



Duke Postgame Quotes

Duke vs. Louisville



February 21, 2018 // Cameron Indoor Stadium // Durham, N.C.

Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski

Opening Statement

"Before I start, there's a distinguished gentleman in the back [Mike Patrick], who, after 35 years of representing ACC, college football, college basketball, and being the voice that's made our conference better, announced his retirement today. After this, we watch tape of our game and then we watch our next opponent, we stay in here for a little bit, so you're not the only guys working, and a lot of times we turn off the sound because we feel we can coach better than the people who are doing the game, but we never turned the sound off on him. We've always learned a lot, thanks for being a great friend, Mike."

"Obviously, that was a big win for us. Louisville is a talented team, they're long. I was concerned coming off of Clemson, because Clemson was such a physical game and how we could get ourselves physically ready and we kind of gave them off on Monday, just watched tape and lifted, and then yesterday we just practiced for 45 minutes, trying to refresh them, and they responded. We have to do the same thing in preparation for Syracuse. This is just a tough stretch and our guys responded. I thought we really played tough, we rebounded the ball, we got loose balls. Three kids; Javin (DeLaurier) started, but really Javin has normally been coming off of the bench, and Jack (White) and Marques (Bolden), they got 18 rebounds. Some of them in the first half were big time rebounds to limit an offensive possession for them, like a scrum, there were a few scrums, and all of a sudden Jack came out with it or Javin got it and then a couple offensive rebounds were huge. Just proud of my guys. That was a really good win, I thought we played well again, we are really playing well defensively and have been after our first three games we have been a really good defensive team and have been getting better. We're hitting free throws, we just did a good job tonight and I'm proud of our guys."

On learning to close the game tonight:

"Well I thought we closed the game well against Clemson. We lost a 10-point lead not because of doing something wrong, we missed open shots or stuff right at the basket and we missed one one-and-one, and then that kid hit three in a row, but then we closed that game well with nine points right at the end. The biggest task that we have is to close a game, because that means we're winning and that would be a good thing. We're getting help from every one of our guys, so that's good."

On Wendell Carter Jr.'s performance and assists tonight:

"No, he can pass, we knew that right from the beginning, but we also want him to shoot. He's getting, especially with Marvin (Bagley III) out, he's going to get more doubled because they'll play off of the second big and at times they'll play off of Trevon (Duval) and it gets a little crowded in there. When he is crowded like that, he can make a play, not just make a shot. Wendell has really been fantastic, not good. He had a great year, but these last few weeks he's stepped it up even more."

On effectiveness of zone defense:

"Well we're talking and we're moving. We don't have as many perimeter guys, because even Jack and Javin wouldn't be perimeter guys. But we have length and we have fairly good lateral movement from each kid and we will end up playing some man, too, but the stuff that we've done in man, the drills and that, have helped us in zone. But we talk better in the zone, we're more unified in the zone. It may be that having an area allows this group to talk more than if they had a specific offensive situation in man. It's interesting, no question we talk better. And Grayson (Allen) is kind of able to lead us better instead of covering one person, offensively and defensively you see him over these last two weeks orchestrating things. That's been good for us; we've had really good leadership from him placing him out on top."

On playing off of Grayson Allen's leadership:

"Grayson is our leader and by having him up on top, it allows him to lead better. In the zone, he's up on top and most of the time in offense he's up on top. That positioning works out better to have his leadership have a positive influence on these guys."