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POSTGAME QUOTES

Indiana vs. Incarnate Word
Nov. 16, 2025

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INDIANA HEAD COACH DARIAN DEVRIES

Q. On how Incarnate Word got you guys out of rhythm offensively...

DEVRIES: I can't say for sure what it was. I think [Incarnate Word] starting out in the zone gets you a little bit out of your normal rhythm as an offense and we got a little stagnant there.

Then when they went to their man and I thought we did a decent job at times, but the ball definitely just didn't move the way that we'd like it to tonight. So, we ended up with a lot more just the ball stuck in one guy's hands and a lot more one-on-one tonight, and that's not really what we're designed to do as an offense.

We're at our best when the ball is moving and we're getting cuts and getting it side to side. I can't say for sure without watching the film. I felt like we had some good threes that we missed, but my guess is a lot of those threes weren't as clean as we're used to getting because the ball wasn't moving the way we want it to to get high quality shots.

Q. On how to move on from tonight's shooting performance...

DEVRIES: 30-some game season, we have good shooters, we're built to make threes, so on a night where we don't shoot it particularly well, you have to find way a way to win. I'm glad we were able to do that.

There is plenty to look at as to why it happened, but the reality is you're going to have off shooting nights. It's just going to happen. Tonight was one of them.

That's where you got to really rely on your defense and rebounding and taking care of the ball. I thought the first half the reason our lead built up even though we weren't shooting it well was our defense was really good. Held [Incarnate Word] to 20% from the field.

The second half you see an 18 point lead evaporate because they shoot 54%. So that's the learning opportunity. It's a 40 minute game. That's something that we'll certainly take advantage of. Like I said, I like learning after wins. That's much better, but there is a lot of positives there, too. We'll take it for what it is and learn from it and move on.

Q. On the difference in the defense between the first and second half...

DEVRIES: I thought [Incarnate Word] got into our paint to start; a few mid-ranges and stuff like that as well. Those are shots that I wouldn't say we give up, but we are designed to at least get some challenge one of those.

They came off a little cleaner with a few of those than we would like, and then they made a few threes. We gave up a few baseline drives and now you're in rotation and they're spraying it out the backside.

Again, it always starts on the ball and the connectivity behind it usually is where it's at. You have to be good on the ball first and build it out from there.

Q. On Sam Alexis' impact early in the season...

DEVRIES: Sam is playing great. He was one of the guys tonight that really brought some good energy, some good physicality. There was about a handful of possessions in the second half where he switched on a guard and guarded about as well as anybody. I thought he was terrific. I thought he had a really good night.

Q. On Incarnate Word's scouting profile...

DEVRIES: The 1-3-1 zone, we looked at it. They'd done it just a couple times. They did it a couple times last year. They had spent much more, a majority of their time on 2-3 zone that they did a lot against Colorado State. Their other games played all man.

So we worked and talked about the 1-3-1 zone, how we were going to attack it. We spent a lot more time on the 2-3 zone and then their man stuff, but early in the year as you different things.

But we certainly knew they had it in their package. But I thought the guys did, for the most part fine against it. Again, it just slowed us down a little bit.



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Q. On the energy level tonight...

DEVRIES: Sometimes with teams, even veteran teams when you're not making shots your energy isn't where you want it to be. That's fighting human nature and that's what we can't be.

That's where the learning comes in tonight on it's not going perfectly for us as an offense. We are missing the shots we normally make. You got to continue to fight. In the first half we did. We guarded them well.

So that's something that we'll take and go, hey, you built this lead because your defense was still really good. That energy is something we have to play with. We got to be a very spirited, physical, tough-minded group for 40 minutes every night. That's how we're going to win.

INDIANA PLAYERS: TUCKER DEVRIES & SAM ALEXIS

Q. On how to improve from a poor shooting performance...

DEVRIES: First of all, credit to them. I thought [Incarnate Word] came in confident, played well, and executed their game plan pretty well.

On our end, it took us out of rhythm a little bit, especially in the first half. [in the] second half, obviously, shots weren't falling. But I think at the end of the day, that's important, to still find a way to win games when shots aren't falling. I know it didn't look pretty, but that's part of growing. I think there is a lot we can take away from that as we look at it tomorrow.

Q. On how to find your shots when they are not falling...

DEVRIES: Yeah, to be honest, I thought Sam was -- without him, we weren't winning that game today. He was a beast down low, and that's probably where it starts. As our guards and wings, we have to get downhill more and get to the free-throw line, and then get our rhythm in that.

Q. On how you struggled to close them out on that final five minutes...

DEVRIES: To be honest, execution-wise, I thought on defense they hit some tough shots, especially late. I thought early we probably weren't executing at a high level. We'll see after watching it. I thought at the end they hit some tough ones, 15 feet, or kind of the ones that we were trying to give up -- not trying to give them up easy ones, but if you're going to give up a shot, that's where you want it to be.

Credit to them. They hit some tough shots. At the end of the day, it's just finding a way to win once you get into those situations. I thought it was good for us to still pull out in the right way.

Q. On how the team rallies in late-game situations...

ALEXIS: Coach always tells us to keep going, so I just feel like we are a whole bunch of seniors, so we put our heads together and went out there and played hard the last five, four minutes.

Q. On how he gets wide open in small spaces...

ALEXIS: When you got guys like Lamar and Tuck [Tucker DeVries], other guys on our team that can shoot it so well, it gives me opportunities to just slip and get easy wide-open dunks. So [I'm] just thankful for those guys who can make threes.