



Duke University

Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski Quotes

January 14, 2019 - vs. Syracuse

HEAD COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI

Opening Statement

"Congratulations to Syracuse, their kids, and Jim [Boeheim].

"Very unusual night. A lot of adversity tonight. You can take, not that we are, but you can assume we're always going to be great. But life happens, and life happened to our team tonight. Some unusual things. Right before we went on the floor for the last time, Cameron [Reddish] got sick with flu-like symptoms out of nowhere and couldn't play. We started out and our kids were so ready to play. We were playing our butts off, and then obviously the injury to Tre [Jones] happened. It's a shoulder sprain. We'll put out something, because I'm not going to do medical stuff. It's a sprain, there's no break, but he was in a lot of pain. He's the toughest kid, and right away he says, 'I don't know if my collar bone is broken.'" It was hurting that badly, but it's a sprain. We've had x-rays with Dr. [Ned] Amendola has already looked. But we don't know the amount of recovery time, and we don't know about Cam. So, we're a different team. Obviously, we're a different team. I didn't think we handled it when it all happened in the first half, especially Tre going out. We were knocked back. It gives them a lot of confidence, and they're already good. They're a really good team. I didn't think we handled it as well as I would've wanted in the first half. In the second half, we fought like crazy. We missed so many open shots, but we fought like crazy. And it'd be open, and "ugh," "ugh." I feel bad for Zion [Williamson] as he gets to the line, makes that first one but misses the second. We had fouls to give, so that could end the game. There are so many things when you look back, but the fact is our kids fought like crazy and put themselves in a position to win against one of the most veteran and well-coached teams in the country. But we weren't able to do it."

On Marques Bolden and Alex O'Connell's growth into more minutes:

"They just have to keep playing. I don't know what else besides keep playing. Marques has played really well since we came back from the Christmas break, so he's been there the whole time. Alex was given more of an opportunity tonight, obviously, and he did some good things, really good things."

On if shooting three-point shooting was the game plan of the night:

"The game plan was to have Tre Jones and Cameron Reddish. I mean, what the hell... You do what's there. Talking about game plan is just, ugh. I don't want to get on you but it's a silly question. When you have two guys get hurt and injured, there is no game plan anymore. It's a period of adjustment and adaptability throughout, so you're trying to figure out ways to win. We had open shots, they were threes as [Syracuse] was clogging the lane, so I don't fault my guys for that. It's not a game plan. It's what's there. There's no game plan once those things happen. Our game plan was to pick them up full court, force them, put pressure on the ball, and that was working pretty well. And then you're trying to survive with the people of the situation that you're in."

On RJ Barrett fitting a different role in Tre and Cam's absence:

"He handled it well, he just missed shots. Also, there's a burden placed on he and Zion in that situation because they know they have to carry more. The fact that they tried to do that, I like that. We weren't successful enough to win, but the fact that they stepped forward and put it on the line, yeah, I love that. I love that they did that."

On seeing Tre go down:

"I saw it, and it was like... [Slaps] Boom. I knew he was hurting. I was hoping nothing was broken. You could see excruciating pain on his face. We just tried to calm him, not that he was yelling or anything, but he felt that something could be broken. That's how much pain he was in. So, they took him back, gave him some stuff for the pain and did the x-rays. He'll be out for a while, I think... I haven't talked to him. We'll put out a statement about it tomorrow or tonight. Our guys will put out what it is, and I don't think we can tell you how long it will be, but I think we can tell you what it is, and we'll see the recovery period for that. Same thing with Cam, we'll figure that out. Anyway, there are bumps in the road along the way for a lot of people. This was a very difficult night for our basketball program and our team. We'll figure out ways of handling it."

On RJ possibly taking a playmaker role:

"We'll figure that out later. Let's handle tonight and take time to figure out our best course of action. We'll do that instead of me giving some comments that I may not agree with a half hour from now. I'd rather wait on that."