



Duke Press Conference Quotes

Duke Canada Tour



August 15, 2018 // Paramount Fine Foods Centre // Mississauga, Ontario

Duke Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski

Opening Statement

"That was a good game for us. Obviously they're a really good team and have a great tradition. The crowd was unbelievable. You can tell it's summer here in Canada, because inside it was hot. That reminded me of old Cameron Indoor Stadium tonight. The crowd was great and they were an excellent opponent for us. Alex (O'Connell) got hurt right away and he's in the hospital right now. He got hit with an elbow, I'm not saying it was intentional, but he got hit. We're worried about his eye and the socket to see what happened. We'll find out later tonight and we'll put out word to all of you either late tonight or early tomorrow morning once we get word. As a result of that, three of our ball-handlers are out with Tre (Jones), Cam (Reddish) and Alex. Overall, I thought our kids did a good job. I thought we were real nervous to start the game. We had seven turnovers in the first quarter. They were good, so they forced them. I thought we were nervous too and the ball looked like a hot potato for us. They beat us to loose balls and they're good. In the second quarter, we held them to 11 points. I thought Zion got three loose balls, I know he scored a lot of points and got rebounds, but he got three loose balls that led to buckets for us. We played hungrier. We got in some foul trouble. We're not in the condition that we will be in during the year, and they put good pressure on us. It was really warm in there and I thought our team got tired, so the zone helped. We didn't get three defensive rebounds, and we got four fouls in about 30 seconds. When that happens in this international game, which I've coached in for about 30 years, it can get away from you. We went zone, and we didn't foul, so that helped us. R.J. (Barrett) and Zion (Williamson) carried us, but that's what they should do. They did a good job of it. I was really pleased with Javin's (DeLaurier) play and also with Jack White. Jack was very nervous to begin with but then he got in a flow and that was a good ballgame for him. So it was overall good. They're good and that was a good start of the trip. Hopefully Alex won't have a serious injury."

On Zion's athleticism:

"He's very unique. Obviously he's so good with the ball. He can get low with the ball, he can get high to get the ball, and he's pretty good in between too. A big thing for him that he's been working on is his three-point shooting. He was 3-for-4 for shooting. He was just a really unique basketball player tonight and I think once we get our full complement of players, especially Tre and Cam because they're really good passers. They can put these guys in a little bit different positions too. Zion is just a different type of athlete. I can't think of anyone in the ACC. That doesn't mean that he's the best athlete ever, but if we're sitting around at a small table, he's sitting at that table with a few others in the conference."

On having a comfortable situation with all of the freshmen:

"It's comfortable if they're ready to play. Sometimes you get it where guys aren't secure as these kids. Those kids are all about winning. They've got it. R.J. and Zion hooked up a few times tonight and that's a good thing. When we get our full complement of players, I think we'll hook up even better. They're really good kids and this is a good learning experience for them. We've got to get them some rest tomorrow and then come back and play Toronto. Hopefully we'll play a little bit better. We played well for three periods, and I'd like to play well for four periods."

On R.J.'s game:

"I don't think he's a kid that ever gets nervous. He's never afraid, but he's excited so he's excited and proud. He's a youngster who has loved representing Canada on the international stage and this is home. He's proud to be at Duke, and he's proud of so many things, so you want to play great. I thought he played really well but he'll play even better as this moves along. He's a winner and a team player. He's a real team player. Him and Zion took 53 shots, but they made half of them. With Zion, he's so strong that he only shot one free throw tonight. That's impossible. That's an impossible stat based on 19 shots, but he's so powerful I think you can get caught up with the fact that it didn't bother him and that's really not what the rules are for. If he gets fouled, he gets fouled, I thought he should've had more. He's a guy who can that can shoot a lot of free throws if you don't get caught up just watching him."

On R.J.'s maturity:

"Every day he shows his maturity with how he handles things. His relationships with the coaches and with me are great. He's comfortable and he's a man. He's so mature in his relationships and that makes it good for everyone. He does it every day. He's just a fun guy to be with and a winner. He's a special kid and a special player."