



Mike Krzyzewski Postgame Quotes

Duke vs. Southern



November 17, 2017 // Cameron Indoor Stadium // Durham, N.C.

Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski:

Opening Statement:

“Obviously we didn’t play very well tonight. Part of it had to do with, a big part, was how well they played and another part of it is just how we had to manage this week. I’m not sure if you realize you have to give a day off every week to kids. If you have a three-game week, which we have almost a four-game week next week, we can’t give a day off, so then you either have to give two days off either the week before or the week after. We can’t give it the week after because we have another bunch of games; we have nine games in 20 days and a travel day doesn’t count as a day off. So, we won a big game, and then we had to give them two days off. We came in this morning to practice at 7:30 and we weren’t sharp tonight. We knew that was just what we had to do. This team didn’t play like it has practiced or played this year. We did get a couple really good performances, like Marques (Bolden) gave us a big lift in the second half. Alex (O’Connell) I thought played well. Trevon (Duval) continues to play well, but we had more turnovers than assists tonight and there wasn’t a good flow, even though our bigs put up good stats and they did a good job there was something missing tonight and you can’t take that time off like that and expect to maintain that high level. So, we’ll get in here tomorrow, we can practice tomorrow, and Sunday, because we’ve already given them two days off, we can practice every day now for about nine days, although we’ll be playing for four of them. Hopefully the commission will look at that. The screwy thing about that is we get 30 days to practice at the start of the season and 42 days, which gives every coach the latitude to do whatever. Basically, we should do that once the season starts because of TV and tournaments and all that kind of stuff it doesn’t necessarily fit this formula that was made by people who don’t coach. We should just get a certain amount of days we give them off per semester and then everybody would do that. Enough about that, but just to get you acquainted with our world and if you have any questions I’ll be happy to answer them.”

On changes to practice after this performance:

“We just go back to basics. Our kids have been great. Every once in a while some of the articles I read that you guys write aren’t very good, as good as other articles, and then what do you do when you aren’t satisfied? We don’t want to completely go back to the drawing board. We just want to be how we’ve been and we weren’t that way tonight. Nothing sensational, just let’s go. I thought we were a little bit out of shape but not running for a good couple days and it doesn’t take you long to get out of game shape. So, we have to do that because we play a really good Furman team here Monday and then take off the next day for Portland and they’ll be good games out there.”

On message in the early timeout:

“Well guys were leaking out. When a shot was taken on defense, we should have five guys on the boards and there weren’t five guys on the boards. Guys were trying to get down the court quick, just not the way we play.”

On Jeff Capel returning to the bench tonight:

“We’re fine, we’re just trying to make sure we’re doing everything we can to help Jeff (Capel) and his family deal with the grief of losing a great man. I think it was tough for him not to be at the game in Chicago. He was here Thursday and actually it was kind of really good. We usually have a scout, they have a scouting tape, and we’re reviewing that and he just took what we call the cowboy and boom, he said number 12 does this, and he had it all down and I think that helps. He’ll be with us for practice tomorrow and then he’ll leave and go back and the service will be on Sunday afternoon and our whole staff and team will go down. It’s tough, but we don’t want to use that as an excuse for tonight, separate issues.”

On allowing the freshmen freedom to choose plays:

“It is just by feel. Usually when you let them go, they’re unified and flowing together and then they’ll make decisions, make reads, based on how all of them are interacting. I thought tonight, a number of things they did were based on how they were reacting, individually, so you saw some not-so-smart plays. That’s why they’re human beings, young human beings.”