



Duke University

Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski Quotes

November 11, 2018 - vs. Army West Point

HEAD COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI

Opening Statement

"That was a great game for us. Army played terrific. They played hard, they played together, they played fast. The perfect game for us following Kentucky and as we grow as a team. I didn't think our preparation for the game was at the level that it has been, and part of that has to do with winning a game by as much as we did in that setting against Kentucky. Part of becoming good is keeping the noise out of your locker room, and when something good happens and you have the start of the season, there's a lot of noise. For us, it's not always good noise but in this case, it was exceptional noise, where, as an 18 or 19 year-old, when you've got four freshmen and you don't have veterans, you have to be mature about listening to that and I don't think we handled that well. We played against a team that took advantage of it. The good thing is I thought the last 15 minutes of the game we played harder than they did and we played well. Still defensively it looked like they shot everything in, but we held them under 40% from three, from the field goal. We took low percentage shots in the first half a lot and we made turnovers that ended up points for them. You know, we have an 11-point lead at 36-25 and we dribble behind our back twice, get it stolen, and they score five points on it. Part of that is you feel you are better and you can just do something on your own, and in the second half, we played together more on the offensive end. They'd get it down so fast that we didn't talk well in the first half, because you had to talk quicker. So when we're switching, they already did something before our guys had switched and again that's part of us learning to be better. I hope they play that way all the time, playing against people in their league and our guys need to know when you play a team, you've got house money. You're not going to be afraid of losing against us, so you have to play hard and well every game and that's the process that we have teach for our team. So it's a great day for us, and congratulations to them, great kids. They're an older team, they've been together, (Coach) Jimmy (Allen) does a great job in that system, and I hope they stay healthy and can continue to play at that level, that'd be great. Today was a good day for us."

On how the freshmen need to learn to deal with noise:

"I've heard noise. It's the first time, and it wasn't just noise, it was noise! There was a different level of noise, and that's what I'm saying. Obviously we know that as coaches but the greatest teacher is experience. This week, can you imagine playing that game and this game, the stuff that we've learned? Holy mackerel, it's great. It's been really good for us."

On if the talented players were putting on a show:

"No, no, no. I think when you're not playing well, because they're good, they can take it on themselves to make the play instead of having to coordinate a play, they're good enough to make an individual play. These guys are not trying to show off. The other thing is their defense was really kind of a match-up man, in other words, they clogged driving lanes. They came back, even though they're man, they switched a lot, always open, you could make passes on the perimeter, but when you put the ball on the floor, there was more traffic. One of the teams in Canada did that to us, so again, you're learning to play with that. These kids weren't trying to show off or anything like that. One, we wouldn't do that, we wouldn't allow that, but two, they're good kids, but hey, we're not playing well, I can do this right now, I can get going. Some of that is really good, but if we can coordinate it to 'Come on, now we can do it', and that's another form of talking, where when one of your outstanding players during that time brings them together and says we're going to do this now, instead of saying I'm going to do it, that's the evolution of where we have to get. Talk and communication is huge in teaching not just this team, but any team."

On how playing the United States Military Academy on Veteran's Day occurred:

"Cooperation by both schools. Kevin White, Boo Corrigan, the two athletic directors, obviously Jimmy Allen. We tried to get Army to play here last year and it didn't work out around the same time. We tried to put it together too late and they couldn't make changes, so our administrators did it and we thought for us and for their program it's a showcase game. For them to be at us on ESPN, rivaling the Bears vs. Lions and all the other NFL games, it's a great thing. The United States Military Academy is part of me big-time. To see them play hard like that and well and to have them play here at Duke is really a big honor for us. A number of those kids, those seniors, two years from now, they can be in Afghanistan or Iraq or whatever. Again, it's an honor for us to have them here."