



Duke University

Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski Quotes

December 18, 2018 - vs. Princeton

HEAD COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI

Opening Statement

"We played really well. [Princeton has] very good guards and they are very well coached, and their guards help their other guys. They are a good basketball team. When we started out, they were ready to play and they played good defense and we couldn't hit anything. What can happen is you stop playing defense, which could have happened after our grueling exam period. The guys played great defense tonight, especially against an extended dribble. I thought RJ [Barrett] did a great job on [Devin] Cannady, number three, who is an outstanding player. He didn't leave him. His length and not letting him get the ball, and even when he got it, the length was a key factor in stopping him. Tre [Jones]'s pressure on [Jaelin] Llewellyn was key, and for the most part we kept them out of the paint. And when they did get in the paint, our big guys came over and blocked a lot of shots. Which is what they are supposed to do and they did it. I thought [Jordan] Goldwire did an excellent job for us, and it saved Tre, because we have a big game on Thursday. We shared the ball well, and we played well. They are a good team, but they had a hard time scoring against us tonight."

On how they were able to prepare during exams:

"The freshmen had the longest exam period, as some of them didn't finish until last night and this morning, getting papers in. But we had three really good practices, on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. They were not that long, but the key thing was that Sunday we scrimmaged. These kids believed that they were good, but then when they scrimmaged they realized how tired they were. We didn't look good during the first 12 minutes of the scrimmage, but during another scrimmage they looked better. It was more of a real look. We didn't do anything on Sunday about Princeton; we focused on us. But they were upbeat, and they have great attitudes. They like to play and they like each other. Overall, they did a good job, and we will see how tired they are as we go to New York tomorrow, and we play in two nights."

On not scoring early in the game and how the team responded:

"We had some of the same problems against Hartford, we only had 35 points at halftime against them. But we handled this a lot better than that, plus [Princeton] is better. When you can handle the ball at two or three positions on the court, you can give another team problems. I thought [Princeton]'s game plan was good. We kept telling our guys, 'Don't be down about our offense, we are doing a good job, keep shooting, and just don't let it affect your defense.' And they did. So it's good. And we had a great crowd, some students were here, but we had a lot of people from around the community, and it was a great atmosphere."

On the early turnovers the team had:

"Look at when those early turnovers occurred. I thought they occurred through frustration. It didn't necessarily occur on the first pass. I thought they happened when we didn't have a good base. Where we were just using our arms. Jordan Goldwire threw it to Javin [DeLaurier] on the baseline against the zone. Javin shouldn't have been on the baseline, and Jordan shouldn't have thrown him the pass. Cameron [Reddish] threw one to Marques [Bolden] and it just went out of bounds. But we kept our poise, and I thought we valued the ball very well. Then in the second half and towards the end of the game we made some great passes. Alex [O'Connell] made a great one to Antonio [Vrankovic], so guys were sharing the ball."

On RJ Barrett's numbers of late:

"He always likes getting into the lane. Some people criticize him for getting into the lane too much. I'm fine with it, and I think it's a matter of getting to know his team better. After Maui, with our entire team, we talked about getting better and sharing the ball and how we can get better defensively. You get better if you practice, we had six games in 15 days and all that travel, and with the young team, your habits aren't there yet. So we had to keep reinforcing it, and the guys have done a good job with it."