



Duke University

Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski Quotes

December 8, 2018 - vs. Yale

HEAD COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI

Opening Statement

"We beat a really good team tonight. They're very well-coached—not just well-coached, very well-coached. They have a veteran team. They have seven kids that have been starters with [Paul] Atkinson and [Azar] Swain; Atkinson started some, and Swain started the whole year last year. They're a good group. I thought our ball pressure, picking them up early, just pushed them out a little bit further from where they normally start their offense. It gave us a chance to deny and switch, and not get hurt that much by it. Also, with any dribble moves, there was at least one extra dribble that they had to take. Our guys are learning this kind of stuff. Our bench came through for us. We started Javin [DeLaurier] because we wanted to switch one through five, and he did a good job and has been doing a good job. Jack [White] has been sensational the whole year and tonight had twelve rebounds and nine points. I thought Alex [O'Connell] gave us a huge lift with his defense in the first half. Jordan Goldwire did what he needs to do in the second half in keeping up the pressure on the ball. Our defense is good, as we forced twenty-three turnovers and had sixteen steals. Our guys are really busting their butts on the defensive end, and that's what we want. This week has been a tough week academically, and our guys responded. Now we have to get through and do a good job on exams, and then come back and finish off these two games before Christmas."

On Tre [Jones]'s injury:

"He's good. He got hit in the quad and banged knees. When he went in the next time, he still hadn't gotten over it, and when he got to the bench he said 'I can still go in.' I told him to just forget it. He'll be fine. He's just going to be somebody that has to recover after every game because he plays so darn hard. It all starts with his pressure on the ball. [Alex] Copeland is a really good guard, but he had to fight Tre the whole night. That makes it easier for all of our other guys to play defense. If we become the team that we're going to be defensively, Tre will be as valuable a defender as there is in the country because of what he does. Similar to when Wojo [Steve Wojciechowski] got Defensive Player of the Year, or Tommy Amaker ... recognize the value of pressure and how we're trying to put our team together."

On Javin's play:

"I think it's better [than in Canada]. He's playing with a lot of confidence and talking. He's such a good athlete when he's playing loose that we can switch that one through five. He ran the court well with good hands. I'd rather have him not become a playmaker—one time in front of our bench he tried, and before half. He needs to just grab it. But he's doing a really good job. He's in a really good place and he'll just get better."

On Alex's defensive play:

"He's making a lot of progress. He's a heck of an athlete, and he's got really good quickness. Out of everything, we're spending a lot of time on our defense. For the denial, or what we call contesting, he's got great feet. He's 6'5/6'6 and long. He got his hands on a couple today. That was a big game for him. One, it helped us, and two, he really did something, instead of only hitting a shot. It was good. We just have to keep seeing progress from these guys."

On playing veteran teams:

"Hartford [University] was returning everybody and Yale was returning everybody. They're picked high in their conferences. We felt that with the young team we have, even though we should be more talented, that we wouldn't be as experienced playing together so playing them could hasten our development and maturity as a basketball team. Princeton [University] will be the same way. Princeton returns a lot of guys and they're picked high. Texas Tech [University] is one of the best-coached teams in the country with [Chris] Beard, and they're undefeated now. This has been good for us. We'll get to see who we are before we take a break for Christmas, analyze what we're doing, and make the appropriate adjustments as we get into the ACC."