

**Duke vs. Texas Tech
Ameritas Insurance Classic
Madison Square Garden
December 20, 2018**

Duke Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski on the game

It was a great, great game. Tough to score for both teams, both teams are such good defensive teams and played their butts off and the Garden was electric. Sellout. Texas Tech had so many of their people We had ours. This is a great night for college basketball. Things didn't come easy offensively for either team and we'd been scoring at a high rate, but we hadn't played against a defense like theirs and they probably hadn't played against a defense like ours. For me obviously, again you all with have your areas of expertise in making opinions of this, but Tre [Jones] was the key to the game. He just turned it around for us with six steals, usually he's not looking for his shot, he willed balls in and all of our guys just fed off of that. It was magnificent to see. He did a hell of a job, as good on the ball as we've had starting with the Amaker, Hurley, Wojo, Duhon. He's right there and tonight, maybe better. I know I'll get texts from all those guys tonight. And then Jack [White] just made some big plays for us. The three from the corner when we just couldn't hit a shot. We did miss some shots that we normally make, but he hit a big one and his defense and what he did down the stretch. And I'm so happy because his mother in here from Australia and sister, and for them to see him in this atmosphere is beautiful. I actually gave her a high five after you did one of your really good things. We beat a really good team tonight. We're proud of the win and love the fact that we're able to do it in this special place.

On where Tre Jones ranks in terms of freshmen point guards who can run an offense

Well we've had a few. We have a few on this team. Well his brother. One of the best things, whether I'm coaching the USA Team or a Duke team is having the ability to have real-time leadership while the game is going on and the ability to improvise or make reads that you would make reads after a timeout. Tre gives me the opportunity to do that. He's a godsend for me. I'm so excited about coaching him. It's like coaching on the U.S. team, you have LeBron, Chris Paul, they make real-time [adjustments]. There aren't many who can get their teams to do that. Tre can do that. He's got it. What he did tonight was one of the best performances. It was a big, big time performance by that kid.

On when's the last time he had a player like Tre Jones who played perimeter defense so well

Probably [Chris] Duhon. I know [Jon] Scheyer and Nolan Smith are going to say they did, but they didn't like that. It's special and he's strong. If you moved his legs together he'd be about 6-foot-4 he's so bowlegged. He's strong and when he plays he smiles. He loves to play defense.

On freshman forward RJ Barrett's performance

I love RJ. RJ's big time. There are just times where you're not going to be able to score. He was missing some shots that he'd normally make and they were making him take some shots that were a lot more pressured. It's a combination, but he had some open looks, but once he was missing, he was I call it a 'gunny sack' or taking the misses with you where you know put pressure on yourself to score because you haven't. And you can't do that. And that's what I talked to him about at halftime. We just said ' everybody is 0-for-0. Just start off fresh. You're not allowed to try and make up for missed shots.'

Duke freshman point guard Tre Jones on what anchored the team's defensive performance

For sure, the effort. We talk all the time about pressuring the ball and [Coach Krzyzewski has] been on that since he's been recruiting me about my ball pressure and how I can defend, so I was kind of here but then it's not only me, but we have a lot of guys that can defend on our team and they make my job a lot easier.

On what Texas Tech's defense did to thwart Duke's offense early on

They were plugging the gaps a lot. They help a lot and they took a lot of charges, as you guys saw. They fouled out Zion [Williamson] by doing that. Got a couple of our guys in foul trouble by doing that as well. The coaches have been on us about making the extra pass and we weren't doing that early, but down the stretch, as you guys saw, we were able to do that and put the dagger in them from doing that.

On playing in Madison Square Garden

A lot of the greats, probably all of the greats, have definitely played here. Playing for the greatest coach of all time at the greatest university with my brothers... I really can't put this feeling into words. It's just something you have to go through to really know what it feels like.

Duke junior forward Jack White on what came out of his team's defense tonight

I think just the hunger... Obviously we didn't shoot the ball as well as we usually do tonight and things weren't really going our way, but putting an emphasis on our defense is a big part of our identity and really an emphasis that we could be one of, if not the, best defensive team in the country. Just that mindset coming in and we knew [Texas Tech is] a great defensive team, so we just kind of looked at it as a battle of the defenses, who wanted it more? Guys came out tonight, credit to Cam [Reddish]. Cam had a rough first half and he came out in the second half and made some big plays for us, had some big steals and kind of got himself into the game.