



Duke Postgame Quotes

Duke vs. South Dakota



December 2, 2017 // Cameron Indoor Stadium // Durham, N.C.

Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski

Opening Statement

"We beat a good team today. You can see why they won their conference and I was really pleased with the first half, obviously. We came out from that 20-day, nine-game stretch and I thought we played really well. In the second half, obviously we didn't play well, but we were also not playing everybody. I was trying to get playing time for the bench and probably we would've looked a little better if we put (Marvin) Bagley and Grayson (Allen) back in. I thought we got a lot out of the afternoon and we beat a good team and they have a chance to be an NCAA [tournament] team and he (Craig Smith) does a great job with his squad. That was a good game for us."

On difficulty coaching during the strenuous playing schedule

"Well, it is what it is. I actually thought, even though we didn't have contact yesterday, we had a really good practice. It wasn't that long, but it was very enthusiastic, and that's how we came out, that's how we played or it wouldn't have been 56 to 30 at halftime. We played really well. And then the second half, I think part of it is me making changes but also them not giving up. But I needed to get some playing time for our bench and I wish we would've played better in the second half but that's part of the development. We'll learn from that; we have to play Tuesday again, so we will give them off tomorrow. The other thing is these guys are far behind in some of the academic work. Next week is the last week of school for the semester and then exams, but for a number of classes you have to turn in some projects or papers or sometimes that week is every bit as difficult, depending on your schedule, as exams. We're entering a two-week period here that it's not just about basketball. They have some stuff going on for them. Again, we're not that far behind, but they have a lot of work to do. Again, how much space is there to learn? We have to pick our spots. It's a long season. I think it's December 2 and we've played 10 games. We've actually, in the last month, played more than we've practiced Grayson. But overall, they've done a really good job. I'm pleased with my team."

On Grayson Allen's performance guarding Matt Mooney

"Well (Matt) Mooney is a heck of a player and he only had three (points) today. Last year he was their leading scorer and he shot the ball 200 more times than any of his teammates, and rightfully so. If I was his coach, he would've shot at least that much more than his teammates. That's what he's been doing this year, and he just had 30 two nights ago, and Grayson really took it upon himself to play him hard. And Grayson is a good defender, but then Grayson wasn't on him all the time. Our team just had to focus on that and that helped us."

On whether expectations were met during the previous stretch of games

"Those are legitimate questions. I want to win and play great. That's what I want, but I don't have this plan like by December 3rd we're going to be here or have this much in because it doesn't work that way. We've won and we've played, at times great, but at other times young and hopefully we play great more than the other, and we have. But we've gained a lot of experience. I think what we've learned is we have two of the exceptional players in America in Marvin and Grayson. And Trevon (Duval) overall has done a really good job at the point and Wendell (Carter Jr.), we have to keep him out of foul trouble, it totally impacts his game. Gary (Trent Jr.), he didn't play well today and I think the shooting has affected him and it didn't affect him in these big wins. That just happens, and they're human beings. I thought Javin (DeLaurier) really gave us a good jolt today. Overall, look we're 10-0, with this schedule, it's been really good. Can it be better? Yeah. Can it be worse? Hell yes, it can be a lot worse. It can be a hell of a lot worse, but it can't be better."

On gauging comfort with giving bench players minutes

"Sometimes just a couple plays a kid makes is the jumping off point to be better, not number of minutes. The biggest thing I have to develop is my starting five. They're going to play. That's like whatever portfolio you have or whatever business, the people who are going to play the most need to have a chemistry and do that. I've been spending most of my time developing those starting five and for these kids, like Alex (O'Connell) has given us good minutes, Javin is a good player and really made some good hustle plays today, and then Marques (Bolden) gave us a little bit different presence, so we're trying to add those guys to the starting five, and see is Jordan Goldwire or [Justin Robinson] or somebody else is there. But, still, the main people are those top guys. But today I wanted to give extended minutes just to see and it's a little bit of a reality check for a kid coming off the bench."