



Duke Postgame Quotes

Duke vs. Virginia Tech



February 14, 2018 // Cameron Indoor Stadium // Durham, N.C.

Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski

Opening Statement:

"We really played well tonight. That was 40 minutes of good basketball. Our guys were really good, and we beat a really good team. Psychologically for them, they're coming off of a huge win, so it's tough to do that. Defensively, we only gave up the number of points, but we only gave up three offensive rebounds. We usually give up three offensive rebounds in the first two possessions of the game. So, our perimeter really did a good job. They're such a good defensive team, they take away the middle, they take away the lane. So, we told Gary (Trent Jr.) and Grayson (Allen) just shoot, you're going to get shots. Don't worry about it, they're 12-24 from three. Then Javin (DeLaurier), he gave us a huge boost, he was a big-time player tonight. We're doing something different these last two games with Grayson being more on top and in control and then in certain sets, Trevon (Duval) gets it, but it also puts Trevon in the side where we can get side penetration. We haven't had side penetration the whole year. The defense has to come out on Grayson, so it gives you a side. We're making that adjustment now with our team and finding out more about our team. I thought Trevon played really well, too. Just proud of my team, our ninth conference win, which is sensational. We're in the NCAAs now; we're bowl eligible. In basketball it's a lot harder to get bowl eligible, but we are now, and hopefully we can keep getting better."

On decision to play mostly zone defense this game:

"We went in figuring we would play the whole game in zone. We will play a lot more zone; that'll be pretty much our primary defense, complemented by man. They're a tough team to press, even containment press, because they spread out, so we'll do a little bit of that. We're developing as a team and we have to keep figuring it out before March."

On defensive effort and strong communication tonight:

"Well, it was the best defensive effort, but also, that's a good point, we stress talk. The three systems you try to teach are offense, defense, and communication and the first two are helped if you have the third one. But defensively, especially in zone, if you're talking you'll be wider, it's just human nature. When you talk you become wider, you just do. If you don't talk, your hands are down and you're not moving as well. And our guys, that's what we're stressing and in the zone, in order for it to be played well, has to have that. And we've had that."

On the performance of Virginia Tech's Justin Robinson:

"Well, he got in some foul trouble, too. Look, he's a sensational player. I know his dad real well. I think he's played probably as well as any guard in the league. He was a big point of emphasis and they didn't get many runs. Usually, that was the first thing, is to make them a half court team because he and (Chris) Clarke, just motor that thing down and you can foul them a lot there. In the zone, we tried to make sure that we didn't just have one guy on him, but you have a man and a half, so there wouldn't be a gap for him to penetrate. For one game, it turned out okay. That's a kid any coach would love to coach. He's a big-time player."

On Gary Trent Jr.'s recent performance:

"Well, if you want to do something at this level and the next level, you better get quicker, because the athletes are quicker and they're bigger. Speed and length are the two things that you have to adjust to as you move forward, whether it be at whatever level of collegiate competition, non-conference into conference, length and speed are important. He's done that, but he's practiced it, too. Actually, I thought he should've taken a few more shots in the first half, and he wasn't ready to shoot as much. We talked to him and told him you have to be ready to shoot and just shoot it. It's not just the release, it's the preparation. Sometimes if you're prepared, then it goes. If you catch it and have to prepare and then shoot, the defense has a chance to recover. He's done a real good job of it."

On Grayson Allen's performance:

"Look, he's our leader and we've had him off the ball a lot. He's tried to lead from there, but then the ball is not in his hands, so he is trying to lead, but when he does get the ball, it's after you've led and it's not like coming off of something as much as it should be. With the ball in his hands, he can make plays, he can call plays, and he's in more command. These last two games, that's a big change for us. That's what we need to do, we need to keep trying to look at things to get better."

On team stepping up in Marvin Bagley III's absence:

"Marvin is getting better, but you just have to be careful, and that's what we're trying to be, and that's what he's trying to be. It has been really good performances because look, he has been pretty good for us, he's averaging a high double-double and all of a sudden it's not there. We've had a chance to look at some other things now and when he comes back, we have a chance to be a better team."