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## POSTGAME QUOTES

Indiana vs. Oregon  
Feb. 9, 2026

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## INDIANA HEAD COACH DARIAN DEVRIES

## Q. On Lamar Wilkerson's all-around play...

**DEVRIES:** First, I want to recognize the '76 team for being back and having so many of them back tonight. I thought that was great. Special night for everyone. Had so many of them that were able to make it back. Quinn Buckner is a big supporter of IU athletics. That's a pretty cool event.

But Lamar, he's pretty special. I told you that after our Wisconsin game, that he's one of those guys that's going to play this game for a long time. You can see as he's gotten more comfortable with what we're going and we've challenged him with some things defensively, play making, creating, he's accepted those challenges and just took off with it.

Now you're seeing kind of the full package of what he's able to do. He had a few extra ones out there I hadn't seen before that were pretty cool, so that was as impressive of a second half performance as I've seen.

## Q. On what worked in the second half...

**DEVRIES:** Yeah, I thought we wanted to get to a little more of our screen actions in the second half and take advantage of what we thought could be some good opportunities there. You know, using Lamar a little bit as a screener, using Tucker [DeVries] as a screener, using Tucker as a facilitator a little bit as well. Just get them moving a little bit more.

I thought we allowed them to play a little bit more in some shell spots. They didn't have to chase us as much as we would've liked in the first half. I thought we came out at halftime and the guys really moved and shared the ball. We cut with more force, screened with a little more force, and then they were able to knock them down, too. That's part of it as well.

## Q. On the great play since mid-January...

**DEVRIES:** Yeah, I think we just really found an identity at both ends of the floor. It's just gotten better and better and better. Even during those rough patches. Yeah, there was a game or two where we weren't great. There was also, like we've talked, also 30 minutes of a lot of those games we were pretty good. We just weren't sustaining it for a full 40, and that's a problem. You can't be that team.

But I think we've gotten much better. Our floor spacing has been better. The ball movement has been better. Defensively, I think we've gotten more connected. I think there is still some work that we've got to continue to get better at as we wind down the season.

I just like the effort they give every day. Even during that losing streak they never came to practice and hung their heads. They came to get to work the next day and they came to get better, and go win the next one. That's all they really care about.

That locker room, I mean, they have great energy, great enthusiasm, great love for the game and love for each other. You can tell they're really enjoying being out there and playing for everyone.

## Q. On coaching against Dana Altman...

**DEVRIES:** I have so much like love and affection for Coach Altman. He's one of the best there is out there. I felt honored to be on the sideline with him because he's been doing this such a long time.

He's been so good to myself and my family. Gave me a start in this profession, so I have the utmost respect for him and what he's done, and just an incredible person and coach obviously. So it was for me a special moment just to be there and share that moment with him on the sideline.

## Q. On the play of Sam Alexis...

**DEVRIES:** Yeah, I don't know if it's -- I think it's a little bit of us maybe figuring it out, too. He's given us these last two games some low presence that maybe we haven't utilized enough to be honest with you. Sometimes as coaches you got to admit your mistakes.

I think he's done a great job of taking advantage of things. Wisconsin game was a little more on switches. There was a couple like on likes, but tonight he was able to do it big on big and get to a spot and get into a move. Thought he had a couple nice kickouts out of there as well.

That's something that we're going to continue to try to utilize. Getting some more paint touches, whether it's off dribble penetration, cutting, or post-ups certainly helps our offense and frees up our shooters maybe even a little bit more.



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## INDIANA PLAYERS: LAMAR WILKERSON AND TUCKER DEVRIES

**Q. On Lamar Wilkerson's 40-point outburst and the difference between one of these games and 20-plus nights...**

**WILKERSON:** You know, just taking the shots that's open and they just going in; my teammates finding me; coaches drawing up plays. All that contributes to what went on tonight.

**Q. On feeding Lamar within the flow of the offense...**

**DEVRIES:** Yeah, when you got him going like that it makes things really easy for everybody else, too. I think it started when he hits one or two, gets it going, and then it starts with a couple more play calls for him and then he hits a couple more, and at that point it's probably just get out of the way and let him cook. He does that pretty well too.

Obviously, he's a tremendous player that gets it going. Thought a lot of guys did really well recognizing that and getting him his spots, and at the same time he just made tough shots. He's a special player that's able to do that.

**Q. On what flipped as a team after the Michigan loss to where they are now...**

**WILKERSON:** Basketball is a game of runs. I just feel like it's our run right now. You rather be playing your best basketball in March than January.

We got a lot of things that we got to go back to the drawing board and fix, but that just opened our eyes and let us know that, hey, we got to be a lot better to play in this league and to get to March Madness, punch that ticket.

**Q. On his approach to attacking the extended shooting slump...**

**DEVRIES:** Yeah, obviously you want to shoot the ball really well, but I viewed it as I only get so many opportunities to put this jersey on. My job is to go out there every night and do whatever we can to try and win as many games as possible and enjoy these games whole they last.

I've tried to impact the game in other ways. I know shooting has been a little bit of a struggle of late, so just kind of trying to find that balance of making plays for other guys, you know, doing other things other than shooting.

At the same time still trying to believing in myself and taking the ones and being aggressive at the same. When you got a guy like this on your team, he makes everything fun and enjoyable to be around. That's just been my approach and continue to go forward.

**Q. On how much a guy like Lamar Wilkerson raises the ceiling...**

**DEVRIES:** I mean, when you have a guy like that, especially when you get into some of the biggest games, you know, no matter who we line up against, he gives us a chance every night.

On top of that when everybody else is playing well and he's cooking like that, it can make us a really dangerous team even against some of the best teams in the country.

**Q. On what makes this team special when things are going well...**

**DEVRIES:** I think the best part about this team is everybody enjoys being around each other, enjoys competing together. Kind of like Lamar said during that four-game stretch, it would be really easy to point the finger at guys, but I thought we really stuck together.

That's what's fun about this group. Even through that four-game stretch I thought we came in every day at practice and continued to really work at what we needed to work on, and it's kind of resulting in this run that we been on a little bit so far. Now we get a week to rest up, well needed, and hope to continue that success.

**Q. On if the game is slowing down for him...**

**WILKERSON:** Man, that just come with old age. I been playing thins game for a long time. Grateful to be able to play college for a minute, but when you got the guys around you like Nick, Tuck, Sam that can all space the floor and help you and you got Conor and stuff like that, it makes the game so up easier because everyone is on one accord.

We just always play like how we prepare. If you come in practice we're playing the same way you see in the game. When you stack days like that it makes it easy.

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