

Indiana University Basketball Media Conference

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Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

Trayce Jackson-Davis

Postgame Media Conference



Rutgers - 66, Indiana - 63

TRAYCE JACKSON-DAVIS: Yeah, I thought they put a lot more emphasis in the second half on trying to take me away.

Q. Trayce, what do you remember about that last shot from Harper? Did you guys just not get up on him in time?

TRAYCE JACKSON-DAVIS: Honestly, I thought Race played a really good defense. I almost think he tipped the ball honestly. He was right there. Then Ron hit a tough shot. There's only so much you can do.

Q. What does that say about Parker that he can miss five threes in a row and step into that last one?

TRAYCE JACKSON-DAVIS: That's the first thing I told him when he got into the locker room. He was down on himself already, and I told him you missed three or four before then and you come up and hit a big shot like that, we're going to need that the rest of the year. Play with that confidence all the time.

Q. Trayce, I know you're close with Race. What was it like to see him get emotional after the game?

TRAYCE JACKSON-DAVIS: Race is my guy. To see him maybe playing his last game here, I mean, we were trying to pull for him. We were trying to pull that one out. We were sad for him, and my heart hurts for him. But at the same time, Coach Woodson says you've got to enjoy this last moment and soak it all in.

Just playing with him the last few years, that's my brother for life, man, and I can't say enough good things about him.

Q. Trayce, can you talk about it's basically tied with whatever it was, a minute left. What happened there? What turned it around for them?

TRAYCE JACKSON-DAVIS: I just think that they hit free

throws, then that flagrant whatever that happened -- I saw X get punched, and I didn't know if he retaliated. They hit two free throws, we hit two free throws. Then we come down, we miss one, but we get it back and hit a three. Then they come down. I think we should have probably come back and not pressed the ball in that situation, but at the same time, it's a learning experience for next time.

But Ron hit a tough shot and then bobbled the out of bounds, and that's that.

Q. Trayce, your thoughts on the NCAA Tournament? You guys are on the bubble. How disappointing is this? How do you approach it moving forward?

TRAYCE JACKSON-DAVIS: We have the NCAA Tournament, but that's not until after Purdue. So Purdue's the next game on our schedule. So that's what I'm going to worry about right now. Then after Purdue, I'll worry about the Big Ten Tournament. And then after all that's said and done, then we can talk about what's going on with the NCAA Tournament.

Q. What did they change in the second half? You got off to such a quick start.

TRAYCE JACKSON-DAVIS: I think it was the zone. I think that we should have probably got the ball inside and then kicked it to the other corners like we do. We usually don't struggle with the zone very much, but for some reason tonight we were just holding it at the top of the key too long, and I don't think the ball moved quick enough. So that was a big emphasis. I think the ball and the movement wasn't there. So that was that.

Q. Just to follow up on that, what's been the overriding theme in the second half? You guys have had a number of games, Iowa, Wisconsin, now this game, where you guys have had leads and haven't been able to hold it the final 20 minutes. What's been the overriding theme of why you guys haven't been able to close out some of these games?

TRAYCE JACKSON-DAVIS: I think it's -- obviously, we're not finishing games, but at the same time, we're in every

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game. It just comes down to the last, almost the last four minutes of the game. You've got to get that one stop. You've got to get that one possession because one possession can beat you.

Down the stretch, that's what we've got to hone in on, and we've got to focus on that last possession. We've got to get one stop. We've got to get one bucket to finish the game. That's big on my teammates, and I think when we watch film, we're going to see that.

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