



Duke Postgame Quotes

Duke vs. Syracuse



February 24, 2018 // Cameron Indoor Stadium // Durham, N.C.

Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski

Opening Statement:

"It was tough to score tonight. I thought both teams played really tough defense and I'm proud of our guys. They hung tough and we didn't let what we couldn't do on the offensive end affect what we could do on the defensive end. I thought we played outstanding defense and I'm proud of our guys. Open shots were tough to come by and both teams protected their basket really well. So even though you got it close, man, there were not fouls, just big-time defense inside. To win that type of game against Jim (Boeheim's) team is a big win for our team. Getting Marvin (Bagley III) back, we're trying to figure that out, it's a good thing. Like I told you when you guys were asking when he was out how that would be, and I said it would be a nice thing to try to figure out, and it still is a nice thing to figure out. He played really well. I thought Marques (Bolden), the minutes that he had when Marvin was out really helped him tonight. Same thing with Javin (DeLaurier), we got to try to use Javin on the perimeter, too. When you're playing against the zone in that they can go to your two shooters better, so a lot of people don't play zone, but we have to figure that out, because Javin has played well. Our bench has done a good job. I'm proud of my guys; we forced 17 turnovers and had 16 assists. We could not hit a transition basket. Those momentum baskets, we had some openings in the first half that usually, especially at home, they go down. Again, it didn't impact negatively on our defense, so I'm really happy about that."

On defense over the past four games:

"Really these four games, Duke hasn't had four games like this since the mid '60s, as far as having under 60 points in a game, I think four games in a row. Actually, before this game, one of the guys told me that it hadn't been since 1964 that a Duke team had held people to in the 50s, under 60 (points). I think if you take away the first three conference games that we had, and kind of an outlier has been St. John's, we've played really good defense. You can look at all the stats, we're in the top three or four in just about everything in our conference and nationally we've gone up tremendously because we've been working on it. When we didn't play defense, remember it was during that time that we didn't practice. We had exams, one game, break, and then boom 96 points, 93 points, and our kids are working, they're working hard so we just have to keep up with it."

On recent zone defense changes:

"It's kind of like theirs and that's why both zones are good. The two things that are really the toughest things that you can't simulate when you're playing really good people are length and quickness. I think both teams have decent quickness, but both teams have extraordinary length when they're out there. What you think you see, and even if you're in the stands what you think you see, when you're on the court, I'm not sure you'd see it. It's difficult. Javin has done a great job for us. We've gotten deeper with Marvin being out and just with the season the way it's going."

On importance of depth for postseason play:

"It's really important, but our team is really tired. We have to make this turnaround quick. You get to this time of the year and everybody is a little bit beaten up. Everyone has played 25 to 27 games. The conference is so difficult and then you start this stretch of seven days and three games and we started off really well and we beat a really tall, talk about length, Louisville, but we came off of a Clemson game that was a war on a Sunday. It wasn't a Saturday, it was a Sunday, so we really haven't had practice time. What we've done is try to rejuvenate our guys. Even right now they're all in the cold tubs and doing that and we bring them in tomorrow. We'll fly out late tomorrow afternoon. A big thing about tomorrow is recovery, so you can't work on your dance steps or dance routines with new guys in there. But the depth helps you and our bench helped us again tonight."

On Grayson Allen's court vision improvement and assists:

"Well because we didn't have a guy that you threw it to. Grayson can and will do that, especially with Marvin. That's been a good change for us, putting him out there. None of our perimeter guys had good shooting days because they played good defense. But it didn't affect their defense and it didn't affect Grayson's floor game and his leadership. He has got to keep going and we have to keep him fresh."

On Yahoo! Report regarding Wendell Carter, Jr.:

Our team here at Duke did a great job of providing the support that the parents and Wendell, and then their coordination with the NCAA. I applaud the NCAA for working so swiftly because there's so many things happening and it kind of blew up. And it's too bad that every item that was mentioned had the same magnitude, at least publically, and there was a little bit of rush to judgment in some of these things. And that's too bad, that's the world we live in, but I applaud our compliance, Duke, our university counsel, and the NCAA for working together and we felt very confident in using him tonight because there wasn't any violation."

On general thoughts about recent college basketball news:

"It's a horrible time for the game. The game has begged, it has been on its knees begging for change, for years. Sometimes unless something horrible happens, you just don't change. We need to change, we need to take a look at amateurism and define it, probably differently. We have to look through the prism of a 16-year-old kid and a family and what they should be allowed and make sure it's the same things that are allowed to other NCAA athletes or maybe do something that would be ahead of the game and become more modern in what we're doing. I actually watched President (Mark) Emmert's CBS thing and I thought he did a good job with that. He kind of said some of that stuff, which is needed. There's enough out there for us to change. I hope there's not any more. For any college coach, the thing that always worries me is what I don't know. You can know as much as possible while they're here, but it's impossible for you to know what went on before they got here, and that's the area that we have to change to begin with ... It might be when they go into a home, there's an agent there, which might not be bad, because at least they would be getting expert advice that they chose. Maybe there's a way of checking their credentials so the NCAA could provide guidance to freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors ... Let's just get ahead of the game."