



Mike Krzyzewski Postgame Quotes

Duke vs. Utah Valley



November 11, 2017 // Cameron Indoor Stadium // Durham, N.C.

Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski:

Opening Statement

“That was a nice thing on the court to share. I’ve just been very lucky to be here and you see (Shane) Battier and (Mike) Dunleavy and all the guys on my staff and we’ve had a lot of really good players. They’ve all become like our family, so that’s been cool. Anyway, now we can move on. We’ve had all the 1K t-shirts, now let’s just talk about the game. So, the game, we beat a good team. They’re men; they knocked us back in the first eight minutes. Our guys, they’re young, they haven’t been in a game like that and they really executed well. They had six offensive rebounds, I think, in the first four minutes, and our guys were grabbing things with one hand and they were just outplaying us. The second media timeout, we just talked to our team about the fact that this is the way it is. It isn’t like the other games. This is better, you’re going to feel better about playing in a game like this, but we have to play in a game like this, which means we have to be there every play. They really responded, and even though we were in foul trouble with Trevon (Duval) and Grayson (Allen), our bench, (Alex) O’Connell and Javin (DeLaurier) really came alive. We didn’t know that Marques (Bolden) was going to play until this morning. He hasn’t worked out all week because he has been sick, but we got a lift and then we really passed the ball well. Trevon is 20 and 1 (turnovers to assists) in the first two games. When we get the ball, with two hands, we can really change ends well. It reminds me of my teams in the early 1990s, how quickly they change ends, and then they like to pass and more than one guy can bring it up. With Grayson and Gary (Trent Jr.), you have the threat of the three, and then these big guys can really run. We got a lot of offense and we got 33 points off of turnovers as we change quickly. Good stuff, we have to get rested. We will have a non-contact, short preview for Michigan State tomorrow and then we have a practice here and travel on Monday and that will be a big-time game for us.”

On having so many difference makers on the team:

“You don’t know it until they do it. Like Wendell (Carter Jr.) was disappointed yesterday because he got in all that foul trouble, although I thought he still played well, he wasn’t really satisfied. Then he had four blocks for that stretch there and he really dominated and we won about four possessions and kind of broke it open and he was the culprit, in a good way. The fact that he could do that with rebounding and blocking shots, not just scoring. We have good players, they just have to keep growing up and stay healthy.”

On strategy for foul trouble and maturation process:

“I’ve never been a proponent of ‘you get two fouls and you sit.’ If you do that, I’m going to try to get two fouls on your best player because then you’re going to defend him the rest of the half, I don’t have to defend him. I’ve never subscribed to that, guys have to learn how to play. Now we change defenses to help in that regard, when we went to 12, our zone, but then they have to learn that, the discipline of playing. If they did get a third foul in the first half, then this is the time of the year when we have to teach that. We’ve always done that. I won’t mention team names, but we’ve won some big games with going after a key player, knowing that someone is going to put him on the bench. Hopefully we put that as one of the commandments that we don’t obey, some will obey it.”

On additional conditioning to get Bagley up to speed before the season:

“He (Marvin Bagley III) is really an exceptional kid. You could have somebody, or somebodies, on a team feeling like, “oh, he’s going to take my place,” and then when they saw him play, they said, “well, that’s not my place, he is really good. I have a place, but it’s not his.” And then he is a good guy and he works his butt off. He is a dream really to coach, like the other kids. He just wants to win and he wants to get better, he wants to learn. The guys see that and no problem. If somebody is given something and they haven’t earned it, then you have a problem. He has earned everything, including the respect of all his teammates.”

On advice to freshmen before the Michigan State game:

“Not to let the moment defeat them, let the moment excite them. It’ll be the biggest game that all of those freshmen have played in thus far. It’s not the McDonald’s game, even some of our guys have played for the U.S., but it won’t be in that

type of setting and against that level of team when they were younger. It's the first really marquee game for them and I just want them to enjoy the moment, be immersed in the moment, don't worry about mistakes. Then it's a matter of letting them play and then if we see anything, kind of like today at the second timeout, you see it going in another direction just say settle down, let's play. But our guys will be very excited. I've watched a little bit of them, we haven't studied them yet, but they're old and new. They had good old, really good old, and good new. And the guy coaching them, he's older, not as old as me, but he's pretty good. It'll be a hell of a night."