

February 11, 2013



An interview with:

**COACH JEFF BZDELIK
WAKE FOREST**

THE MODERATOR: Welcome to today's basketball teleconference. We'll start things off with Wake Forest head coach Jeff Bzdelik. A few comments about your team and then we'll open it for questions.

COACH BZDELIK: Ready for questions. Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: We'll open it up for questions.

Q. I want to ask you about the matchup with Boston College. You played them once before. They're in a mode where they're playing essentially one big guy and four guards. Is that tough to match up for or can you use your better front-court people to impose some will on them?

COACH BZDELIK: Well, the way we start with Devin Thomas, he really is a lot like Ryan Anderson. They're both a little undersized but both very, very, very good players. So I think that is a matchup, they're both very similar, tough-minded, fearless, forceful.

Starting Arnaud Adala Moto, he's athletic, undersized as well.

We really kind of match up well with them initially, to be honest with you. We should be okay in terms of the matchups, but Boston College starts small.

If they start big with (Dennis) Clifford, Devin Thomas is used to bigger guys, Arnaud is used to playing bigger guys as well. We should be okay.

Q. You also have Travis (McKie), who is a guy that might be tough for them to match up well with.

COACH BZDELIK: Exactly. What's really important for us is to make sure we're not settling

for jump shots. You're right in terms of looking to make sure that we get that ball close to the rim because they'll be a little bit quicker, but we should be a little bit more forceful in terms of our size and strength.

Q. Can you talk a little bit about development of Moto after the last month or so. Looks like he's really beginning to catch on to what you're doing. His athleticism is really something.

COACH BZDELIK: Yes, it is. Again, he's a young player. It's even a harder adjustment for him. I mean, the young man only sees his family once a year. So you talk about even a tougher adjustment for a young player, it's tough enough with school, socially, basketball-wise. Now you throw in another dimension for a young man like Arnaud.

I had a discussion with him just the other day about getting his rest. Many times he'll Skype his family back in Africa, but in order to do so, to catch them at a time they can do that, he has to wake up in the middle of the night so he can look at his family and they can look at him.

Everything is an adjustment. No excuses. Not making excuses. I think people sometimes forget that they're young people and there's a lot of different dimensions, aspects going on in their life. That's another one for Arnaud.

But, yes, he's playing very well right now. He's finishing better. I know in the Carolina game, even though we got beat soundly, he converted on all three-point play opportunities. He's scoring more around the rim. He's understanding how to finish down there.

He's a tough matchup because he's very quick, very strong. He can drive the ball. He can make a midrange shot. He's getting to the free-throw line on a very frequent pace for the minutes he's played.

A lot of good stuff there. That's another really high-quality young player for which we can build this program on.

Q. How long has he played basketball in the U.S.?

COACH BZDELIK: That's another great point. He's only played I think four years, three or four years. A lot of terminology is new. Everything's new to him. It's unlike a young man who grew up here in the Carolinas watching ACC basketball since elementary school.

Arnaud, yeah, I believe he went to high school for three years in the States. So everything is new to him. He grew up playing soccer. Everything is different.

I remember talking to his mom during the recruiting process. She really didn't know of the ACC. She wasn't aware of basketball in the United States. All she made me promise was that he'd get a great education, which he will get at Wake Forest. That's her only concern, is the ability to get an education at a high level. School is a four-year investment in the next 30 to 40 years of his life. That was her only concern.

Q. Jeff, I'd like to ask you about a player, Andre Washington. Looks like he got a lot of minutes in the Maryland game. What has his development been to this point?

COACH BZDELIK: His development is getting better all the time. He's working extremely hard. He's lifting four, five, six times a week. He's eating as much as five, six meals a day. He's gaining weight, strength, developing his game. I think if you looked at his stats over the last several games, he's getting more and more minutes. He's gaining great confidence.

In the minutes he's playing, he's starting to make an impact on the game. When we recruited him we told him simply if your head and heart stay true, if you remain humble and hungry, you're going to be an impact player in this league in due time. It's going to take time. He understood that. He works extremely hard on a daily basis.

Like I stated, his minutes are getting more and more, and he's getting into games now. We have great confidence in him and his ability to have a positive impact in the minutes he plays.

Q. Relatively speaking, what are the strengths of his game at this point?

COACH BZDELIK: Number one, he's got really good hands. He has a really good shooting touch. You look at his free throws. For example, he's 7-10. He's a legit 70% to 80% foul shooter. So it's hard to find young people that have his size. He's a legit seven feet. He's a very smart young

man. Has a great attitude. He's got great hands. He can catch it, shoot it, and pass it.

He just needs to have his body physically catch up with those skills. That's why I refer to the strength training, the eating, so he can gain strength, gain endurance. Once that body catches up with his skill, he's really going to have an impact, I believe, in this league, because he is legit seven feet.

THE MODERATOR: Coach, thanks for taking time being with us today.

COACH BZDELIK: Thank you very much.

An interview with:

**COACH JAMES JOHNSON
VIRGINIA TECH**

THE MODERATOR: We have with us now Virginia Tech head basketball coach James Johnson. Coach, if you could, a few comments about your team and we'll open it for questions.

COACH JOHNSON: Of course, coming up with our rival school there, Virginia, who is playing extremely well right now, extremely well. Had a very good win at Maryland yesterday, impressive win at Maryland.

My team is coming off a stretch of losses in which we're playing pretty well. We're playing pretty good basketball. We're getting better in certain areas and aspects of the game. We just haven't been able to finish games. We have had steady play from Erick Green, but just haven't had consistent play out of enough guys to finish games.

But coming up to a tough stretch. Virginia is playing really well. We have to work on our (indiscernible) tomorrow night.

THE MODERATOR: We'll open it up for questions for Coach Johnson.

Q. I was checking if there was any update on Erick (Green)?

COACH JOHNSON: Good to go. Was at practice yesterday. Good to go. Just dehydration. Just dehydrated.

Q. When you look at Virginia, the way they sort have been scoring the ball the last two times out, what's making them so effective

now?

COACH JOHNSON: One thing is their defense. They're a tremendous defensive team. Your opportunity to score is going to be limited every possession. It's very important. You have to try to find a way to manufacture points. Offensively they got a lot of different guys that can score the basketball.

Joe Harris is playing at a high level right now. Mitchell gives them an inside present. Justin Anderson is playing extremely well right now. Nolte can shoot the three. Jespersion shoots it. Of course, Jontel is their leader there.

A lot of different guys that make plays, that can put the ball in the hole at given times. They play together as a team. They share the basketball. They're going to guard the crap out of you. We're going to have a tough time scoring.

Q. James, with Jarell (Eddie)'s situation the other day, what are you doing with the other guys to guard against frustration boiling over?

COACH JOHNSON: I don't know, Jarell's frustration doesn't have much to do with the long streak. He's like that on himself all the time. He wants to do well all season. He will get frustrated at a missed shot, when he wasn't able to make a play. It's something I'm trying to teach him as a young man, that he's got to be able to fight through adversity in a lot of different situations. His life is going to present a lot of different adversities. He's got to learn that.

He's been working on it personally for a while now.

Q. How was he at practice yesterday?

COACH JOHNSON: He was good. He was good. Talkative. He was good. He understands he made a mistake. He understands that he hasn't played well, that he needs to play better for the team. As a junior, he understands that. He understands what the team needs, what I want. He just has to go out and get it done.

Q. Is he staying in the starting lineup tomorrow?

COACH JOHNSON: We haven't done too much yesterday. I'm going to evaluate it in practice today. I like what Will Johnston did in the time he played in the game. He made the two threes. He ran the floor. Thought he did some good things. I'm going to evaluate both of those guys today in practice.

Q. Coach, when you play Virginia, one of the big concerns is matching up with Joe Harris. I wonder what kinds of headaches in particular he causes.

COACH JOHNSON: Well, Joe is a very good basketball player, all-around basketball player. I think he's one of the best guys I've seen in a long time at reading screens, very good in their motion offense. He plays at a very good pace. He knows how to change speeds when changing direction. He shy-fakes, knows how to get to the basket. He'll post up a little bit. He shoots the three. He's a very good passer. He rebounds the ball really well. He's an all-around player.

When you have a player like that, you got to always be alert guarding him. Can't take away one particular thing because he can do so many things well. We just got our hands full guarding him. It's going to take a couple different guys to guard him, kind of show him some different looks.

