



Duke University

Duke Player Quotes

December 5, 2018 - vs. Hartford

FRESHMAN FORWARD RJ BARRETT

On what Duke can take from a game like this:

"We just have to listen to Coach [Mike Krzyzewski], trust Coach, and continue to work hard. And when our defense gets going, that's when we turn on."

On what Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski said to him as he was coming out at the end of the game:

"He just told me I did a good job on defense, trying to get the team going along with Tre [Jones]."

"Big plays — Tre [Jones] gets a steal, Zion [Williamson] gets a couple of steals, Jack [White] gets a steal and a dunk, I took a charge, stuff like that gets our team going."

"Exam week is next week so everything is wrapping up this week. It's been a tough week academically, but we've just got to keep our minds right."

"I love to win and part of the reason why I came to Duke, you can see it in everybody, no matter ups or down, we all play hard to win."

FRESHMAN FORWARD ZION WILIAMSON

On Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski's show of emotion on the bench:

"It doesn't surprise us. It just makes us respect him more because it just shows how much he wants to win and how much he sees in us. We weren't playing Duke basketball so he had to fire us up, and then, at the same time, we had to fire each other up."

When asked what Duke can learn from a game like this:

"It just shows that, 'any day...' If this was March Madness and we kept playing sloppy, we could've probably lost and the season would've been over. It just shows that you've got to come mentally prepared for every game. We had to bring our own energy tonight. The crowd was there but at the same time, I guess they weren't. But Coach [Mike Krzyzewski] was saying, 'You've just got to bring your own energy. You can't just go on what the crowd's going to do.'"

On missing two dunks in the game:

"I don't know what was going on with me. I've never missed dunks like that before, not even when I'm just messing around. It's very frustrating but if I can't play within myself, I have to still play hard for my teammates."

When asked what NBA player or dunker he models himself after:

"To be honest, I'm just trying to be the first Zion. There are a lot of greats out there, don't get me wrong, but at the end of the day there can only be one LeBron, one Westbrook, one Leonard, one Kobe. There can only be one of them because they brought their own uniqueness to the game, and I'm just trying to do the same."

FRESHMAN GUARD TRE JONES

"I think early on, we got on them [Hartford] early but as we started missing shots we lost energy on the defensive end. Then they started hitting shots and it almost flipped — they got the energy and we didn't have the energy any more. Coach [Mike Krzyzewski] was getting on us about that hard, but then a few minutes into the second half, we got that energy back on defense. We didn't care whether the shots were falling on offense or not. We just started locking up, knowing that if we got stops, we'd be able to score in transition."

When asked how Duke deals with the frustration of missing shots or, in the case of Zion Williamson, missing dunks:

"Everyone gets frustrated. We all go about it differently. A lot of us can handle our own frustration. For some guys, it's not about getting on them. It's about telling them that they're fine and they're going to make the next play. A guy like Zion, you know he's going to be able to come back the next play and be able to make another big play, so I wasn't worried about that."