



Duke University

Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski Quotes

October 27, 2018 - vs. Ferris State (exhibition)

HEAD COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI

Opening Statement

"Our guys played really hard today. I mean really hard, no matter who we had in there. They (Ferris State) kept with their style and that's the style that won their two exhibition games ... they're going to play their style and that's the style their kids are accustomed to and they play it well. We were not very good in transition defense in our last game, and today we were really good. We played very, very hard and the fast-paced tempo is good for us obviously because we want to push the ball down the court. Proud of my guys, Marques (Bolden) had some of the best minutes he's had at Duke today, especially at the start of the second half and we shared the ball again. We had 33 assists in the last game and 29 in today's game. I know their kid (DeShaun) Thrower, he played hurt today and that hurt them. I think it looked like his back was stiff. He's a hell of a player and he's playing with great heart, but it wasn't going to happen today for him and they need him because he gives them a presence. They'll be really good but we were very, very good today and never stopped playing hard so that's a good thing."

On an emphasis on effort in defense

"It's been an emphasis in the whole preseason. We think we can play really good defense and we can't take plays off, and our guys didn't take any plays off today. We'll face different tempos and obviously Kentucky will be one of the most talented teams that we will play, but we just have to keep moving. We're developing really good habits."

On Marques Bolden's performance and what he is enjoying about it

"Just his movement. First of all, defensively how wide he is, he's protecting the basket on ball screens. He's very, very athletic, he's playing athletically and then on offense he's been patient and he's caught the ball each time and he's running the court. Really, I liked everything he did today very much."

On Bolden's health

"He's healthy. He really hasn't been healthy completely his first two years. He has confidence. He walks around with that boot all the time, for sympathy or whatever, but it also keeps stress off his foot and so his foot has not bothered him at all and hopefully that can keep going."

On Bolden's three-point game

"He can shoot. He's a very good shooter and as long as you're not shooting them fast. He's actually a very good shooter, so if they do some ball screen, he can vary the roll or the pop. Actually, one of them was off the pop, he popped off the screen. Then he had a lot of time and measured himself and got it. He did a really good job today and our guys, when he's in that read spot and they drive, he had his hands ready and he was moving to the ball instead of having his hands ready, waiting for the ball. Big difference, and that's part of learning that spot, just a little timing thing and he's learning it."

On how hard it will be to defend his team when all of the players are so versatile

"I don't know, we'll find out. What we try to do, and in these two games too, is in the second halves, use as a primary handler RJ (Barrett), Cam (Reddish) and then Zion (Williamson) today, if you want to call it a point guard, we had him playing point for about three or four minutes and then three minutes. We don't know what's going to happen in the future and we want these guys to be prepared. Zion, when he was little, and I know it's hard to believe that he was little, he was a point guard. He really understands the game and he's got a good handle. Putting the ball in his hands is a smart thing to do, and Cam got tightened up, he started cramping, or else we would have used him a little bit more for Tre (Jones) during the ball game."

On how he will use the time off before the start of the regular season

"No, we don't have time off, we have time to practice and get better. No, we'll practice hard and the main thing coming back wide, seeing the ball, make sure we have a guy up top. This team is smart, that's why they won. I watched their championship game, it was so exciting. Both teams played really well in that game and they have good verve, they have good confidence, so getting back against them in passing lanes, so with them, you have to fan out, and our guys, not today, they come back to the lane instead of the outside. Coming back to the outside today meant that they had to dribble the ball up the court more instead of passing it up and that gave us the chance to set up our defense. We're longer and a little bit more athletic than they are, so if we play hard and have them set up their offense, they should have a difficult time scoring."