



Duke University

Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski Quotes

December 5, 2018 - vs. Hartford

HEAD COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI

Opening Statement

"We played a really good team tonight. I thought Hartford really did a good job. They're a veteran team, obviously extremely well-coached, and they played hard for 40 minutes. We finally got some turnovers that broke the game open, but their two veteran guards were terrific, [Jason] Dunne and [J.R.] Lynch. I thought they played harder than we did for about 22 minutes, and then we played as hard or a little bit harder. We really played good defense. We really played well the last 16-17 minutes of the game, obviously, or else the game would've been a close game. It wasn't at the end because we played so hard. Our defense got ramped up.

"This week is that time of the year that's been very difficult for our teams over the last 10 years. Exams are next week; often this week is harder than exams because of all the projects and papers. Sometimes the end of a course is this week, not next week. That changed about 10 years ago. A lot of times we don't schedule a game during the week this week. We usually schedule it on Saturday. Just because we had to get games in, this year we did. We know what can happen.

"When you play a team if they don't show up, and we don't show up we're going to win. They showed up. We better show up, and we did. Tre [Jones]'s pressure on the ball knocked that offense out of their routine, even though Lynch is so good. In the first half, we didn't pressure and didn't deny, so they were able to get into a really good routine. They're well-coached and they're good. We played a faster tempo that was dictated by our defense, and it turned out well."

On blocked shots:

"We have guys that can block shots. We've played really good defense in my 39 years here. We haven't won because we haven't played good defense. We've played great defense over the years, and this team can play great defense and can block shots. That helps. Or pressuring shots. We have to keep building on it. It's not something that you teach. I can't teach them to jump. If they can jump and they have long arms, they're going to block shots. I'd like to take credit for that. But to the guy up above, I didn't take credit for that. All on you."

On Javin [DeLaurier]:

"He's playing great. He's playing more like he played in Canada. He's getting into a rhythm right now. When you play against these teams that have five position-less people or they don't play a low post, it requires that fifth guy to guard the ball. Javin can do that. The lineup that we had in when we extended was when we had Jack [White] in there with the four freshmen, but then Javin came in and kept it up. I thought Alex [O'Connell] actually did a good job in the second half."

On charging the Blue Devil nation to tone down the criticism:

"I don't really follow social media, but I heard something so that's why I said it. It was about 30 seconds of a press conference, so that's not going to be a point of contention. Anyone that has something to say about our team, I give them the freedom to do that. Isn't that guaranteed by the Constitution? Freedom of speech? I'm all for it. However, I also have the freedom of speech, so if I don't like your freedom of speech, I'm allowed to say that... It was after we went from one extreme to the other, six games in 16 days, plus traveling. I love my guys. I believe in them, so every once in a while, I'll say something like that."

On Tre's role in keeping the energy up:

"It's not just Tre's job. You bring up a really good point. I thought we had some really good shots in the first half. Normally, we shoot a better percentage than we did. Then, we took not as good shots, and our defense never gave our offense energy. It's not just on Tre—it's on everybody—to pick up the defense. If we're not hitting, then we need to let the defense stir it up and give you energy. If we become the team that I hope we become, it'll be because of the energy we have on defense that will lead to offense. In transition, we're dynamite, we're really good. Every once in a while, at half-court, whether it's man, sluffing man, converging man, or zone, you can miss shots. In transition, when we have a numerical advantage, we're going to score. Tre did that with his defense—we all did. It helped."

On discovering Jack White:

"We were looking at tape of guys. I saw him on tape and I said, 'I like his bounce, his size.' I checked with our friends in Australia, the people I've gotten to know internationally. They didn't say he's a great player, but they said he's a great kid and a good student. He's followed the more traditional thing of not being as good as a freshman, being okay as a sophomore, and then kind of changing his body. Not just kind of, he's lost 12 pounds, he's a really good athlete right now, and is really strong. That's happened in our program, when we have guys for a longer period. He's been a huge asset for us."