



72

POSTGAME QUOTES

Indiana vs. #12/12 Purdue
Jan. 27, 2026

67



INDIANA HEAD COACH DARIAN DEVRIES

Q. On the importance of this win...

DEVRIES: I think I'm going to start off, I'm going to say the biggest key was that crowd out there. I mean, that was awesome. I mean, that's what makes this place so special. When they're making their run and our crowd kept willing us, you know, to keep fighting in every possession. So I want to thank this crowd for their efforts tonight, because that's a huge deal in college basketball.

When you've got a home court like we have, that's a big advantage. And when that place is loud and rockin' like that, that's a big, big deal for us. So, thanks to everyone that came out and brought the noise themselves. And then from a team standpoint, I just thought collectively there were a lot of guys that brought fight in a lot of different ways. And it's a tough match-up. They're really big inside. They create some problems there.

I thought Conor Enright, 40 minutes of chasing Smith around, that's not an easy deal, because that's if not the best guard in the country right there, and he creates a lot of their stuff for them. I thought he gave incredible effort the whole night, and cramping and everything and he continued to fight through it. So made a big 3 late. Made two free throws.

I could go down the list. I'm just proud of this team. They've continued to battle and work like I've been telling you. They had a little tough stretch, but they continue to believe, continue to believe in the work they're putting in. So I'm proud of them to see the results they've had here on a road win and now a big home win.

Q. On Conor Enright's clutch 3-pointer late and his strong play...

DEVRIES: Yeah, I've seen it before because we were -- when I was at Drake, we were playing in the championship game against Indiana State. We had a huge, huge lead and they came all the way back. I think we were up 26 and they cut it to two with like a minute to go.

And it was almost the exact same play. He's standing right in front of the bench. Tucker had the ball and Tucker fires it to him and he fires that thing up there and makes it -- basically won the game for us.

During that game, I was trying to tell him to move to create space but he didn't move. He said, I'm shooting this. But, no, that was a huge shot for us. You know he's not afraid. He just loves the moment and he loves competing and the challenge of everything.

Q. On laying the groundwork and how much this win matters...

DEVRIES: Well, I think it's awesome. I mean, again, that's what this place is. We love our hoops. And having that place full and rocking, and that's, like I said, that's a huge advantage for us as we continue to move forward. There's a lot of tough places to play in the Big Ten.

But we want this to be the loudest, toughest place that there is, not only in the Big Ten but in the country, because it does matter, and it does make a difference in games, and that effort by the crowd tonight was impressive.

Q. On the competitiveness of the guys...

DEVRIES: Yeah, I thought our fight throughout the game, we were exhausted. We were a little shorthanded and stuff and had guys play a lot of minutes. It was hot in there. And guys were giving great effort throughout.

So those last two minutes, for a team that hasn't been in a lot of those situations together as a group, two minutes to go, big game, coming down to the wire, I thought guys made some really big plays.

And like you said, there was a little stretch in there we had a couple of turnovers, but other than that we did what we were supposed to do. We got fouled. We got to the free-throw line, we took care of the ball. We got a couple of big stops in there to finish it off. So I thought their execution down the stretch was great.

Q. On going to the student section after the game...

DEVRIES: No, I mean, I want this to be like -- this is us. This is our program. And it's our community, it's our students. I want them to feel their impact matters because it does.

And I want them to know -- I've said it in the summertime, we were very intentional, try to get out and meet students and have them get to know us. And we want them to feel like they're a huge part of it and have an impact on what happens out there, because they do. And they brought it today. So that was just a thank you.



72

POSTGAME QUOTES

Indiana vs. #12/12 Purdue
Jan. 27, 2026

67



INDIANA HEAD COACH DARIAN DEVRIES

Q. On the crowd's importance and the energy burst it gives...

DEVRIES: I mean, whether it's late, it's in the middle, wherever, like every time we needed that crowd tonight, they were there. They never took a possession off either. So they played 40 minutes tonight.