But he's a very good player and very smart, very, very smart player.

Q. Coach, given what happened with Erick at the end of that game on Saturday, will you change anything in terms of minutes? Do you have to do anything differently going forward to avoid a situation like that, where he needs to be carried off the court?

COACH JOHNSON: Well, man, I'd like to be able to do it more. But especially when you're playing a team like Virginia where you have to manufacture points, and points are going to be hard to come by because they're such a great defensive team, and we don't have guys right now that are putting the basketball in the hole like we need them to. It's very hard to take him off the floor. It's very hard to take him off the floor.

We're going to have to find ways to give him a breather in certain spots. But I'm expecting him to play the minutes he's been playing all season.

Q. About Virginia, yesterday against Maryland, in the past two games, they've scored a lot of points with (Mike) Tobey out. They've gone to a smaller lineup. Have you noticed that opening up their offense? How do you combat that? Maryland went small. Does it work to your advantage given you don't have that much depth down low anyway?

COACH JOHNSON: We don't have many options to go through. Maryland got a few options, a couple different looks they can put out on the floor. We don't have many options anyway. We're going to have to try to play the way we play and go from there, try to match up certain guys with certain guys.

But as far as going small and playing different lineups, we don't have a lot of different lineups to play.

But as far as opening up their offense, I just think they got a lot of guys playing well right now. Anderson is playing well. Jespersion struggled in the last few games. Got it going yesterday with four threes, I believe. Harris is Harris. Mitchell is playing well right now. Nolte, they got a lot of guys play well right now, which helps their offense.

Q. James, one thing that hasn't come up here in the questions you've gotten is the rivalry nature of this game. Is it just something at this point in the season with the way things are going that's not really an issue or do you think it would never be that issue going into preparation for a game?

COACH JOHNSON: I think for the fans, the state, people across the state, it's always going to be a rivalry.

But for us as a coaching staff, as a team, we're approaching it like it's the next game. It's definitely a big game for us because it's the next game. But we need to try to get a win here. We're struggling, and they're playing pretty well right now.

So going up there and getting a win, it's going to be difficult for this team. But we're preparing just the way we prepare for all of our games all year. Not necessarily that it's a big rival game, but it's a big game because it's the next game.

It's going to be intense. It's going to be a hard-fought game. Both teams are going to give it their all and play hard. Tony is going to have his team prepared and they're playing really well right now.

THE MODERATOR: Coach, thanks for taking time being with us today.

COACH JOHNSON: Thank you.

An interview with:

COACH TONY BENNETT VIRGINIA

THE MODERATOR: We have with us now Virginia coach Tony Bennett. Coach Bennett, a few comments about your team and then we'll open it up for questions.

COACH BENNETT: Coming off of a quick turnaround from yesterday. We'll have to have a good day of preparing. Playing against Virginia Tech, I know they haven't won, but when you haven't won, you're closer than you think. I know as a staff, as players, you're working very hard. Sometimes we've had a few wins, and you're never that far away. It's the next game, the ability to be as ready as you can, embrace the challenge.

I think when you play Virginia Tech, there's going to be a lot of emotion, a lot of energy, because it is a rivalry game, as all ACC games are. With the quick turnaround, we have to have a good day of prep for it.

THE MODERATOR: We'll open it up for questions for Coach Bennett.

Q. Tony, last time out I remember you being fairly happy with the way you defended Erick Green, despite his point total. What did you think of that approach and what is the philosophy going into this meeting?

COACH BENNETT: He had 35 points. I think what I meant was, for the most part we made him hit tough shots, but he does that consistently. He's shown that whether it's in transition or a bunch of different ways. A couple of a few breakdowns; I thought he had to earn his points.

I guess I meant he didn't get a lot of easy ones. He's a focal point and is dangerous. He can get going on streaks. You have to do everything you can to help stop him.

They do have other guys that can hurt you as well, so you can't ignore everyone else. We'll try to make it as hard as we can on Erick and be in position with the other guys.

Q. What did you think of Jontel (Evans)'s approach and will you use a lot of him?

COACH BENNETT: I think we used a couple of different guys, if I recall. Jontel, whether

it's him or whoever, you have to be so disciplined because he can score without the ball moving, he can get ball screens. He does it at the free-throw line, in transition. Whoever gets that challenge, Jontel will be some of the time, has to really be ready and be prepared to play one of their best defensive games against a player of his ability.

It has to be a team defense against a guy like Erick, not just one-on-one.

Q. Tony, do you have any more of a clearer timetable with Mike Tobey? With Darion (Atkins), has he reached the point where he should be able to play some every game without a relapse?

COACH BENNETT: Nothing with Mike yet. I don't know. At some point we'll take another blood test and see if it's hopefully turning around. But not as of yet. Maybe next day or two. There's a period where he has to rest and kind of recover. I'll find out hopefully more about that in his next blood test.

Regarding Darion, I haven't talked to him yet today. We'll see how he recovered or responded from playing. I think he played seven minutes. My hope is if he did not get worse, he'll be able to practice a little bit and then play consistently because the further out we get, whenever that was that he initially irritated it, I hope we got it still healing. I asked him how he was feeling after the game, he said okay.

Like I said, I'd love to be able to use him. I didn't say it in the press conference, but the seven minutes he gave us were important because we were in foul trouble. Whether it was grabbing a rebound or giving us some size, that was important for us.

Q. Tony, Joe Harris obviously is on a terrific hot streak. What are the things that he's doing? He does a little bit of everything, but what in particular is he doing well now?

COACH BENNETT: He's efficient. You look at his stat line. That was a tremendous stat line yesterday. But I think, like all good players, they're complete. You're asking something specific, but I don't know if you can pinpoint it. He moves well. When his shot is going down from three it really helps.

There's two plays yesterday that I thought were really important. He had a big block at a crucial time, then he poked a ball away and dove on the floor. He competes really hard. Not afraid to throw his body out there and do what's required.

I just think he's doing the right things, and of course scoring. But I like his efficiency. I don't know if you can pinpoint anything with the exception of, yeah, he's shooting the ball at a good clip.

Q. As the son of a coach, played for your father, he played for his dad in high school, how do you see that manifest in the way he plays the game?

COACH BENNETT: I think if you grow up around the game as a coach's son, you think it maybe a little more. Your IQ, your familiarity with how coaches think helps. It's not like Joe is a point guard. He's a perimeter player. I think that's been ingrained in him from early on up.

The thing I know about his father and him playing for him, he was demanding, very tough on Joe, hard on him. That to me is great because that's what you want. You want a kid who is battle-tested, pushed hard beyond his comfort zone. You know when he gets in those situations he's not going to fold.

I think his dad did him a great service by being hard on him and pushing him that hard and being demanding on Joe. That part I see as a benefit, besides the typical coach's son. He played football, too. He has some of that football toughness that's nice to see.

Q. Tony, whose idea was it to make the ice cream stop after the game?

COACH BENNETT: My daughter was on the trip, said, Can we get an ice cream? Actually, I think it was Doug (Browman). Someone was teasing Doug, his family, our senior guard, had some cookies and brownies. Someone said, Doug, are you going to share those with the team? You've been kind of quiet. We were laughing.

My daughter said, Can we stop for ice cream? There's a place on the way to Charlottesville. We thought it would be a good call. A little 12-year-old has a pretty good pull on a dad's heart. Not hard to convince me. We had a quick stop. I didn't know that was public knowledge, but I guess everything you do is.

Q. Just with being on the bubble, do you feel like your guys are maybe better prepared now that that is going to heat up again this year?

COACH BENNETT: I guess I'm thankful

we're in a position to be considered for that. I think the key is really to be resilient. Kind of love the challenge, embrace the challenge. You can't go more than a game at a time because every game provides great challenges. You got to be resilient. It's hard-fought.

Our league has shown that it's very balanced. Any game, Miami included in that, you're in tough games, home, road. You just got to be ready.

I don't know how much last year has to do with it. I just think it's the mindset of this year's team to prepare as best as we can and get after it.

Q. Question about the small lineup you've been going with. Why do you think it's been so effective, especially on the offensive end? Have you been surprised that you haven't missed a beat these past few games with one big man?

COACH BENNETT: Yeah, I thought we struggled in the first half when we were without Akil on the floor. Darion gave us some minutes. At times he was on the floor.

