

# Indiana University Basketball Media Conference

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Bloomington, Indiana, USA

## Gabe Cupps Jakai Newton

Postgame Media Conference



Indiana vs. Marian (Exhibition)

**Q. Gabe, I know all you guys have kind of watched what Jakai has gone through, trying to get healthy, trying to get back on the floor. It seemed like maybe the happiest moment on the bench is when he hits that one to end the first half. What does it mean as his teammate to watch him?**

GABE CUPPS: Back out there playing and contributing cup cup it means a ton just to see all he's been through, all he's been fighting for however many years.

But I couldn't be happier for him. Just always been rooting for him to try to get back on the court. Try to do his thing because I know he's a great player, and how much he loves the game. It's amazing to see.

**Q. Jakai, how did it feel for you out there on the court in a game, not a team scrimmage, not practice, an actual game, and just sort of what were the things that made you feel good just working with this group?**

JAKAI NEWTON: It was just great to be out there. It's been so long, just realizing that practice shape and games is two different things. I've got to get adjusted to that.

But I feel good from being in practice, and I think it will translate as the season goes on.

**Q. Jakai, Coach Woodson has always been trying to correct us a little bit about how good you and Trey are both feeling. In your mind, how do you feel physically? Do you put a percentage on it as to where you're at?**

JAKAI NEWTON: I would say I'm 100 percent. I've been limited in practice by the coaches just to keep me healthy but I feel 100 percent.

**Q. Gabe with, Bryson Tucker, what stuck out the most**

**as you guys started coming back for practice and starting up the season?**

GABE VINCENT: I would say his ability to score the ball. He's just a scorer at heart. He's always trying to get a bucket and just his confidence. He plays with the ease and a flow that's very rare for somebody as a freshman coming in.

So the sky is the limit for Tuck. I think he can do whatever he sets his mind so to.

**Q. I want to say, you all were 6-of-25 from three, and 4-of-19 last weekend. How concerning is that in your guys' eyes?**

GABE CUPPS: I'm not concerned with it. We have great shooters on the team. We are going to make shots. We trust it. Coaches trust it. Those are going to fall. We know it will.

**Q. Following up on Bryson, just like, it sounds simplistic but how important is his energy and activity? Seems like off the ball he's constantly moving into space, attacking the rim and finding places where he can get the ball in good spots. How advanced is that for somebody his age?**

JAKAI NEWTON: He's definitely advancing. He's super athletic and he can get to his mid-range and he can shoot the ball. He can be a key player for us going through the season.

**Q. Since Myles Rice has come in, what's been the biggest thing that he's helped both of you with since coming in?**

GABE VINCENT: Myles is just a great leader, great person. Obviously he's a great basketball player. But I mean, he's done a great job of just bringing energy and life to our team, and then just playing great basketball. He plays the right way. Makes the extra pass. Attacks. Get in transition. But yeah, he's been really good for us, and I think he's only going to get better throughout the season.



**Q. For either of you, we knew Oumar would dominate inside but when you see his passing ability, what dimension does he bring to your offense?**

JAKAI NEWTON: Brings a whole other level. He's a guy that brings so much attention just by himself. Him being able to kick the ball out to the open man, it's important for us.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports.

