

Atlantic Coast Conference

Operation Basketball

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Trey Lewis

Louisville Cardinals

Q. It's not often that guys not only transfer into a new league but then are expected to be leaders on their team and represent their team at media day. How do you expect your transition of not just being players in the ACC but potential stars in the ACC to go?

TREY LEWIS: Well, before I get started I'd like to give honor to God. But to answer your question, I believe that me and Damion have been pretty much groomed for this moment, for this opportunity that we're coming into our fifth year. We've been playing a lot of ball, and we have a lot of experience to bring to this league and to our team. We've been doing that from day one right since we stepped on campus, so this feels really right. It feels like the right situation.

Q. Is that your MO? How does it feel when that basket looks about yea big?

TREY LEWIS: Yeah, the shooting the ball has always been a strength of mine, but you know, coming to this team, I think the biggest strength of mine is the leadership ability and just pulling guys along, showing them the ropes. We have a young team this year, and I think that's the biggest addition I add to this team is leadership, and along with Damion and Mangok Mathiang, we have three leaders, three captains on our team. That's very unique.

Q. There was a perception at your school that Coach hung you guys out to dry by sending you here without Coach Pitino. As players did you per receive it that way?

TREY LEWIS: Not at all. We understand why Coach isn't here. He's been advised by legal counsel to not talk about these matters that's going on. We understand why he's not here. He sent us because we are the leaders of this team, and we're here for that reason.

Q. When you say that leadership isn't one of your greatest problems, what is it about your leadership style that has you with confidence to say that?

TREY LEWIS: Well, I believe some leaders, there are people who say that some leaders are born with leadership qualities and leadership traits. I believe that it's true with me, but I also believe that through my experiences in life that what I've been through on different teams, I've played for also two other

organizations, Penn State and Cleveland State. I've got taught by some very, very great coaches, and I've always just been a leader since day one, since my first team that I've ever played on, just pulling guys along, knowing what players need at certain different times, and you know, just being not only there for just the basketball but leading men in general in life. I believe that's what I've been put here to do, so that's why I believe I'm a great leader.

Q. Can you speak to what this fifth year means to somebody like you, to have the ability to play at another institution for one season?

TREY LEWIS: Yeah. To me it's an unbelievable opportunity. You know, it's allowed me -- first of all, it's a platform. It's allowed me to further my education on. Now I'm in grad school. It's a great opportunity for somebody who's been through everything that I've been through, and I think it just allows you more open doors in your life.