I think it makes a difference. It really depends who you're playing, how they're playing. I think we shot it so well yesterday that that covered up some things, as I mentioned.

There's obviously more spacing depending on who you're playing out there as the other guy. Whether it was Evan, who we were starting for a while, or Justin (Anderson), they both have the ability to space a little bit.

I think our guys are really at this time playing good team ball. They're really moving the ball, looking for each other. The spacing perhaps is a little better in that regard. If you played Akil (Mitchell) and Darion and Akil and Mike. But there's times that that's required.

Specifically maybe the spacing has helped. But you also give up some things in other areas. That's where the balance and depth comes in and you can have some different looks.

THE MODERATOR: Coach, thanks for taking time being with us today.

COACH BENNETT: Thank you.

An interview with:

COACH MARK GOTTFRIED NC STATE

THE MODERATOR: We have with us Mark Gottfried, NC State's head basketball coach. Coach, a few comments about your team and then we'll open it up for questions.

COACH GOTTFRIED: Well, any time you win a game, you feel a little better about yourselves. I'm sure we feel better today after yesterday's win at Clemson. I think we also realize we have a long way to go. We have to reintegrate Lorenzo (Brown) back into how we play, get everybody else on the same page.

This week where we don't play till Saturday probably comes at a good time for us.

THE MODERATOR: We'll open it up for questions for Coach Gottfried.

Q. I wanted to ask you about reintegrating Lorenzo. Does Tyler Lewis' role change from what you saw from all the minutes he got to play when Lorenzo was out? Do you go forward using him differently than you might have before?

COACH GOTTFRIED: I think so. I think that he earned the right to play. He's been very reliable. He's played pretty effective. We obviously need all of our guys. We only have eight scholarship guys. They all need to contribute and play.

But I definitely think that Tyler has earned the right to play.

Q. Y'all have lost several heart-breaking games in the ACC. To win one like you did after the close losses, does that change a mindset of a team in late-game situations? Does it give you confidence that maybe wasn't there?

COACH GOTTFRIED: I'm not sure because I think our team was pretty confident. We had two games where it was I don't want to see a freak play, but it was a tip-in with less than one second, 0.9. Sometimes it's the way the ball bounces.

I don't know that we had a lack of confidence. Certainly when you win, that certainly helps, but I'm not sure that's that big of a deal.

Q. Is there a key to, as you say, reintegrating a guy? Is it more getting him to doing the things he was doing or everybody adjusting to him being back in the lineup?

COACH GOTTFRIED: I think just adjusting. Also, like I mentioned before, Tyler played so well when he was out, I don't want to just put Tyler back on the bench and play him four to eight minutes a game again. I think he's proven that he can help us some, too.

Like I said, you want to get Rodney (Purvis) and T.J. (Warren) playing very well, Jordan (Vanderberg) as well off the bench sometimes, and also Tyler. We need to put that together.

Q. In the cases of Rodney and T.J., are they hitting a freshman wall this time of year in February? Anything that you can see in particular?

COACH GOTTFRIED: No. I think yesterday's game was a unique game because of some matchups. I thought Tyler played well in the first half there. We went with Tyler more. There's been other games where both Rodney and T.J. have played more in the second half.

I don't know that that's going to be a pattern for us. Those guys have played awfully well this year.

Q. Will we see much of a Tyler Lewis, Lorenzo Brown backcourt at times?

COACH GOTTFRIED: At times, yeah. We'll see.

Q. Lorenzo started his career as a wing guard. Is he as comfortable in that role now?

COACH GOTTFRIED: Yeah, he's a point guard. There's nothing wrong with having two point guards on the floor at the same time. Lorenzo can score. There's sometimes things you gain in the break, those types of things. We'll just kind of see as we move forward.

But, yeah, I think they can play together very nicely.

Q. You have about a week off. Is it coming at a good time for you?

COACH GOTTFRIED: Well, I don't know. You never plan it. You don't control when the week comes. Whenever it happens, you have to try to take advantage of it.

I do think for us, it's the middle of February. We got to be awfully good down the stretch. This does give us some time to mentally get refreshed, maybe take another day off this week that you normally wouldn't have, just get a little bit of rest.

I think it does probably for us come at a good time.

Q. Basketball is a game of streaks in games, team gets hot for four or five minutes. Is it like that in a season, too? You had a 10-game winning streak, were playing great. Some is dictated by the schedule. You were on a great roll, then hit a little rough patch. Do seasons have streaks like games do? Do you see that as a coach?

COACH GOTTFRIED: Sometimes. Not always. And things happen throughout a season. It's a long period of time. You have injuries that affect your team. You may have stretches where your schedule becomes very difficult.

There's a lot of things that happen throughout a season. I do think that's part of it. I think if you want to be a good team, you have to be able to withstand those type of things, obviously not have too many lulls.

But it's hard to go from November the 9th till the second weekend in March where you're always playing at a high, high level. That's difficult for all teams.

Q. Obviously you want to time it so when you get to March, that's when you're playing well. You did that last year. You were on the upswing going into post-season. Is there any way to calculate that? Do you downplay emotions mid-season to save it for March?

COACH GOTTFRIED: No. I think if a coach had the corner on that market, you could bottle it and sell it.

There is no magic dust that you put on your team at the end to make them play better. Sometimes it's the team's personality. Sometimes it's where your team is. Last year our backs were against the wall there with four games to go. They responded.

There's just so many different factors. I don't know there's one or two things a coach can do to magically make his team play well at the end. We'd all like that, but we're not good enough to

orchestrate that every time.

THE MODERATOR: Coach, thanks for taking time being with us today.

COACH GOTTFRIED: Thank you.

An interview with:

COACH ROY WILLIAMS NORTH CAROLINA

THE MODERATOR: We have with us now North Carolina head basketball coach Roy Williams. Coach, a few comments about your team, then we'll open it up for questions.

COACH WILLIAMS: I know we didn't play as well as we wanted to by any means in Miami on Saturday. They played very well. That's how you get that kind of margin at the end.

They're a really good team, underappreciated around the country. Now we're turning around and playing Duke. I think Duke is one of the premiere teams in the league. I wouldn't be surprised if Duke and Miami ended up being the top four, top five teams in the country because I think they're good and playing well. Duke won a tough one on the road. You have to do that to have a great year.

Mason (Plumlee) and (Seth) Curry are playing at a high level, carrying them at times. Yet (Quinn) Cook and (Rasheed) Sulaimon can get things going. It hurt them losing Ryan (Kelly), but they made adjustments to that right now. From 10 miles away, they look like they're formidable, have a lot of guys who can score. You can't really concentrate on one thing.

They can shoot the ball straight. 10 threes in the first half of a game recently.

THE MODERATOR: We'll open it for questions for Coach Williams.

Q. One of the oddities of this series has been that the last decade the road teams have a better record than the home teams. Any rhyme or reason to that?

COACH WILLIAMS: The last couple years, you drop out 2010, hope you don't have to drop out this year, but 2010 both teams were not great. They were really good and we were not. Most of the other years both of us have been pretty doggone good and it's who plays the best the night, regardless of where you are. Last year we thought we played very well until the last three

minutes of the game here, then we didn't play well at all. They made every play they needed to down the stretch. The year before, we were great over there the first half, terrible the second half.

It's who plays on that night if the teams are evenly matched. I think both of our teams have been really, really good for several years with the exception of our 2010 team.

Q. I know from a long time covering Dean Smith, he almost loved to be in the underdog role, didn't get many chances to do it. This is one of the few situations where you go in as a clear underdog. Do you relish the role?

COACH WILLIAMS: I love being the underdog if I'm pretty doggone good. If you're not any good, doesn't make any difference.

As you said, we haven't had many chances to be the underdog in the 10 years I've been back. But, again, I'd rather be the favorite because that means you're really good. It does give you some things to use, psychologically, all that junk. I'd rather be the favorite. I'd rather be really good.

Q. Coach, I know it was a lot earlier in the year when you faced Indiana. Looking at how well Miami played this past weekend, can you maybe theorize how maybe Indiana and Miami match up?

COACH WILLIAMS: As I said to one of the last questions or maybe in my opening statement, I think Duke and Miami both, if I'm a voter, I'm going to put both of them in the top five. I'm going to put Indiana up there as well.

