



Duke University

Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski Quotes

January 19, 2019 - vs. Virginia

HEAD COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI

Opening Statement

"Wow, that's a high-level game. That's a big-time game. They don't get much better than that. The kids on both teams, every possession, was good. If you scored, you beat good defense; if you didn't score, good defense beat you. Every possession was high-level. Obviously, I'm proud of my guys and my team. It's been a tumultuous week for us, starting with Zion [Williamson] getting hurt at Florida State and not playing. We've played 120 minutes in the last three games and 18 of them we've had our starters. To almost beat Syracuse, and to win those two games, it's a heck of a thing for our kids."

"Our defense was excellent. We did a lot of switching tonight, and we were able to move their defense enough, not every time, but enough, to get some driving lanes. And we won. They could've won, and we did. That was really high-level and efficient, and the crowd was great. Overall just a really classy game, and we're ecstatic that we won."

On what he learned about his guys tonight:

"Like I just said, they could play every possession at a high-level. They really adjusted well to a little bit different defense and a little bit different thing we did offensively, and they reacted out of every timeout to what we wanted, like if we put in a different set or defense or whatever. The communication was excellent. They played as good a team in the country tonight, given we played them at home, and we were able to come out on top."

On Tre [Jones]'s status:

"I don't know. But he wasn't going to play, as we made that decision yesterday. He just doesn't have enough movement yet. I can't tell you when [he'll return]; I'm not going to tell you that he could be ready for Pittsburgh. Every day we're just going to see how he progresses and make that decision based on the day-to-day stuff without putting a timetable on him so there's no pressure for him to come back and force something. We don't want that to happen."

On offensive rebounds against Virginia:

"We had 10 the whole game but 9 in the first half. It was very good. Possessions were hard for each offense tonight, so the offensive boards gave us a little bit more. As poorly as we shot free-throws down the stretch, our kids hit big shots, like Marques [Bolden]'s two free throws were huge. The only really bad mistake we made defensively was that we knew their play when we had our six-point lead. We know it. The whole bench is yelling at [Kyle Guy], and Guy hit a three, which was terrific. So, then it put RJ [Barrett] and Cam [Reddish] in positions to really hit some pressure free-throws. Instead of having a two-possession lead, they go to the line with a one-possession lead, and they hit them. And that's good, really good."

On lack of rest for the three freshmen:

"They're mentally tough. We haven't made them mentally tough. They came here mentally tough, especially those two kids, Zion and RJ. They play at a high, high level of scrutiny. "We got tired. I thought they got a little tired, too. It was that type of game, so we went zone for a little bit just to kind of save us, and we covered it fairly well. But, obviously we're really tired and happy and ecstatic. It was one of those games that was good, but I'm tired. It's a good tired. They're terrific, and hopefully we bring the best out of each other. We'll have a hell of a game when we play them up there."

On Zion's growth and focus with media scrutiny:

"I think to where we all should admire him. He's such a people person. When football was still playing and he was at a football game, he would take time with people. He really doesn't want a lot of attention, when obviously he attracts a lot of attention. Even for Gameday and that, he didn't want to do too much. He didn't want to separate himself from what the other guys are doing, and the family doesn't either. They're just good people. He's handled it really well. You guys know from being with him that he's such an upbeat kid. He was terrific tonight. Even though it was a lot of adversity on Monday night against Syracuse, he and RJ played the whole game, and that helped them tonight. The fact that they did that then, how do you handle it? You don't handle it until you have to handle it. You can't practice that. The times we've won big games in our program like championships, usually our best players have to play a lot of minutes, so hopefully what they're learning right now will help them as we go forward."

On the play leading up to a Zion dunk:

"Just like when I drew plays for JJ [Redick], they worked better. Part of it is making reads. Sometimes from a timeout we'll do something that's just a little bit different in an alignment, not so much call a play but get an action going. The more we are together, the more they understand that they can improvise a little bit. I thought Zion made a good move off of what we set up, which wasn't necessarily what I set up. He made a good move off of what I set up. Our guys were very attentive in that regard. Even inbound the ball late, when you don't have your guard in there, it's different."

On switching positions 1 through 5:

"We haven't really done that. That's something the last couple of days that we've done. We felt that we could not defend the baseline floppy curls. They're so good. Guy is the closest that I've seen to JJ in the league, not saying he's JJ, but he's close. A lot of people can shoot turning, but he can hit turning. So, we just said, we're going to try to limit their open threes, and we did a really good job of that with the switching. We got beat sometimes on the handle but they're two-pointers, but overall it worked better than if we did the other stuff. I'm not saying it's the cat's meow here or a new invention or anything, but you have to do a little something different. Like on offense, we haven't weaved like we did just to move them a little bit, and then we go into something. Just little things, and I think they helped us tonight."