



Mike Krzyzewski Postgame Quotes

Duke vs. Elon



November 10, 2017 // Cameron Indoor Stadium // Durham, N.C.

Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski:

Opening Statement:

“This was a good win for us. We beat a really good team. Matt (Matheny) has done such a good job in building his program and with them having their five starters returning, we knew defensively we were going to be challenged. That’s the thing I’m most proud of our team, I thought we really played well defensively. We switched one through five which is something we would do when Amile (Jefferson) was at the five and so Wendell (Carter Jr.) did that really well. Then the foul trouble, he had put us in some situations that we hadn’t practiced much, where we played a lot of guys tonight. I thought Javin (DeLaurier) did a good job tonight, 11 rebounds. Trevon (Duval) had 8 assists, no turnovers. Good overall, just a good job against a very good basketball team and now we have to have the maturity to turn it around. Utah Valley was ahead of Kentucky at halftime, they probably lost by eight or 10 points, but they’re big; 7 feet, 6’11, three transfers. It’ll be different, it’ll be an older, big team, so we’ll get challenged two nights in a row. Today was good, real good. Update on Marques (Bolden): he has severe strep throat. He has been out all week and maybe just a little bit better today, but he definitely will not play tomorrow. I don’t see how he could play by Tuesday because he has been out so long, but we have get him well. Wendell getting in foul trouble and him out, that’s not the dynamic we would want. We would like to rotate with those three guys and maybe Javin on the perimeter and inside and we weren’t able to do that tonight, but it was still good. We got a lot of minutes for some kids and they did well. Our crowd was great, it was good to get started.”

On the performance of the freshmen:

“Well, that’s my whole team, that’s a lot of them. They didn’t play nervous. That’s why we like playing those exhibition games, because you’re not going to be nervous in a scrimmage, but in a game with a crowd you can be. In the first game with Northwest Missouri State, we were nervous for about 10 minutes and since then they are right there. Marvin (Bagley III) played fabulously and Grayson (Allen) came out and just lit it up. To me, the best part of the game was the start of the second half because any team, but a young team, when you’re up by 20 you can get fool’s gold there, but instead we played great. It wasn’t Grayson shooting, it was us playing well. The freshmen did really well.”

On the connectivity of the team:

“It means you are looking for one another and you have each other. Connected does not just mean offensive connection, in fact, it’s better defensive connection. When you’re connected, it means when one person talks, you don’t say something, you command and the other person does it. Pretty good job tonight because they do a lot of actions. Offensively, they do look for one another and the fast break 3 for us these first few contests has been really good.”

On allowing the team to find its identity:

“I’m trying not to over-coach them so we learn what being on stage does. With guys that I’ve coached, you already know, but I don’t want to put too much in. We have to have some structure, but it’s like with Marvin, what we find is that you get him the ball low and something good is going to happen, or something good can happen. I thought we were watching him a little bit to begin with and I think if you’re moving, he’ll find you, too. For a couple plays you saw he and Wendell connect. They’ve really connected well in practice because they can both play and pass. Grayson really loves playing with these kids and they really get along well. They enjoy playing and I don’t want to make it too heavy for them.”

On team chemistry:

“I think it is what I say a lot over the years when we recruit kids and someone says, “well they already have a really good player, why would you come?” and you come because you’ll play. If you’re a pitcher that can throw 100 mph, we have a catcher that can catch it, and not only catch it, but they’ll ask you to throw another pitch, too. In other words, you don’t hold back. It brings out something different. It happens all the time, it happens in theater, and music, and sport. Talent makes talent better, it just does. That does something that a coach can’t do, and they love it. There are some exciting plays those kids have made, and we didn’t draw them up. They just see it, and it brings it out of them. And if that brings it out of them, then they’re a little more aggressive in other aspects of their game.”

On reaching 1000 wins at Duke in the near future:

“I love Duke. I don’t like Duke, I love Duke, and I’m so lucky to be here for this time. I’ve been at two great schools, West Point and Duke, and I’ve coached the U.S. team, so three pretty good gigs because you’re always around great people. Obviously the history, and we’ve helped build a tradition here that attracts really good people. If it attracts really good people everywhere, it’ll attract not only good players, but really good players who are good people. And it keeps you young. I’m proud every day of coaching at Duke. I don’t have a timetable for how long I’m going to coach, but I try to just be in this moment right now.”