



Duke University

Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski Quotes

November 6, 2018 - vs. Kentucky

HEAD COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI

Opening Statement

"Well I thought we played great. We played great. I'm really proud of my guys. When you start four freshmen, no matter how talented they are, you don't know what they are going to do in this environment against an outstanding team and a great program. And they responded. They were magnificent tonight. Tre handling the ball with no turnovers, good pressure on the ball. RJ stepped it up even more in the first half with Zion and Cam in foul trouble. And in the second half, Cam and Zion stopped doing dumb fouls and they stayed in the game. Really, the untold hero, I think, of our team was Jack White. Jack had 11 rebounds and guarded Herro and just played tough, just played really tough. We're proud of the win. I shouldn't say I'm surprised at how well these guys play because I see them but to play well on this stage, right away, against Kentucky, was a little bit surprising. They handled two really important situations that even veteran teams don't do, started a half with a big lead, go and get five points and they call a timeout. And usually after that, teams tend to let up a little bit and we didn't. So, those were two maturity things that they showed us."

On what Duke can improve on:

"This is one of those nights where at the start of the game we were doing everything. I mean, everything. I want my guys to play loose and play hard. I thought defensively we played really well. I think we're going to get in to high possession games and if we do, then we will have a better chance of winning. I thought when they went zone, our guys did a really good job too. We got it inside. These two guys really flashed well and they made plays for other people. So we made those adjustments. We made a few really good adjustments, they did, besides just playing hard and playing good like they did all game."

On what a win like this can do for a team:

"They are a very confident group and they're very talented. And also, our upperclassmen have gotten better and so it's a nice mix. What Jack White did today, that's what he's been doing in practice and in exhibitions, but it's nice to see it in a game on a big stage. So I would hope they would get even more confident."

On adapting your philosophy regarding freshmen:

"You know, we just try and get the best players. I hope these guys stay more than one year, obviously. We have a special group of guys and the fact that they all came knowing that the other came kinda talks about their security as a player. We have a secure freshman class and we have secure upperclassmen. That's a good mix."

On RJ's performance and if Coach K has ever seen a freshman take control like that:

"No, I have not because we are usually in this and we are playing Kansas, Kentucky or Michigan State. Our freshmen have done okay or good. RJ in the first half was terrific. He was a man. He really played well."

On the Duke team:

"They're a fantastic group to coach. They come every day. They really like each other. They laugh at my jokes, whether they're funny or not. They make me feel good."