



# Joanne P. McCallie Postgame Quotes

## Duke vs. UNLV



December 6, 2018 // Cameron Indoor Stadium // Durham, N.C.

**Duke head coach Joanne P. McCallie:**

***Opening Statement:***

"I'm really proud of our second half in playing better and off each other. Rebounding, good. Defense, good throughout all four quarters. Offense, good throughout two quarters. It's very nice to have Mikayla [Boykin] back. I think you all could see the difference with a creative point-guard and her ability to see the floor and help other players as well. We're a work in progress. We're excited for the opportunity to play again on Sunday. I thought we got better in the second half offensively, and defensively throughout, making them struggle with opportunities at the basket."

***On end of semester academic struggles:***

"I appreciate that. As someone who was admitted to Duke and went to an academic institution, that's what you sign up for. That's why they're here. I will say to you that managing yourself is very important, and you have to get ready to play every night, no matter what, under any circumstances. We've all chosen to be here for that reason—the academic piece with the athletic piece. There is no excuse not to be ready to play, to put the uniform on, and be able to focus. It's a joy to play the game, an absolute joy. I know it didn't look like that all the time tonight. But I'm going to focus on the joy that Mikayla brought to the game, and the joy that Miela [Goodchild] brought to the game. I think Jayda [Adams] brings joy in the way she does things. That's the most important thing. Academically and athletically, this is what we all signed up for, and we have pride in it. There's finals and no finals, with plenty of time to study, and there's plenty of time to prep."

***On the defensive press:***

"I think they had a hard time making decisions. I think we played enough defensively where you take away passing angles a little bit, try to pack the paint. They were a penetrating team. That was a team that wanted to get to the basket. That was a team that wanted to dribble in the paint for pull-up J's. They did have some shooters, but they didn't have a lot of shooters. It was the polar opposite of Marist [College], the polar opposite game. Marist was one kind of game, and this was another kind of game. As a team, we have to be able to play any style at any time. That's what I really liked about the fourth quarter against Marist, the style we played there, and the second half here. If we're going to put together something, fourth quarter Marist and second half here. That's got to be more of the flavor that we do."

***On putting the ball in Mikayla's hands right away:***

"That's Mikayla's game. You saw what Miela can do in a hurry from the three-point line. We wanted to spread the floor and have penetration, to move the basketball. I love Mikayla's six assists. I was really trying to coach up making that easy pass. There were some other passes out there that Mikayla is capable of throwing and eventually will when timing gets right. We're obviously still working on timing. I like the fact that we have different people that can handle the ball. Miela can handle. Mikayla can handle. Neah [Leaonna Odom] has been doing her bit at point-guard. We got a little bit deeper tonight, and a little bit more creative. That's going to come into play, and it's certainly something we'll need for Sunday."

***On Haley [Gorecki]'s changing role to star scorer:***

"We teach a lot of patience and trying to let the game come to us a little bit. I think sometimes the first option is pushed. You want to work the ball enough, especially initially, so your shots are not as difficult, and then you can make difficult shots. You have to work on that. I love Haley's take to the basket, her competitive spirit, and all those things. She's just got to let it come to her a little bit more slowly. Not trying to get it right away. Just move the basketball, get a feel for the game. If someone's going to be up in her grill, let them be for the moment, and then change your speed. Sometimes you can go fast all the time, and it makes you a little bit easier to guard because I can kind of stay with you. So, I'd like her to change her speed a little bit, have some patience a little bit, and then I think great things will happen. And she still does very nice things, getting rebounds and everything else. I think it's a process for her and for her teammates as well, because we've got to find everybody in the right spots. It kind of falls on everybody."

***On what they're taking to the South Carolina game on Sunday:***

“Again, attack-mode, getting to the glass more. A game like Sunday is a physical battle. Rebounding is going to play an important part. We’re a little bit better rebounding today, especially with the little rebounds. It’s important that you have 6-7-5-4-4 [number of rebounds for starters]—a lot of different people rebounding. That’s going to be a key on Sunday for sure. Take the aggressiveness and the finding of each other, like the spot-up shots, Jayda to Miela, Miela to Jayda. Mikayla to somebody or somebody to Mikayla. You have to find each other. The penetrate kick is open in this game, as is the ball-reversal. Lots of times you can penetrate too far, and problems occur. You lose your spacing and you’re not moving as a team. We continue to work on those things.”

***On the number of substitutions in the first half:***

“Turnovers were the deal. If you’re going to turn the ball over 15 times in a half, I mean, come on. You can’t turn the basketball over. I also felt it was the opportunity to practice and try some players, get some people in and give them an opportunity. There are a lot of things in a game that you do not come out for, but at this point—15 turnovers in a half—we were on a 40 turnover pace if you look at the first quarter. You have to send a message that that is unacceptable, and we’re not going to have that. In the second half, obviously we had much fewer, and you saw the flow of the game. Turnovers are a special thing because it’s a four-point turnaround—the two-point opportunity that you give up and the two-point opportunity you give the other team. Every turnover is at least worth four points. That’s an issue. We’re going to stare that right in the face and move the ball better and take care of the ball better and find each other better. That’s what good teams do. If we have 10 to 12 turnovers per game, that’s a totally different game, and that’s something that we aspire to. We take care of the ball and play great team basketball. Not there yet, but getting signs, and getting better.”