



Duke Postgame Quotes

Duke vs. Clemson



February 18, 2018 // Littlejohn Coliseum // Clemson, S.C.

Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski

Opening Statement

"That was a really tough ACC game. I thought both teams played their hearts out. Both teams are suffering from some injuries. Clemson has two guys out, but the guys on the court just put their hearts on the floor. It was tough to score points today. I thought both teams played outstanding defense and points were tough to come by. When we got that 10-point lead, we got a couple good looks and we weren't able to knock them down and they stayed in with it and then all of a sudden it's a tied game. Our kids responded. Gary's (Trent, Jr.) three free throws were huge. I think both teams were tired at the end, we're really tired. To play those last two minutes like that, with a young group, some of these young guys, they grew up a little more today. Our defensive rebounding was outstanding. (Javin) DeLaurier, you talk about a kid who scores two points and gets 10 rebounds, he was a key guy for us today. Our defense was really good and it has been. We've become a pretty good defensive team."

On how the team has responded to Marvin Bagley III's absence:

"Spectacularly. They don't even talk about it because it's us. Look, Clemson's lost two, I'm not trying to minimize that. But for us, that's three wins without a kid that's arguably as talented as there is in the country. He's coming along so hopefully it'll be soon. But it has given opportunities for Marquese (Bolden), Javin, Jack (White), Jack did a good job for us that normally he wouldn't have. Javin played 30 minutes in a game and starting in February, that's invaluable experience going forward."

On Grayson Allen's play:

"Since Marvin's been out, we've switched his role. We kind of flip-flopped it today based on matchups, but for the most part he's bringing the ball up and he can be in control of the team. As our leader, that puts him in a more prominent spot and the kids respond a little bit better. (Trevon) Duval played a little bit better today. But I'm proud of Grayson. I think he's had three of his better games since Marvin's been out. He's really gone forward. Our free throw shooting was really excellent. I think Grayson was nine for nine. When you get some free throws in this game, it was really a tough game. Both teams played so hard."

On defending Gabe Devoe:

"I think we're fortunate he missed a few. Our main attention was on Devoe and (Marcquise) Reed so it left other people open. They're right at the top of the scouting report, you go Devoe and Reed, make sure where those guys are. I think we're playing our zone very well and talking better in our zone than in man. They were able to communicate where those guys were and then we were able to react. He missed a couple. He's been so good. He doesn't hit a shot and then he hits the biggest shot of the game. If they win, you're going to be talking about Devoe's three from the corner after he goes whatever he was. We're fortunate that he didn't have the shooting night that he normally does."

On extending the zone defense:

"A little bit. They went inside a little bit more. Our goal was to minimize the threes, especially for those two kids. Reed, as he does, the last four minutes of games is Reed's time. He just started, a three-point play, moving and so we tried to work on stopping his penetration."

On Wendell Carter, Jr.'s second half performance:

"Wendell really learned a lot today because it was a man's game inside in the first half. It was really physical. As a young player, you get more worn out and you can get knocked back. Grayson talking to him and the guys showing confidence in him, he responded. He didn't play bad in the first half; it was just tough to score. In the second half, it was very good and he made that one bucket to put us up five which gave us a two-possession lead. In a game like this, two possessions is huge."