There's not a lot of crowds -- there's some good ones out there, but this is really, really special when it's like that. And tonight was as good as it gets in college basketball.

Q. On the mindset of bend don't break...

DEVRIES: We just felt like in a little bit of our tough stretch, like, we had played well during good portions of games. We just had three- or four-minute stretches, and there's a lot of different stuff that went with them. But we just had to fix it. And that was our biggest thing. We can't let mistakes compound. And in a few of those losses that's what we did. And it turned into a 10-0 run instead of 6-0 run.

I think the guys have been much better about, mistakes are going to happen. It's basketball. It's not a perfect game. So we have to continue, just get to that next play. If you have a turnover, just fix it, get it back. We had a play in practice yesterday, Jasai Miles drove. He was going to pass the corner. He left his feet. He was getting ready to turn it over, deflected it. The ball was going out of bounds. And he jumped and saved it and tapped it to Nick Dorn in the corner.

And that was a big part of our film session, was you could have quit and given up on the play but he didn't. And you know what happened tonight? He did the exact same thing. He had a play, he kind of messed up and bobbed it a little bit. He didn't quit. He got the ball and he threw it to the same guy. So maybe it's a new play we put in. I don't know.

Q. On Tayton Conerway's injury and the spark that Trent Sisley and Jasai Miles had...

DEVRIES: Yeah, Tayton's trying to come back from an ankle injury that occurred during the Iowa game. So, you know, he's working hard to try to get back out on the floor. But he just doesn't feel like he's ready to go right now.

And then to your point, I thought the last two games, both Jasai and Trent, gave us some big moments. Even Trent tonight didn't get a lot of time. He came in and made two free throws at a big, big, big time. So it says a lot about him. You know, he's all about the team. He's all about winning.

And when his number got called -- that's what we've kind of been telling the guys, we're shorthanded a little bit, just when you get your number called, whatever amount of time it is 30 seconds, five minutes, 10 minutes, you just leave it out there.

And I think they've really bought into that and done a good job. And it says a lot about even Jasai. Jasai hadn't played a lot this year. It would've been really easy for his number to be called and him not be ready because he hadn't been putting in the work, but he's continued to work even though he hadn't been rewarded a lot for it in terms of playing time.

And now when his number's called, he's able to go out there and go do the things he needs to do to continue to grow. I love the mindset he's had, and Trent's had, and, you know, they do the work every day. And don't always get the minutes that they want, probably. But when their number's got called, they came and produced. So that was great.

Q. On how big it is to win the first matchup of this rivalry series...

DEVRIES: Yeah, I mean, we talked about it before the game. Like rivalries are what make college sports great. Like, this is just what it is. This is why everybody loves college sports. These type of rivalries are fun. And they should be. You got fan bases, both care about their teams. They're both close to each other. And that's what it's supposed to be about. You know, it's good, it's competitive. And that's, you know, for us, that's a big win.

It's always -- you know, every win's a big win. But those rivalry games always got a little extra to them. And, you know, we were fortunate to come out on top tonight.

INDIANA PLAYERS: CONOR ENRIGHT AND NICK DORN

Q. On facing a guy like Braden Smith...

ENRIGHT: Yeah, he's definitely the best potential guy I've gone against. I've been watching him play for a while. So in the last couple of games, I think I fouled a little more. I had to work on my discipline this game because he's great with the shot fakes and being super crafty. But, you know, the rivalry kind of just brought out the great defense -- it was everybody. The bigs hedging, the guys pulling over, tagging. It was five guys guarding the ball every single time, so not just me but everybody out there.

FastScripts Transcript by ASAP Sports



72

POSTGAME QUOTES

Indiana vs. #12/12 Purdue
Jan. 27, 2026

67



INDIANA PLAYERS: CONOR ENRIGHT AND NICK DORN

Q. On the continued good shooting...

DORN: We've been very competitive all week in practice. That really led up to what happened today. We didn't take plays off. We battled to the end of the play, finished plays. And just our work in the gym has helped us.

