubled me up in points, so I didn't know how to feel about that in the moment.

Yeah, again, like all of our guys, when you get individual accomplishments like that, it's usually a credit to having really good teammates. It's usually a credit to the work you put in on trying to perfect what you do. So in his case, I just think he's worked hard for all of that, and it's great to see that showcased on the floor.



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INDIANA HEAD COACH DARIAN DEVRIES

Q. On tonight's crowd and feeling...

DEVRIES: Yeah, I thought tonight was pretty special. To be a regular season game certainly has a different feel and different vibe, and I was a little worried tonight our guys were going to be too excited because they were so ready, so pumped to be out there tonight.

It's just one of these special places that there's not much like it in college basketball. It's certainly a privilege for us to be out there and our team and our coaches to be out there and performing. So thankful we got that opportunity. It was a fun night, a special night, and hopefully it's the first of many.

Q. On the nerves of the first game as a new coach in a new place...

DEVRIES: No, I always call it like excited nervous, or excited energy. I didn't get much sleep last night. It's just one of those things, just like you've done all the work and then it's like, what about this, what about this, what about this, are we ready for that. You're just anxious to get out there and go play. That's really what it was.

Again, I thought our guys had great preparation heading into this all summer and fall, now we've got to go play games. We certainly understand that Sunday is going to be different than today, so we've got plenty to work on, plenty to continue to improve. But I like this group in that regard. They're all eager to get better. They just want to win. That's what makes this group fun to coach.

INDIANA PLAYERS: REED BAILEY & LAMAR WILKERSON

Q. On the shooting in tonight's game...

BAILEY: I mean, I thought we shot it great. We had our guys there. Mar, everybody, they were looking for their shots and they were going down. It was a lot of fun to be out there to play.

WILKERSON: We have a team with a bunch of shooters, so shots going in, that's a good thing. It carries over to the defensive end and we was getting out and running in transition, and that creates open threes.

Q. On the ball movement...

WILKERSON: Yeah, for the most part, Coach DeVries is big on just moving the ball, being unselfish. I think it was one practice like two weeks ago we had 31 assists to two turnovers. The ball is always moving. We feel like we're better playing when the ball is moving, moving off ball again, getting us open shots.

Q. On Lamar [Wilkerson's] play...

BAILEY: I've got to give it to him. It's fun to play with him. He spaces the floor well, and you see it when he shoots it from the logo and it still goes in. It's fun to be out there with him and get him the ball.

Q. On the defensive intensity...

WILKERSON: I feel like we definitely could have been better in the second half. I think at one point they were shooting 70 percent. Coach DeVries came in, let that be known. If we play like we played the first half, I feel like we'll be good as far as on the defensive end.

BAILEY: Yeah, same way. First half we came out strong. We really tried to make them feel uncomfortable, and then I think we can always get better down the stretch in that second half, just making sure we keep it consistent all 40 minutes.

Q. On the contribution of Sam Alexis...

BAILEY: Yeah, Sam is an awesome player and he can change the game just with the way he can play under the rim, play strong and attack the basket, as well as space the floor. You see him knock down that three, and he took another one in that corner that I thought was good, and we have full faith in him to be able to do that. Sam is awesome for our team, and he's a great player. I'm excited to see what he does this year.

Q. On being able to get to the rim...

WILKERSON: In the most humblest way. Even at Sam Houston, teams tried to run me off the line, so I really took that personal during the summer to try to put the ball on the ground and expand my game to score at three levels. That way they can't stop me; I won't be one-dimensional.