



Duke University

Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski Quotes

February 26, 2019 - at Virginia Tech

HEAD COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI

Opening Statement

"That was just a heck of a game, hard fought. I'm proud of my guys they've been on this amazing schedule and I think they've fought each game and they fought tonight. (Kerry) Blackshear played great. And just to mention about Buzz, he's done an amazing job with his team. Losing Justin (Robinson) and playing this month without him. I don't think there has been anyone who has done a better job with his team than he has, terrific job by him. Changing the style where Justin would really push that ball up the court to where they'd become an outstanding half-court offensive team, they've always been a heck of a half-court defensive team. Their kids play hard and together. Alexander Walker really controlled the ball well and (Wabissa) Bede had two big shots and obviously (Ty) Outlaw hit the biggest shot. But our guys, RJ (Barrett) was sick the whole first half that's why we were subbing him. He went back and that's just the way it is, there are some human things here from being on the road and playing so hard and for him to play that way in the second half was remarkable. Cam (Reddish) came back after that tough fall. Our guys played hard man, they played hard and tough and we just lost a real tough game. We've got to get back and get refreshed. That six-game stretch was going to be tough no matter what. Especially with four of the games being Saturday Tuesday away games, it's just an unusual thing. And when you lose Zion (Williamson) right in the middle then it escalates. Overall my team has done an outstanding job, we will move forward now, we learned a lot. Jack (White), I thought played well, he hasn't played well but he played well tonight. Alex (O'Connell) put together two good games in a row. Javin (DeLaurier) is continuing to play well, so a lot of good stuff we just didn't win. I'm proud of my team, they didn't lose, Virginia Tech won, there is a big difference. Virginia Tech won a tough game, we fought them and they fought back, they were just a little bit more successful than we were. So, congratulations to them, they deserve it."

On Dukes defensive rotations:

"You don't leave a ball side corner, but I'm not going to blame one kid. Overall our defense was good against a really tough team with Blackshear. When we started the game I knew RJ was under the weather. Against Syracuse because they played zone it really didn't matter that we didn't have a second big and because you could put RJ in there. But once we started the game it was obvious that we weren't getting our normal movements offensively and defensively. They are custom to Zion to being that second even though he is not a big he is a great player. So we have to make some adjustments there and that's the thing we want to go through things where we don't have to make adjustments but we have had to make a number of them. Overall our kids have done a good job with them and it's not like you just go there and practice for two hours, they are already worn out. Tre is worn out, it's just that time of the year where you get worn down. I'm really proud of RJ, I wasn't sure if he was going to be able to keep playing in the second-half he was so good"

On RJ Barrett being sick:

"I didn't even know he was sick until the game started, it was something that just came up. They are human beings who work hard and have a lot of stress on them. He's really carried a big load these past two games, he's had like 63 points in two games, so that's a big burden"

On the play of Marques Bolden:

"He has played well, we started him the second half, we started two big's. I don't think it matters who starts, we like to play those two guys when Zion comes back. The fact that he's playing so well, he made two unbelievable plays there to tie the game"