I think Miami is a sensational basketball team. They have no holes. There's not anything that they cannot do. They can guard you, they can rebound, they can run, they can shoot, they can play slow, they have scorers that score at every spot. They have Gamble who gives them great defense and rebounding, blocks shots, yet he scores when they give him the ball around the basket, gets his way in there and dunks it, gets an offensive rebound.

Brown gives them some scoring coming off the bench.

What were they ranked last week, No. 8?

Q. That's correct.

COACH WILLIAMS: They'll be higher this

week.

I think Indiana, we played Indiana at Indiana, and we felt we were in a hornets' nest. Did the same thing at Miami. I think, as I said earlier, Duke and Miami could both be a Final Four team, one of the four top seeds.

Q. Roy, if my math is right, you used 20 different lineup combinations on Saturday. Is that a high number for you and do you feel like you're searching for the right combination of players?

COACH WILLIAMS: I have no idea if it's a high number. If you're getting your tail beat by 26, I don't think you can stay with the same lineup. I think you have to keep trying to change some things.

I think that was probably just a guess. That was probably a high number, but I hope the dickens we're not getting beat by 400 points. As a coach, you feel you have to try something.

We've had a lot of lineups. We'll always have a lot of lineups, because we play seven, eight, nine or ten guys. That's the way I've always coached and the way our teams play.

I think also when you're getting beat as badly as we are, you can't sit there and say, "Let's wait for the bus or the plane and go home." We're going to try to do something.

Q. The starting five consistently have played maybe three or four minutes at the start of the game. Same thing with the second half. What do you see out of those guys that makes you believe those are the right five for you to start both halves?

COACH WILLIAMS: Well, they're the five best. They've won the job in practice, no question. I make that change just as quickly. Most of the time it's Marcus (Paige), either Marcus or Dexter (Strickland). Marcus, for his stamina, because I worry about a freshman, a 160-pound freshman in this league playing 35 minutes in the game. I would like to have him at the end of the season. I don't want to wear him down.

He may play more than three minutes in a row in the middle of a half. He's so hyped up in the start of the game. He gets winded quickly. There was a great player here called Michael Jordan that was always our first sub because Michael was always so fired up about playing, we would take him out earlier than anybody else and give him a quick breather and put him back in.

One of the things, biggest change in that early substitution, I trying to take care of Marcus. Sometimes it's Dexter. Depending if it's chasing around Erick Green or something like that, I may take Dexter out first, but usually it's one of the guards.

Q. Will this game be a really good test for somebody like James Michael McAdoo probably coming off his worst game of the season?

COACH WILLIAMS: I hope he bounces back greatly. I've had some players, Kirk Hinrich, when he played poorly, the next game he was going to be off-the-charts good. I told him I'd rather have him play real good and real good.

They have a good team. I mean, again, I said this after the game, it's not just about how North Carolina does. James Michael takes it to the basket to dunk it twice, and (Kenny) Kadji blocks both of them. There's not many guys in the country that can do that. That makes James Michael look like he didn't succeed on that play as opposed to what a great play Kadji made. James Michael can't even dunk over the guy. I think you also have to congratulate the other team.

How he bounces back, I don't know. We've been very concerned about his back for the last week or so. On Friday it bothered him. Saturday morning he said he felt good. So we'll just have to see how he bounces back.

But a lot of that depends on the other team as well. If you're being guarded by Mason Plumlee or trying to guard Mason, some of those guys over there, you're not going to have as easy a chance to bounce back as if he was being guarded by me or you.

Q. As we turn into the second half of the ACC season, where on your team have you seen the best improvement from day one to now? What area do you still see you need improvement on?

COACH WILLIAMS: Well, needing improvement. We've got to be able to withstand some adversity in a hostile environment. There's no question about that. If the other team gets rolling and rocking, we have not bounced back in being able to handle that very well yet. I'm saying 'yet' because I think we're going to get there.

I felt like we've gotten better in every area, but we have to improve in every area.

We gave Miami some open threes. But we guarded them sometimes. I mean, the first three of the game, Kenny (Kadji) makes it from eight feet behind the three-point line with Desmond Hubert's hand in his face.

Yes, you could do more if you block the shot. If you try to block every three-point shot, you also foul out of the game quickly.

For us, we have to get better in every area. We looked terrible in a lot of different ways Saturday. Again, they made some big-time shots with us doing at least a good job several times guarding.

What I said, Marcus went up one time, I yelled, Good defense to him, but Marcus' shot went right in the hole.

We've got to get better in every area.

THE MODERATOR: Coach, thanks for taking time being with us today.

COACH WILLIAMS: Everybody have a good day.

An interview with:

COACH JIM LARRANAGA MIAMI

THE MODERATOR: We have with us now Miami head basketball coach Jim Larranaga. Coach, a couple comments about your team and then we will go to questions.

COACH LARRANAGA: I thought we played two very good games this past week. Now we really got to get focused this week. We're going to Florida State. It's rivalry week. Florida State is our biggest rival. I'm sure it's going to be a real war.

THE MODERATOR: Questions for Coach Larranaga.

Q. Four weeks ago you were unranked. You've gone to 25 to 14 to 8. Today you're probably going to be in the top 3. How is the team handling the sudden explosion of national interest?

COACH LARRANAGA: I would say so far so good. They very had a clear mindset as to what they want to accomplish. They've worked very hard.

I think when you make a commitment to something and you're willing to devote a lot of time

and energy, then you start to see the results of all your hard work, you feel very, very good about it.

I think they're very excited that we've gotten a lot of support here in Coral Gables. The arena has been packed, great home crowds. We were sold out on Saturday.

They have appreciated the media attention we've gotten. It's something that they know a lot of the programs in our league and around the country have gotten, and maybe some of these guys haven't. They were pretty hungry to try to do something that they hadn't done before.

They stay focused and keep working towards improving.

Q. You say they stay focused. For you, you must be getting requests to be on ESPN, national radio shows. Is it at all adding to the difficulty of your job to have to handle the explosion of national interest?

COACH LARRANAGA: Well, I wouldn't call it difficult. I would say that you need to appreciate that because that only happens when you're doing well. If you don't want that, that says you don't want to win. That's not the case. We want to be as good as we can be.

We want to accommodate the media because, as I've told the team, we've got our job to do, and the media has their job to do. They shouldn't interfere with each other and they shouldn't be a distraction.

My responsibility is to promote the University of Miami and our men's basketball program. We feel very, very fortunate that people do have interest. When we took the job, everybody said, You're never going to have anybody interested in your program. Yet we saw the other day when we played North Carolina, not only did we have a great crowd on hand, we had LeBron James and Dwyane Wade sitting courtside. That's a major step for our program in the right direction. That's something I think the national media pays attention to and we hope that our future recruits will pay attention to it and want to come and play here.

Q. Because North Carolina and Duke have been top programs for so long, they tend to get everybody's best shot. Students line up to see their games. Obviously they have at Miami in the past even. Are you expecting to see that the rest of the way from teams? Not

that they wouldn't give you a good shot, but the special kind of focus and attention that a top team draws, is that something else these guys need to learn to handle?

COACH LARRANAGA: First of all, you know everybody gets ready for Duke and Carolina because they've been in the top 10 and winning national championships. If you can't get excited about playing them, if your fans can't get excited about playing them, they just don't have interest in basketball.

Any time a team gets ranked in the top 25, they get more media attention. If you're in the top 10, it increases. If you're in the top 5, it increases even more.

When Duke came here, they were ranked the No. 1 team in the country. You don't get that many opportunities to play against the No. 1 ranked team in the country.

So we're just appreciative of where we are right now. We're appreciative of the support we're getting. I'm very, very proud of my team right now for how they've been able to stay focused and do a good job.

Q. Coach, looking back at the last two games, one performer that stood out to me in terms of improving is Rion Brown. Can you talk about what he brings to the team? Has he made any adjustments or are shots just starting to fall?

COACH LARRANAGA: Well, I think Rion Brown as a sophomore last year got off to a slow start. But by January he started to play really, really well. Even by the end of the season, he was in our starting lineup.

This year, I don't know why this is, he also got off to a slow start. But he's been playing very well in conference play. He's our leading three-point shooter in conference play. He's a very valuable asset to us because he is very aggressive coming in off the bench, and you always need kind of a high-octane scorer to come in and give your team a lift.

