



Opponent Postgame Quotes

Duke vs. Utah Valley



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

Opponent head coach Mark Pope:

Opening Statement:

"I'm not sure how much there is to say, you guys. This is a really good Duke team, as everybody in the country already knows. They're really physical inside, they have a couple of guards who are assassins from the perimeter, they have a point guard that's really a play-making point guard and who kind of has got enough savvy to pick and choose his times. I was really proud of my guys. We kind of hung in there for maybe the first 15 minutes and it was kind of a slew of runs and we kind of battle it out but it was a good team, we feel fortunate to have the opportunity to come here and play and congratulations to Coach (Mike) Krzyzewski. You know, he's really working on what has been the all-time greatest coach in college basketball and I know tonight was a big night for him and his thousand wins so congratulations to him and this great Duke team."

On Akolda Manyang's performance:

"Yeah, he was really good. He really carried us through some points in this bit where we were stuck, trying to figure out some zone offense on the fly here. Go figure, right, that we would see this much zone from Kentucky and from Duke. But he was a great force of the night. His numbers, of course, are outstanding, six assists and two turnovers is outstanding as much as he was hitting in the double team, as much as we were going to him and everybody in the gym knew we were going to him. He ends up six-for-11, 12 rebounds. He is an extraordinary young man and he's been through a lot and he's trying to figure out his life right now. I would put him up there as perhaps one of the best interior forces in the country. I just think in the last 24 hours, he had 12 rebounds tonight, 10 in the first half and he had, we had seven blocks last night against Kentucky and he's really, really impressive and he's taken a great leadership role on our team, special guy."

On if he believes the team got what he wanted out of the two-game trip:

"Yeah, I think we did, I really do think we did. What I think we got a dose of was we had so many things we wanted to get out of this trip, one of them being we wanted to go see what the best look like and felt like and we wanted to see them in a really concentrated period of time and I think we got a really good vision of that. I mean, Kentucky and Duke are certainly two of the top teams in the country. I think that we felt probably more so in the Kentucky game last night when we were a little bit fresher, I think we felt like for a large portion of that game, we were able to kind of stand toe-to-toe. This game, I think we had a shorter time where we felt like that but I think we have a very good understanding now of what these elite teams are like and I think we have a pretty good vision of what we want to work towards in the next five months and I think all of our guys deep in our core believe that we can get there and there's some, probably some percentage of them that's like man, these guys are really good too right, and that's why we got to battle but the fact that we got to see it and do it and be here is great for us. So, from purely a basketball standpoint, I think we got exactly what I wanted out of it, because I think our guys are walking away from this thinking, you know what, we have some belief, like we know there are things that we can get done at the highest level and we also know there's a lot of things we need to work on and shore up and really grow and I like that too, right. My guys are going to roll into practice tomorrow, thinking there's some things we got to get better at, right, and I really like that, and they're going to walk into practice tomorrow and feel like you know there's some things that we can do at the highest level and I think that's exactly what we hoped to get."

On the zone offense:

"Yeah, we'll face a bunch of zones, certainly Iowa State and upcoming games. They probably have a little bit of a different zone., probably not going to be 6'11" wing span point guards and 7'6" wingspan three-men but yeah, that's something that we are really going to get to work on and you know, we've got to work on the pace of our game. We've spent so much time, rightfully so, just trying to make sure our defensive fundamentals are right. We really haven't got to the pace of our game, it would have helped us in a game like tonight if we could have just force the pace a little bit more, so those are some things we'll need to work on and get better at, and I'm talking to my guys, we'll address it and we'll get there."