

Atlantic Coast Conference

Operation Basketball

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Zach Auguste

Notre Dame Fighting Irish



Q. What's this transition been like? You guys lose obviously some leadership principles and things like that, but you bring back enough experience with you and Demetrius and Steve that you guys had a lot of success, so what's this off-season been like for you guys?

ZACH AUGUSTE: It's been good. I think we've been working very hard. We've been getting back to the basics.

Coach Brey emphasized us trying to come back for the season, restarting. We have to create our own out there. Pat and Garrick were a big part of our success last year and now we're just focused on rebuilding and restarting.

Q. Zach, you lose 27.8 points per game in scoring with the folks that's left. How do you get those 27 points back with the team that you have right now?

ZACH AUGUSTE: You know, we play efficient basketball and we play together, so I think it's going to be something that we handle as a team. Even though me and Demetrius, we take that role where we understand we've got to start putting more balls in the hoops. I think if we just continue to do that, I think we'll be fine.

Q. Do you feel pressure that you need to help that 27-point difference somewhere?

ZACH AUGUSTE: It's not pressure, but it's kind of like responsibility. If I just focus on rebounding and focus as a team to get the job done, I think we'll be fine.

Q. Who kind of flows into that void as best you can tell at this point?

ZACH AUGUSTE: You know, V.J. Beachem has definitely stepped up. Steve Vasturia and Austin, I think that's going to be our main group, but the whole team has been doing a good job. Everybody is confident, everybody is stepping up in practice. It's just one of those things.

Q. What is the carryover from winning the ACC like you did last year? Your coach was over the moon. You guys obviously -- is there any legitimate carryover from doing that and making that breakthrough?

ZACH AUGUSTE: We set high goals. One of our

goals, we go right back to the championship.

Obviously, we've got to focus game by game and take it day by day. So right now we want to focus on winning every game and possibly getting back there again.

Q. Last year as a team you only had 10 disqualifications or only 10 foul-outs during the entire year. You talked about the efficiency of the offense. What is it about Coach Brey's teachings that allow you to be so good on defense?

ZACH AUGUSTE: He always tells us to treat that ball like gold. We just learn the fundamentals and we take care of the ball. We do what we have to do. We don't have to outside ourselves. We play within ourselves and we play as a team, and I think us playing ourselves is a big part of that.

Q. Your pressure defensively allows you guys to play clean basketball. Where is that coming from in practice?

ZACH AUGUSTE: You know, just reps. We just continue to take reps on the defensive end and the offensive end and that's something that we continue to work on every single day in practice.

Q. (Inaudible.)

ZACH AUGUSTE: It's going to be difficult for teams to guard us now that we have possibly two bigs playing. So it might be a little bit of three out, two in, or four out, one in. And really we could stretch the floor. We have great shooters and we have a great leader in Demetrius Jackson as our point guard. So I think in his hands we'll be fine.

Q. Your approach at the podium makes it seem like we're businesslike. Is that normal personality?

ZACH AUGUSTE: No, I'm just comfortable. Obviously we've got to take this as serious as we can. This is my senior year, so I want to take every chance I get as serious as I can.