In the last several games he's been huge for us. On Saturday against Carolina and Tuesday against Boston College, he was very, very effective in coming in. Instead of us losing a step, we actually improved.

Q. You're coming up on Wednesday night to Florida State. You handled them easily. They're really scrambling. When you're going so well, they're struggling so much, does

that present any particular problem or does the rivalry outweigh all that?

COACH LARRANAGA: I think all the previous games, the games we've played, they've played, are meaningless when it comes to the Miami and Florida State game. You want to be playing well, of course. I'm sure their crowd will be sporting them and their players will be ready and our players will be ready.

Q. Since Reggie (Johnson) has come back, he and Julian (Gamble) have combined at that center spot to give you really good production, particularly in the rebounding area. Did you think it was going to work out as well as it has so far?

COACH LARRANAGA: I don't really think about what's going to work out or not. We just prepare. These two guys are seniors. Reggie is a fifth-year senior, Julian is a sixth-year senior. They've been through the wars before. They really know what to expect. They really want to play well.

If you go back to our NC State game, I had them in together for a major portion of the second half. Those were the two guys that were in there when we made our run and took the lead. They're going to play the center position, but they're going to play together a good bit. It all depends on matchups, who is playing well, how we're being defended.

Q. Reggie, is he back to playing the way he was before he injured that thumb?

COACH LARRANAGA: Well, I would say he missed an entire month of practice. When you come back, despite the fact that he's in great shape, running the floor better than he ever has, he's defending and rebounding, I think offensively his presence was missed. We had to go a little bit in a different direction offensively.

It still worked for us very, very well. Now that he's back, we haven't been able to incorporate his scoring ability into our offense yet. He's been able to practice more.

When you think about it, he came back January 23rd. It's now February. We've had him back for two weeks or so. But we're just getting comfortable with him being back and in sync offensively with us.

Q. Coach, your games have been real decisive margins. That's something I know a

lot of coaches strive to do, have a team to put people away. Is that the kind of ballclub you have, kind of a killer instinct?

COACH LARRANAGA: I would just say every day is different, every opponent is different. We were 3-21 from three at NC State. That was a one-point game. Against Carolina we were 10-16 in the first half. Same players, same shot. Some days you make them, some days you miss them. When you make them, you have an opportunity to build a substantial lead. We were able to do that against North Carolina.

Every game, you just don't know. Kids are kids. They're 17 to 22, 23 years old. The opponents play them differently. So we're more focused on just we're well-prepared and the guys are playing hard.

THE MODERATOR: Coach, thanks for taking time being with us today.

COACH LARRANAGA: Thank you.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports

February 11, 2013



COACH MARK TURGEON MARYLAND

COACH TURGEON: Disappointed with yesterday's game. Played well, Virginia was great. Got a bye week which hopefully is going to be great for us and get refreshed and practice well and get ready for Saturday.

Q. Is this actually a good time of the schedule to have a week off and be able to fine-tune things and get you guys refreshed a little bit?

COACH TURGEON: Yeah, it is, we're tired. We've had a rough stretch and a tough go every game. We got behind the 8-ball early. We had a losing record and every game was real important to win and we just put a lot into each game.

We've had a lot of tough road trips coming home and had weather, and getting home at 3:30 in our road trips, three or four of our five road trips or whatever it's been; it's just been a tough go for us.

I think this will be a good week, getting better, doing what we do and getting us ready for the stretch we are on.

Q. Are there some guys who are playing with some consistency for you, even though it has been a tough stretch, fighting through that and being able to give you game-in and game-out the things you're looking for.

COACH TURGEON: Not really. Just you really can't put a hat on guys that -- he's been consistent, but as a team we've been much more consistent. We didn't play well yesterday but I think Virginia had a lot to do with that. But we played better at North Carolina, Duke, Florida State, Virginia Tech. We had four games where we were pretty consistent and heading in the right direction.

Looking around the country, there's teams that come up short and don't play well certain, but I would also like to think that Virginia, they beat a lot of teams yesterday and were really, really good.

We're getting better. I think one thing is we are a young team and I don't want to make excuses, but we're young. You look at all the young teams in the league, most of them are struggling. We are 5-6, 17-7, probably a little bit of what I thought we would be in our second year, but we expect more. We want to finish strong and do well down the stretch.

Q. Did you like what you saw from your press yesterday?

COACH TURGEON: Press was good. First we went small lineup in the first half and it got us back in the game. I really like that. It was good for us. We guard a little bit better during that stretch.

Yeah, and the press was good, the crowd got into it and we forced some turnovers and got some layups but whenever we got the halfcourt we just couldn't get a stop. Our press was good. It's more out of desperation. We have been somewhat of a good pressing team and we have sprinkled it in at different times but yesterday we really needed it and it was good for us.

Q. You don't seem to press a whole lot and you seem to have the elements for it, depth, length, quickness, shot-blocker in the back. Is that a philosophical thing with you?

COACH TURGEON: Yeah, yeah, we are a really good halfcourt team; it has not been our defense. The press worked yesterday, we were in a small lineup. Virginia is not notoriously a good press offense team, and last year we were not built for press and we pressed them late and had the same results.

So I think it was more just a combination of we are down, guys are playing hard, desperation was in it and who we were playing with our press yesterday.

Q. I wondered if I can get your impression of Joe Harris.

COACH TURGEON: He was fantastic. What a great player. He plays at a pace that he's comfortable with. He's probably one of the smartest players that I've ever coached against and definitely one of the smartest players we've ever coached against this year and played against, made big shots, 22 points on eight shots and stepped up and made free throws.

He's good. He gives them -- he's like a security blanket for them. They go to him, they run their three game when the game gets tough and he usually comes through. He's good. He's a heck of a player and he's one of the best we've played against this year.

Q. In terms of this week's preparation, do you almost have to put blinder's on the kids, or do you want them to think about the fact that they are going to be playing Duke on Saturday?

COACH TURGEON: Well, you know, it's kind of hard on this campus to not know who you're playing. Hopefully by knowing who we are playing, it's going to help us practice better. We have got a great opportunity this week to practice a lot and prepare for the last four weeks of the regular season and three weeks, however you want to look at it. We'll approach it that way.

But coming off a loss where we didn't defend, you know, we are going to show them film and hopefully they are going to respond. You know, we were flat, we were tired, we were dead, whatever you want to say, Virginia was great, but we have to play better than yesterday as we move forward.

Q. As a follow-up, as you said last year, you're new to this rivalry, this matchup. Do you get a sense from your players that it's a different type of game because it's Duke, and what do you think in this day and age, because all of these teams are on TV that they get fired up for all these games?

COACH TURGEON: Well, I think this is another level. I think Duke's another level above North Carolina; it's above everybody else. It's another level for our fans and another level for our players and our coaches and I think it's like that for Duke everywhere we go. But definitely here for us, we are well aware of what this game means to everybody.

Q. You played Duke the first game after losing Ryan Kelly, or second game, I'm sorry. They have been saying lately, the last week or so, that they have adjusted to that loss and have kind of rediscovered what they want to do without him. When you look at them on film, do you see any difference from the team you saw a couple weeks ago?

COACH TURGEON: I haven't. You know, I'm worried about my team right now more than Duke.

I thought they adjusted by the time we played them. I don't know if it was the second game or third game or what game it was, but they got great minutes out of that position with Hairston, and my mind is going blank on the lefty from Philly -- Jefferson. I thought they were well adjusted that game. The stretched at four-man they had with Kelly, but they were executing and doing some different things for their guards. You know, I think they are adjusting, playing great and came out on top last night.

Our league is so much better. Our league is so much better than it was last year; it's not even close. It's tough to win, especially on the road.

Q. How much of an advantage does the schedule give you this week?

COACH TURGEON: Well, coming off a loss, you don't ever want to have a long time between games, and I think we need it. You know, will it be an advantage? We'll see. Hopefully we'll be fresh legs and fresh mentally and get ready to play. They had a night game at Boston College, so they have a tough week.

COACH BRIAN GREGORY GEORGIA TECH

COACH GREGORY: Pleased with our performance on Saturday on the road. Obviously I think the world of Erick Green and the job he's done this year and for our guys to bounce back after a tough loss at home against Florida State who played very well in that game.

Just proud of our guys the way they have been able to stay the course and keep improving and we are a much better team than we were the first time we played Virginia Tech, and that showed. We just need to continue that same course of action and every day be working to get

better. Our young guys are getting better, but so are our veterans.

