Davis, Knight quotes from Tuesday's press conference

Blue Raiders nearing season opener

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Men's basketball head coach Kermit Davis
Opening comments...
"We've got 11 of our top 13 guys back and a lot of experience. We've had a lot of fun coming in the gym with them every day. I like our team. It's the most mature and experienced team we've ever had.
It'll be one of the most challenging non-conference schedules in basketball."

On RPI...
"We have set up a tough schedule, and they understand winning is obviously the most important thing. But, sometimes, you can have really good losses by playing a tough schedule."

On expectations...
"We have high expectations and we enjoy that, but we don't embrace the expectations. That's for the fans and for selling tickets. We've just got to try and get better every day. I love going to the gym with our team. We've got a lot to work on in a lot of different areas, but I think that's fun to be talked about in that matter, especially at our level."

On team chemistry...
"I'm a firm believer that each team, no matter how many guys you have coming back, creates its own, or recreates its own identity. We've got six seniors, and all six seniors have started games. Not many teams in college basketball that can say they've got six seniors, and all six have started games."

On excitement for the season...
"I don't think I ever had (this much excitement). I enjoy college basketball, this is my 30th year, but I really have. The main thing is not so much that we have to prove ourselves, but just the guys I know that were coming back on our team. We're not perfect by any means, but it's just a lot of fun going

into the gym with those guys."

Senior guard Marcos Knight

On importance of being the No. 1 guy...

"Not at all. We're a team, we go to the gym every day as one big family. We treat each other like brothers."

On last year's identity carrying over...

"It carries over. Like coach said, we've got a lot of seniors coming back and guys who have played a lot of minutes. Our identity for this year is going to be the same as last year. Basically, we've got to defend and share the basketball, and try to win games."

On pressure...

"I think it's a good pressure. We thought we were an NCAA team last year, and in the NIT we had a really good run and beat Tennessee. We're not trying to prove ourselves to anybody, we just go out and play hard every night like last year and win a bunch of games as well."

On taking constructive criticism...

"Coach Davis is going to be on us every day hard, and whenever our coaches get on us, we take it as them helping us be better players and not just coming down on us all the time. Being coachable is something we talked about in the off-season as well, just saying yes sir, no sir anytime they say something to us."

On playing with his brother, Trantell Knight...

"It's really special. He knows me like the back of my hand, and I know him like the back of his hand. I expect more out of him, and he expects more out of me."

Ready to get going with the season...

"We've been working hard the whole summer and have been through a lot of individual work. Everything we do is to get better than last year."

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