



# Duke Press Conference Quotes

## Duke Canada Tour



August 10, 2018 // Cameron Indoor Stadium // Durham, N.C.

### Duke Junior Center Marques Bolden

#### On being able to begin practice earlier this year

"It's fun. It's the things we play for, to be able to play in front of big crowds like we're going to in Canada. It should be a good test for us."

#### On this season being different for him compared to his first two seasons

"I feel like it'll be a lot different just because of my growth that I've had since I've been here. Coming in, a 17-year-old or 18-year-old me is a totally different person from me now, so I feel like it's going to be an exciting year."

#### On this team's identity

"It's kind of too soon to give this group an identity, but we're really versatile. We have a lot of guys that can play multiple positions so that's always good to not have stagnant players on the court."

#### On the impact of the new freshmen

"I've been impressed with how hard they work. Talent is going to always be there, and I've been around a lot of guys with a lot of skill, but it's rare to see guys at such young ages actually want to do the little things as far as coming in early and doing overtime work and stuff like that. That's really the thing that stands out the most."

#### On using this trip as an opportunity for the team to bond

"It will give us time to just be together. We really don't know each other's games right now and we just all got here since it's the summertime. So it's really good to just come out and play against some competition other than just ourselves in practice every day. This trip should be fun and we should grow a lot over these next couple of weeks."

### Duke Junior Forward Javin DeLaurier

#### On how he spent the offseason

"For the majority of the offseason before we got back to campus, I was actually in San Antonio, Texas, working with Justin Robinson and his father just trying to better my game and learn more about basketball especially from the mental side of things. I was also doing some things differently off the court in terms of conditioning, such as like kickboxing and yoga. I really had a great experience working out down there."

#### On his role for this year's team

"My role is to really be an upperclassman and lead these young guy as we battle through this challenging season. In terms of playing, it's a bigger step up for me personally, and in terms of fulfilling the team's needs. I'm excited about it and I feel prepared for it."

#### On leading the young guys

"Marques (Bolden) and I have a lot of moments like that where we kind of realize that we're the old heads around here now, which is funny because we feel like we just stepped on campus ourselves. Fortunately, these young guys have been tremendous so far. They've been an incredibly mature group, who's really ready to work and is tremendously talented. So they've made our job easy."

### **On the difference in this freshman class compared to previous classes**

"Every freshman class that has been here since I've been here has been tremendously talented. These guys are especially close I would say as a group. They work really hard and they're really willing to listen. I think that's been their biggest attribute so far. They're just soaking everything in, from coaches to players, they're just wanting to get better."

### **On what he hopes to get out of this trip**

"It's going to be an exciting time for us because it's one of the rare occasions where it's the first time we've gone abroad. It's going to be great for us, after six weeks of hard work, to play against somebody else and play in a real game. It'll be really fun and we're really excited."

### **Duke Freshman Forward R.J. Barrett**

### **On being able to go to his home country and play**

"It's really exciting. It's going to be a lot of fun, I get to go home and play in front of all my family and friends with my brothers. So I would say it's going to be a great experience."

### **On adjusting to being on campus so far**

"We did have summer school, so I guess that counts. The biggest adjust for me was trying to get used to the campus and get used to what the coaches want and expect me to do on the court. In terms of being away from home and living in the dorms, I'm used to that."

### **On playing with the other freshmen**

"It's very good to play with them. We all just make the right play and make the right pass. That's just how we play, so it's very easy to play with them."

### **On being an ambassador for Canadian basketball**

"I've played for Canada, and we've been able to achieve some great things. I just remember growing up and watching Andrew Wiggins, and I said that I wanted to do what he's doing. Now, I am doing those things and the younger generation is kind of looking at me."

### **On what he's learned in the short time he's been here**

"I'm just learning to adjust to a different level. You have players like Marques (Bolden) and you have players like Javin (DeLaurier). Javin is one of the hardest working guys that I've ever met in my life. You just learn new areas of the game. In high school everyone just wants to score and be the main guy, but I've realize that you don't have to score to be effective in the game."

### **On his first impressions as a kid of Duke basketball and American college basketball**

"Like any other kid, I always watched the top schools, so Duke was one of them and Kentucky was one of them. I just grew up watching these schools and for sure Duke was one of the schools I wanted to go to growing up, and now that I'm here it's amazing."