So just, again, pleased that Georgia Tech has ever won at Virginia Tech, so happy to get a text from Coach Clemens that just said "finally," and kind of move on from there and get ready for a great week. We play three games and six games, or three games in six days coming up and it's going to be a great test for us.

Q. Does getting that road win for a young group give you something that you can carry on in future games?

COACH GREGORY: Yeah, you hope so. You know, I thought other than a five-minute stretch at NC State and about a five-minute stretch at Duke, and a four-minute stretch at Clemson, that we actually played pretty good on the road.

The problem is, those stretches, when you're on the road instead of that being a 6-point stretch, ended up being a 12- or 14-point stretch, but we've seen that with younger teams where there's a snowball effect there.

I thought you saw a little bit of that even in the second half on Saturday, you know, where a guy almost forced the issue a little bit too much to get it back, and if you have a couple bad possessions on offense, you give up a couple baskets on defense, you think you can make up a 6-point lead on one possession on offense and you can't do that.

That's where some experience and poise comes in and that's just an area we need to keep highlighting with our guys so they understand that that is part of the process and it's not just, you know, singled out on them. Everybody has to go through it. But the faster and better we learn, the better off we are going to be.

Q. Wanted to ask you about Erick Green, he's putting up phenomenal numbers, is he the only thing you worry about with them or how do you cope with them?

COACH GREGORY: Well, first, he's a tremendous player. He's what college basketball and ACC basketball is supposed to be all about. Here is a guy every year has made significant improvements, and has stayed the course in terms of becoming a great player. He averages two points a game as a freshman and now he's averaging 26.

I'd be hard-pressed for anybody to find that kind of jump, No. 1, if they are pressed, find anybody with that kind of jump in college

basketball, and then that kind of jump where a kid stayed at the same school.

Usually the kids are like, 'I'm outta here.' You give him credit for his steadfastness and understanding that Virginia Tech was going to be a place where he could excel at.

With that being said, they have had some guys that have had some big games. Their big guys that have always hurt us. Raines has always hurt us. So you can't just concentrate on Green, but you have to come up with some different things to give him some different looks.

I thought, you know, we did a good job of just, even though we scored 28, we made him work for every single point, didn't put him to the free throw line when the game was still in the balance. We got there eight times or nine times, but the game was in hand at that time. So those are things that you have to do. You can't give him anything easy because he's good enough still to make the hard ones.

Q. Watching the game, he was still trying to create, even though he's their leading scorer and scored half their points, he was still trying to set up his teammates, they were not able to convert a lot, but he was giving them the ball. That's something that's pretty admirable, isn't it?

COACH GREGORY: Well, he could shoot it every time because he's one of the few times in college basketball, he can get a legitimate shot any time he wanted, he really could. He could take 30 shots a game if he wanted to, 35, but he probably wouldn't, and they wouldn't be as successful.

They have lost some close games, you look at their record and some of the games they have lost, they could easily have won the other night against Maryland. They have had some tough -- they lose at North Carolina.

And he does; he's a quality guard where he can create some scoring opportunities, and is willing to draw other teammates, as well.

Q. You've got a really nice game from Kammeon Holsey. How has his game been coming around the last month or so? Looks like there's been some times where he's been really good.

COACH GREGORY: Yeah, he has been, and over the last five games, he's actually leading us in scoring and right around the top in shots

attempted, as well.

You know, we look at him as kind of our sixth starter. He's playing as many minutes as Robert or as Daniel. And the one thing he does know is that when he comes in the game, we are going right to him, because we need his scoring and we need his rebounding, and so I think he's comfortable with that.

I think it's luxury for us that in some of the better games we've had, we've been able to exploit and here is a guy that's started every game for us last year and now coming off the bench, in a little different role in terms of the start of the game but not a different role in terms of what we need him to do.

So there was a stretch where he wasn't playing as well, and I think he felt he needed to get stuff done right away, as soon as he got in and now he's letting the game come to him a little bit more and he's been very, very effective for us.

Q. Not everybody adjusts well, especially when you've been a full-time starter to that sixth man role, and is he handling that mentally, or the way that you like to see?

COACH GREGORY: Yeah, I think he has. I think he has. He knows his minutes, like I said, take over the last five games, averaging right around 23 minutes a game, has not been in foul trouble at all since I think the North Carolina State game, which is big. And last year as a starter, he was constantly in foul trouble. So I think that's helped.

Again, sometimes you have to take a step back and say, not only is this the best thing for the team but it's also going to put me in a better situation as it continues, and I think he's starting to realize that.

COACH LEONARD HAMILTON FLORIDA STATE

COACH HAMILTON: We played two games last week, on the road at Georgia Tech and played well enough to come away with a victory and went on the road against a Wake Forest team that played extremely well. I was very disappointed. I feel that we had not played with the type of focus that we played with at the Georgia Tech game. And now that we face probably one of the hottest teams in America,

Miami, we'll have to make a tremendous improvement.

Q. How do you size up Miami, you've only seen them once this year and you just referenced them being one of the hottest teams going?

COACH HAMILTON: Well, you like watching them play. They have a maturity and a poise about them and confidence that they are allowing -- they are doing a lot of things right from a defensive standpoint, they are in the positions that they need to be. They are rotating. They are helping each other out. It's like they are kind of reading each other's minds; they have such good focus with one another.

Offensively, they have that balance of shooting as well as the big strong guys inside so that you have to give their inside offense a lot of attention. And then they have guys that stretch you on the perimeter.

I don't know if I've ever seen a team shoot the ball as well as they did against Carolina on Saturday, ten of 16, halftime was just phenomenal. But they have had several games where they have shot the ball exceptionally well like that all year long.

So they are a mature team, playing well. They are if not the hottest team in America, they are definitely one of the top two or three. They are the team right now in the ACC to beat.

Q. In any way because of the fact that they have got so many seniors and veteran players, any similarities there to you from last year?

COACH HAMILTON: A lot of similarities. Maybe a couple games we shot the ball well, but I do think that our team played in itself, I think that's what they do. I think they are consistent with their execution, and I think that's one of the reasons why we were as consistent as we were last year.

We were consistent with our effort and our focus. I think also they execute and they allow the game to come to them, and everyone is kind of holding their end of their responsibility.

Q. Are you making any changes? I know you've struggled up-and-down here the last few weeks; any changes that you have got planned?

COACH HAMILTON: Well, we can make

changes, but we'll be making them -- I'm not sure any one of them -- we might change for the sake of changing but not because someone is out-playing. We might have a different approach. I'm not going to give a scouting report in a press conference, that's for sure.

Q. We don't think of Miami home court as a snake pit, but the last four games at home, they have won by 20-plus, including 24 against you guys, but also against Duke and North Carolina. And yet, in their last three ACC road games, two of them have been one-point wins. Do you see a big difference? You get them at home; is there a big difference where you're playing them?

COACH HAMILTON: What's happening, I think we're getting everybody's best shot. I felt in the past at Florida State, I thought that even though I thought we were improving as a program, I kind of felt that sometimes it was hard to get the team to get motivated -- some of the teams didn't get as motivated because traditionally we had maybe not earned the right or earned the respect from everyone.

But after winning the conference title last year, I see teams a little more inspired, a lot more intensity and a little bit more focus. I think what I'm is getting when they go on the road, they are getting -- the fact that they have been so successful, they played so well, they are getting everyone's best shot because they feel that they don't; they get a little bit of the medicine that they have been giving people when they come down to Coral Gables.

So it's obvious that people are playing better against them out of respect for their program as a result of how well they have played. So I think it's a little bit of both. I think obviously it's a little tougher on the road but also teams that they are playing against are playing extremely well.

Q. What do you have to do to get it to the last second to get the ball in Michael's hands --

COACH HAMILTON: I think we have to play a lot better than what we have. I've watched the Wake Forest game and I've looked at open looks that we had, the layups and uncontested jump shots that we had, and we just didn't make them.

I thought it got to a point there we did turn the ball over; I thought that really hurt us. I didn't think we were creating any offense from the

defense like we have done in the past. But I think that what we have got to do, we've got to make shots. We execute and we get good looks, we have to make them pay.

