



Joanne P. McCallie Postgame Quotes

Duke vs. Ohio State



November 30, 2017 // Cameron Indoor Stadium // Durham, N.C.

Duke head coach Joanne P. McCallie

Opening Statement

“Just a great basketball game. Again, another NCAA [tournament] game in November as we head into December. I loved the rebounding, the boards are very important to us, the rebounding is important, the differential is important. Erin (Matthias) and Leaonna (Odom) really came up big. That’s the first time this year we’ve had two double figure rebounders, that’s important to us as well. I thought Lexie (Brown) was just great, handling a lot of pressure and starting us off well and rebounding, which is very, very important. I thought Becca (Greenwell) just kept getting after and played very, very hard, really went after it in the second half. To hold them to 32% from the floor, that’s obviously a positive for us. We turned the ball over too much as you can see and that has to stop. That can really come back to haunt you and so we have to improve on that as we get into Sunday. But just really proud of the team for a hard-fought effort. They’re a very good team and we’re a very good team and it was a great game.”

On the ability to control the tempo of the game:

“That’s important leadership from our point guard, starting with Lexie and knowing when to go and knowing when not to go and also the transition defense. They average a lot of points, that team, and they can put up a lot of points, but I think our team did a great job playing off each other defensively and at the end really getting over screens that were being set and things that were getting in our way, particularly in the fourth quarter. We got better tonight. That was hard work, that was definitely a very physical game and it was hard work it is a great experience for us to go through that together.”

On Haley Gorecki’s performance tonight:

“Well she is huge. We have six starters, including Haley, and she just gives us enormous confidence off the bench and she can go off the bounce. She is not afraid to attack. You saw her initially go hard and score. She can certainly short the three ball, but those seven rebounds in 26 minutes, that is exactly the kind of game we needed from our guards and that’s probably the biggest thing sticking out to me. Of course, four assists are bad, and some of the other things that she did, but again she is a great player. She can really play the game and she has a lot to her game and I think the team enjoys playing off each other that way and she just gives us a lot and she had a great game.”

On scouting and Erin Mathias and Leaonna Odom shutting down Stephanie Mavunga:

“They get a lot of credit for that. She only had two offensive rebounds and she can get a lot of offensive boards in games and she had seven total and turnovers there too and that was a total effort. Erin and Leaonna, we were constantly yelling at them in various measures to guard and how to guard and get in front and they really answered. Despite the statistics you see, they’re excellent statistics, they were really doing some of the blue collar dirty work. It’s tough work down there and that’s important for them to know how they can do that and impose their will because that’s really what it was about.”

On lessons learned from a hard-fought victory:

“I just think the team has to go through those experiences and everyone has really stepped up. Lexie’s leadership has been outstanding, Becca’s as well, as well as Erin’s. Then we had something kind of magical happen today. Mikayla Boykin gets back in the game and gets two immediate steals out of nowhere. If you had any idea how much I’ve yelled at her for defense, I mean the poor child is probably wondering about things, but what I’m saying is when you have leadership and you have people fighting like Lexie started us off and got us going, then Becca is still in there battling away and not just relying on the three, but getting in and doing all those kinds of things, and Erin’s doing her thing, it hits other people. Haley did her thing and Mikayla comes in there, and I thought it was a critical part of the game to see her come in and do that.”