



Duke University

Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski Quotes

February 20, 2019 – vs. North Carolina

HEAD COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI

Opening Statement

"It's an unusual night. We knew coming in how good they were, and they were that good tonight. The injury with Zion [Williamson], the first thing is to address that. It's a mild knee sprain. The knee is stable. We don't know how long he'll be out. I think we'll find out more about that. That's that. It's crazy that the two games we've lost here, something's happened in the first part of the game. The preparation that you would have for the game is obviously based on the players being there, especially [Zion] and RJ [Barrett], who are the key guys. It puts everyone in a state of trying to figure it out when you're playing an outstanding team. That's not a good situation. I thought our guys really played hard in the first half. We were knocked back after that injury; you could see it. [North Carolina] went ahead and played well. Their two really veteran guys played great. [Luke] Maye and Cameron Johnson were sensational. I thought we regrouped and fought like crazy. I thought we put a lot of pressure on our own shots, and they did too, but for us, it was "I've got this guy out, I've got to hit." And we didn't. Then in the second half, when we settled in, the realization of "he's not there" kind of stunned us, and we were horrible at the start of the half. In the last 16 minutes, I thought we played our butts off. We dug ourselves a huge hole against an outstanding team. It seemed like every loose ball that our guys got, we did not come up with it. We got our hands on it, we forced it, but the fact is our guys were doing it. I was proud of my guys. I thought they played really hard, and they played to win and get back. So, we just have to regroup. We have to figure out what this means. We're not going to draw any conclusions from this game, except the fact that we have a loss. That is a definite conclusion. But the fact of how we play, who we're going to play, whatever we're going to do, we have to come up with a game plan based on Zion not playing. Hopefully, he'll be back playing sometime in the near future. So, that's where we're at."

On if there's a difference in teammate's reactions from the Zion injury:

"I don't know. I'm not trying to buzz you off here, but I don't know. I do think there's more. You're in a half, and you're getting the feel of the game, whereas this and when Tre [Jones] got hurt, when an injury occurs is part of it. It was the first play, or 30 seconds. It's a good question. Some psychologist probably knows what the hell happened."

On if he's seen anyone bust through a shoe in the middle of a game:

"I've seen guys bust through shoes but not sprain their knee. I haven't seen the tape. The shoe burst. I mean, even last game, he slipped a couple times. I don't know if he had already done it and then how he fell did that. I don't know. He slipped and saved the ball, and that's what I thought happened. He goes so fast, that if there's something slippery, boom, that happened."

On who will score beyond Cam Reddish and RJ Barrett if Zion is out for a prolonged period:

"That's a really good point. I don't know [who the third scorer will be] yet. I'd rather not talk about what we're going to do. I'd rather talk about what just happened. We'll try to figure out what we're going to do so I don't have that answer for you. Obviously, if you lose a National Player of the Year candidate, there are going to be gaps on what you have to do."