And I think that's what Miami's been doing. If you don't catch them in transition or on quick ball reversal, they don't miss very many open looks. I'm hoping that we play one of those games where the opportunity that we have that we make those plays, that we finish them; that when we are going for a layup that we finish the layup and we get an open look and we knock them down. That's what they are doing. If you don't keep pace with them, they have shown that they can really be consistent with their ability to finish plays.

Q. I did want to ask you about Michael Snaer, he had another game-winner last week against Georgia Tech, how do you put into word that he has five last-second game winners in the last two years? Have you ever had a player that's done anything like that?

COACH HAMILTON: I have, but I've said many people who have asked me this over the last several weeks, Michael has the ability, and when he goes in the gym in the summer and the off-season when he's in the gym by his self, to put his self in that magic moment, that mental state that causes him to work extremely hard, almost like he's working in a game.

If he's in the gym with a toss-back, he's out there working one of the tournaments, you will hear him out there grunting and groaning, just like he was trying to -- just like he was just in the game. And he takes shots at game speed, and I think what that does to him, it makes him a little bit more relaxed, because he does it over and over and over again in the gym by his self; almost like there's a coach out there working him or pushing him or encouraging him.

He has done a real good job of putting his self in that mental frame of mind almost like he's in the game, so that once he gets in the game, it doesn't seem to faze him very much. You see the look on his face, he's a lot more relaxed, more focused, he's not stressed.

COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI DUKE

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Q. Curious what time y'all got back last night, long day trip, and do you have to take any time off?

COACH KRZYZEWSKI: You know, it's a good question, and teams throughout the season go through periods where because of away games and different things, Thursday, Sunday to Wednesday, Saturday changes occur that kind of puts you in tough positions. Now everybody goes through that but not everybody goes through it at the same time, so we are going through it.

So yesterday we got back here probably about one o'clock in the morning, but it was a long day, because you have breakfast here between 8:00 and 9:00, and you get up there and you're on the Tarmac for about 45 minutes waiting. There are just delays all over and it's a long day and then it's a tough game.

And so today, we'll meet but you really -- like two of our guys can't practice today, Seth and Ryan can't practice obviously. But Seth and Josh, Josh is sore from yesterday with his elbow, and Seth needs today off.

So it's mostly meetings and so a little bit of individual work, and you try to get a good night's sleep instead of having Sunday off, went to winter wonderland and played a tough game. Now we are playing another huge game Wednesday night.

So we have to use today to kind of mentally start getting into it but physically give our guys a chance to recuperate.

Q. Does this North Carolina game have any different flavor, because they are not ranked and they have had some struggles; does it take away from what's been obviously a premiere rivalry in college basketball?

COACH KRZYZEWSKI: No, no. They are a good team. Look, if we are both judged by our performance, our last performance against Miami for both of us, the game wouldn't be on TV. But that's not the way it is.

We are both really good teams. Our injury problems have hurt us but our kids have responded well since Miami. I think until they play Miami, I think they won six out of seven or something like that. They are explosive offensively. I know McAdoo is an outstanding player. Bullock I think is one of the best players in the country because of his ability to score, and at 6-7, you don't think of scorers as being rebounders, but he's a heck of an offensive rebounder.

They are one of the best offensive rebounding teams and transition teams in the country. Those are two areas that we have been good, obviously, or we wouldn't have the record we have, but we are not that good. And the two areas that are a little bit weak are defensive rebounding and transition, and those are their two strengths. So we have got to get fresh and we have got to be able to do a good job in those areas.

Q. With the shifting landscape in college basketball, do you appreciate something like a Duke/Carolina rivalry even more? Obviously you always did, but is it almost something like it could become one of the last great rivalries? Is that what's going on?

COACH KRZYZEWSKI: No, it's a good point. I think that it kind of puts an exclamation point on, hey, remember while we're doing all this stuff, let's remember these things. Whether it's that Ohio State/Michigan, whatever the rivalries are in different conferences. Let's not forget about those.

Because that's what makes college basketball, college sports, are those, the traditional games, because they conjure up memories of other great games, great players, and really good coaches. Just like from your area, the amount of games that Duke and Maryland have played together, UNC and Maryland; those are tough to say you're never going to have again. The fact that you have this one, and it's not going away, is a good thing. It's really a good thing.

Q. Just to follow up on that, I know over the years, you've stated whenever I bring it up about the Maryland/Duke rivalry, and you made a good point about being rivals with everyone because everyone was taking their best shot at you. But when you reflect on those years where Maryland and Duke were among the top teams in the country in 2001 when you guys played four times, what stands out to you?

COACH KRZYZEWSKI: And they happened within your own conference, just like in the 80s, it wasn't just Duke/Carolina. In the late 80s, early nineties, it was against Georgia Tech and Maryland for a good portion of time.

Those games were just nationally followed and really helped our conference and helped both

programs. For us, I never wanted to get it to where it's just us, like one game is the rivalry, because pretty much everybody was trying to give us, and they still are, trying to give us their best shot.

But in saying that, Maryland was terrific. You know, you may have had in those four games, the two best teams in the country playing. And over the years, that's what Duke and Carolina have done; whether they are the two best teams or two of the Top-10 teams in the country in so many of these games, and that's what Maryland and Duke has done during that period that drew that level of attention.

Those are moments in time that will never go away and you hope that they will come back at different times, even though both are you aren't ranked. But when you do play, it conjures up memories of those games and makes that game even bigger. Kind of like the Masters or whatever; it's not just a tournament; it's what somebody did on the 16th hole in '84.

That's what college basketball is about, and when you get all this stuff going everywhere in every different direction, and you say, well, those teams will never play again, it's tough to take. I think it's a hit. Your sport takes a hit on something like that.

Q. You commented about Maryland leaving, the way you feel --

COACH KRZYZEWSKI: No, I hate to see Maryland leave. I hate to see Maryland leave. I mean, you're talking when this thing started, whoever it was, knows guys shook hands and said, we are going to start something special. Duke, Maryland and a few others were in that room, and I like that. I hate that something that happened 60 years ago now is in a few weeks, no more.

Look, I respect the heck out of Maryland, and Maryland, again, not just -- especially their basketball. Westy, Gary, these guys, terrific coaches, great players, great games, amazing atmosphere. I'm sorry that that's not going to be there for our conference and for Duke and Maryland anymore.

COACH BRAD BROWNELL CLEMSON

COACH BROWNELL: Certainly coming off a disappointing loss yesterday at NC State.



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Jordan Roper played well for us starting, and for the first time in a while, and had a nice game. Like most of the game, just couldn't get it done. Obviously playing a Georgia Tech team that's playing well right now and won two-out-of-three I think, and seem to be playing good basketball right now.

Q. You mentioned Jordan Roper coming back and playing a good game, he had been playing pretty well, and he went through a really good stretch in like December, early January. Can you talk about the travails of a young guy that first year college, how hard it is for somebody like that to sustain high level play that almost all young players go through?

COACH BROWNELL: Well, No. 1, I think the physical toll on some guys is very difficult. The practices and the games and all the travel and all that, weight lifting and the demands that the level asks of you is much more difficult, and so I think kids get tired. I think that's part of it.

Young guys, especially, unless they are blessed with tremendous athleticism and strength, they wear down physically and there's a mental part of it where the season and the stress of the games, the games especially league games, there's so much pressure on them; it feels like every game is extremely significant.

I don't think kids are used to playing in these kinds of environments. Kids now, they play all kinds of games, games in the summer, games in the spring and high school games, and I think you get numb to just playing games. Now all of a sudden you're in these games that feel life or death in some ways, especially in league plays. I think mentally and emotionally, that wears on you, too. So I think there's a lot of factors that go into making it difficult for young guys to sustain and play well consistently.

Q. How do you help a guy like Jordan get it back when his play dropped a little bit and it seems to be surging again? Is there anything that you can do as a coach to get him out of that hump?

COACH BROWNELL: I think that you have to just try to recognize situations with kids and maybe sometimes they need a little more rest. Maybe they need a little more confidence.

Maybe they need to bring them into the office and talk to them and show them some things

on film that they are doing well and reassure them that they are good players and they have confidence in them and they can do good things, and those kinds of things.

Then there are times that I think there's just going to be weeks where it's going to be hard on them and other weeks where they are just going to feel a little better physically and have a little extra pop. Some of that is not as much driven as the coach as the player.