Q. On getting wins with the crowd like tonight...

ENRIGHT: I think it's huge because the crowd feeds off how we play. I think the last couple of weeks we've been starting to play more for each other and playing hard together. So obviously beating a rival like Purdue is big for us. And so I think, you know, propels us these past two wins, giving us good momentum.

Q. On getting wins with the crowd like tonight...

ENRIGHT: I think it's huge because the crowd feeds off how we play. I think the last couple of weeks we've been starting to play more for each other and playing hard together. So obviously beating a rival like Purdue is big for us. And so I think, you know, propels us these past two wins, giving us good momentum.

Q. On knocking down the clutch shot...

ENRIGHT: Yeah, it's up there for sure. Just the guys having confidence in me and shooting every day with some of my coaches. And, yeah, just being ready when my number's called.

Q. On the meaning of this game...

ENRIGHT: Yeah, it's really cool to see all the fans, packed house. My brother went here, so I know he's smiling, far, far away, wherever he's watching the game at. It's awesome. It means a lot to everybody at the school, all the fans. I understand how much this rivalry means.

Q. On playing in an environment like this...

DORN: Yes, it is always special just to be able to do this against Purdue in this environment -- sold-out crowd. There's nothing like it. I mean I could barely hear. I really enjoy playing in it.

Q. On keeping Braden Smith in check...

ENRIGHT: Yeah, I think our game plan was to show out and hedge on those ball screens. And I think we did a really good job, like I said before, of five guys playing defense on one guy at the same time, if that makes sense. Just being super connected and taking away everything and connecting and covering for one another when we need to.



72

POSTGAME QUOTES
Indiana vs. #12/12 Purdue
Jan. 27, 2026

67



PURDUE HEAD COACH MATT PAINTER

Q. On lack of communication on defense...

PAINTER: I thought the difference at that time was in Indiana's ability to get loose balls and long rebounds- tough rebounds. I thought they did a better job getting around the basketball and giving themselves second-chance opportunities. In that stretch right there, I felt they were just tougher than we were, and then a couple times, we don't take a couple of the guys shooting.

You got to understand personnel and take up their space. I felt in the second half we did a good job on Wilkerson, thought we did a good job on Devries, but they just got too many open looks. Nick Dorn's probably the difference in the game. If you want to look at players, I thought he was really good. A couple times, he hit a couple tough ones. A couple times, we got guys just giving him space. You just can't give him space, just hit six threes at Rutgers. It gets frustrating, to be frank with you, because we have too good a team, and if we just come in here and they play lights out and they just knock our socks off, then that's that, but that wasn't the case.

We have to do a better job. We have to find some guys that will do it for 40 minutes. That one stretch you're talking about was a big part of the game. We got going, he hadn't called a timeout, then that stretch to finish, I think 21-6 to finish the half. They just dominated us. We've got to have some guys with better resolve and be able to counter that, and we didn't. So, it's part of competition, I don't think there was anything schematically tonight that was tough for us, but Indiana was tough. You've got to give them credit, they earned it.

Q. On having late energy to come back...

PAINTER: You got to make those plays. You dug your hole. Nobody dug that hole for us; we dug that hole. Now you know, you don't like the hole you're in stop digging. You got to make those plays. No one's trying to miss a free throw; no one's trying to miss an eight-foot hook shot. Guard your man, know what the hell is going on. Know what's going on. We just can't leave Connor Enright, and he just gets a shot after you fought so hard to get it to one possession.

We could go back on a lot of those things. As a coach, what happens is you guys have a more clear mind of what happens in sequence. With us, I'll think something happened at the two-minute mark, and I'll watch film, and it will happen in the seven-minute mark. Just because that's how your brain works, at least how mine works. Sometimes you can be gassed like that, but they're in shape.