



Duke Postgame Quotes

Duke vs. North Carolina



February 8, 2018 // Dean E. Smith Center // Chapel Hill, N.C.

Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski

Opening Statement

"It was really a hard-fought game. I thought our kids responded really well from a really bad performance on Saturday. I mean the first half I thought we played a little bit better than they did, and we fouled right at the end of the half a couple of times. I thought we should have been up by about eight. We were playing that well. Then the start of the second half, they played great, and we were awful. Even after calling a timeout, we were not good and so they got that double-digit lead. I think it was a 14-0 run and then you are playing behind and our kids play hard to put us in a position a couple times when you have the ball and you are three points down. We just weren't able to convert. I think the story through the last 15 minutes of the game was defensive rebounds by us. They had 15 offensive rebounds in the second half. That was an incredible stat for them. It shows how hard they were going after it. We knew that coming in. That's what they do, even their perimeter guys. They rebound well. The initial defensive is actually pretty good and then you give second chances and that means that they are on defense for a long time. You play defense and then you are on defense again, but they played an excellent game. We had our opportunities. We just weren't able to capitalize."

On playing three big guys to help with rebounding

"We tried to look at that at practice. We would have looked at that earlier if Marques [Bolden] wasn't hurt for that long, not a long look, but something that might be a light different for us."

On staying with this line-up

"We'll see. We are trying a few different things. Marques did well. He gave us a huge lift in the first half. He still isn't in the optimum playing shape that he hopefully will be in soon. He did a good job for us."

On his team's defense

"Well on defense you have to rebound the ball. It's the completion of the play. Even sometimes when they got the rebound, we protected the rim well and got huge blocks to cut the lead and maybe take the lead and maybe win the game. The big story was their offensive rebounding."

On his players getting tired

"I don't think so. You get tired of them getting offensive rebounds, I will say that. When you have to play that long on an offensive possession over and over again. I thought Alex [O'Connell] did a good job coming off the bench for us. And we were in a little foul trouble."

On freshman shock for the Carolina-Duke rivalry

"I don't think that was our problem because it would have happened in the first half. You are concerned about it. It is the first time for a number of these kids. At times this year when we haven't played well we haven't executed what we have diagramed. At the start of the second half we did not execute what we had diagramed at half time. Then boom, boom, boom. When you don't that means you get confused because what you said you were gonna do you're not doing and all of a sudden that can lead not only to a poor offensive possession but poor defense and transition. Especially in younger guys. And they hit everything. They are fast. Really fast pushing the ball down."