Q. McDaniels kind of an oddity in the fact that he leads your team in blocks by a really wide margin and he also has more three-point field goal attempts that anybody on your team. He's second in the league in blocked shots. Can you talk about his versatility or his physicalness?

COACH BROWNELL: Well, he's obviously a terrific athlete who can jump extremely well, but he's quick off his feet. He just has a knack for shot blocking. That's just something that he's done all his life, and sometimes it's a really good thing; occasionally it can be a bad thing.

And then the 3-point shooting is just a product of work to be honest with you. He's not a guy that shot a lot of threes in high school or any of those types of things. It's just stuff we've worked with on to get him to be a little more consistent, be more confident. He still passes up some shots I think that he needs to shoot. But certainly the blocks for a guy his size is certainly unique and we are trying to improve his all-around ball skills so he can be a complete player.

Q. I wanted to ask what look they had with Tyler Lewis and Lorenzo Brown out there at the same time. I know that hasn't happened a lot this year.

COACH BROWNELL: You know, there's just maybe a little more calmness because you have two point guards that are on the floor at the same time decision making.

I don't know if it's more speed, because they have speed, that's not really much of a change. I just think it's a little more of sureness. Purvis is fast in the open court and can certainly make plays and is a good player. I think it's just when he's in there or with two point guards or with Wood, I think you've got two guys that are definitely looking as passers first.

I think Lorenzo Brown is a guy who is playing very unselfish now. I think there are times that he really holds them together because of his

unselfishness. I think he's a guy that gets everybody involved and thinks about others; and now you put him out there with Lewis, and you have got two guys that are playing that way.

Q. We hear so much at this time of year about how everyone has scouted everyone so well, and with Lewis not having played an awful lot until the last week or so, is that a little harder to get a scouting report on him?

COACH BROWNELL: Not really. He's a guy, guys have seen it recruiting and you've seen him enough in watching their last couple tapes to know what his skills are. He's proven that he's a good player. The Duke game there at the beginning, he was one of the guys that was making plays.

So we had full attention on him when he came in here yesterday. He's a good player and a guy who is not afraid to try to make a play, whether it's a three or a drive, or a drive and dish. We certainly had a good feel for him.

Q. You just saw Georgia Tech a few weeks ago. I know you won that game at home by three; what problems do they present? Do they change that much from that short a time until now?

COACH BROWNELL: They usually don't change much. I don't think Georgia Tech is going to change a whole lot. I think they are a team that's playing very well right now and they played a difficult part of the ACC schedule at the beginning, and won a couple games and got some confidence.

I think their size inside is a difficult matchup problem for a lot of people, and I think their younger players on the perimeter, Bolden and Marcus Georges-Hunt are good players. As you get later in the season, I think guys are more comfortable and have now been through enough ACC games that they should feel comfortable, confident and ready to play.

So I don't think it's much more than that. I just think, you know, playing with a little more confidence sometimes and a couple wins sometimes just helps you get yourself going a little bit and get your team in the right mind-set for better practices and the next game.

Q. Holsey seems to be coming along for them; what do you remember about him?

COACH BROWNELL: I think he's a very good player. I think he's a guy that would be starting on most of the teams in our league in all honesty. I think he's a really good player. I think he's physical.

I think he's a competitor. I think he rebounds it well. He can kind of drive it a little bit. He's just a very hard-playing, physical-type power forward, the big-body type guys that go through you, doesn't much go around you. I think he brings an intensity level that's very good and he's playing well.

COACH STEVE DONAHUE BOSTON COLLEGE

COACH DONAHUE: Obviously played a tough game last night. I thought we played a really good basketball game for 40 minutes. I thought Duke made plays down the stretch, deserved to win, but I'm very proud of our guys and the effort we gave.

Earlier in the week we played Miami, and I wouldn't say we played that bad. I just think Miami is; one, extremely talented; and two, playing great basketball now.

But pretty much pleased with our development throughout the season. I think we are playing pretty consistent basketball. Unfortunately we have been very unfortunate at the end of basketball games, not able to get these wins, otherwise we'd be closer to .500.

But that's what it is. But pleased with our progress and going to keep working hard to get better.

Q. Wake has beaten you three in a row. What difficulty do they present?

COACH DONAHUE: I think Wake, probably more similar to us than other teams in the league. I think Jeff does a really good job of running offense. Not that other teams don't; it's just different. They share the basketball. They spread you out, and I just think McKie and Harris, older scorers in this league, I think that we have a little less physicality than other teams at this point in our development.

So I think that they can get those plays off. They certainly did last year. We had a hard time covering those two guys in particular. Down there, that was an even game; just they won at the end. I

just think they run good offense. Those two in particular have been difficult for us to guard.

Q. Some of their younger players who have gotten a lot of minutes and been successful this year, one of those is Devon Harris. What have been your impressions of him so far?

COACH DONAHUE: Devin Thomas. He plays with a lot of injury. What he's done in the league in terms of being on the offensive glass and blocking shots and playing with great energy, I think it's been pretty remarkable. His play has improved as he's gotten to the league and Devin has proved that he can peak physically.

He's not an overpowering athlete and he's not a great-sized kid, but he's done a terrific job of really competing physically. Just real impressive, you look at 39 offensive rebounds in 11 ACC games as a freshman and almost averaging ten and ten, is pretty impressive for the kid.

Q. I know it's typical of freshmen to have up and down spurts. Just looking at your two freshmen guards, it's really odd, it seems like one usually plays real well and the other, at least statistically struggles a little bit. I know Oliver (sic) played great last night and Joe had a few problems. Can you talk about getting those guys in sync? Am I seeing it wrong? Have there been games where they have both played very, very well?

COACH DONAHUE: Well, I think with Al -- it's Olivier.

Q. Olivier, I'm sorry.

COACH DONAHUE: It's okay. I think that everyone thinks I'm mistaken. Obviously I want people to know his name and make sure the media down there know him, because obviously he's having a terrific year.

I think you are not off in terms of the offensive flow in one kid playing well and the other not. They are both really good with the basketball. Earlier there was times where Joe had it more. I think Olivier has it now.

I think the one thing that's probably stopping both of them from playing well: They just have not been consistent shooters from three. And I think they are both going to be 40 percent three-point shooters when it's all said and done.

Just had a lot on their plate playing 38, 39

minutes, guarding these kind of guards, getting worn down, inconsistent, mental fatigue has a little bit to do with shooting the ball from a distance. If both were consistently shooting the ball like they can, you would say they are both playing really well.

Joe Rahon played a terrific game at Miami; he didn't score. Made every right decision. He guarded; he rebounded. He's our leading rebounder. He's going to do those type of things. His inconsistency with shooting has just been his Achilles heel this year, two games where he's made six three, six for six and seven for seven. In practice, and when he's looking for his shot, he doesn't miss it.

I just think that's more of what you're saying. All those other things that come into play and just inconsistent shooting more than their overall play with both of them. But obviously I see what you're talking about when one guy is playing well one game and the other guy isn't.

Q. Last night, obviously Hanlan played very well, did you put the ball in his hands for the last play? He got a very good shot. Or was that the way the defense played him?

COACH DONAHUE: Typically I would run another quick hitter where we go through post and do some action. Duke was doing such a good job of not allowing us to enter the ball anywhere near the post, to the elbow -- run it to Ryan and get some action going. Didn't want to risk that. I also thought if they switched out, which they did, with a bigger guy; and I think Mike -- I didn't read his comments but he switched Plumlee off Anderson.

So the switch would be Olivier going against Plumlee; it was Olivier going against Sulaimon, and that was a good move. I still thought Olivier had the advantage, and he got in the lane. He's very good at those shots, just he didn't knock it down.

Q. Wake Forest has had such drastically different results home and away, do you look at coming to your place what they have done?

COACH DONAHUE: I think everybody has really had a hard time on the road this year. Typically it's difficult anyway. Historically if you look at this league, people say, why does it happen -- when I got here, I looked and there was three coaches in this league that had winning records on the road. I'm going to say that Gary Williams was just over .500 but it's Carolina and

Duke and no one else. Wake probably has more youth, and they feel really good at home.

I think we are more consistent team in terms of how we play at home and the road, which I'm glad we do that. But I don't know if I can bring this up at all, Wake is a team that obviously we have revenge for and we want to play really well. We didn't play well enough to win the game there and that's more my focus than my focus is, hey, they don't play well right now. That's not my focus.

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