

## **Miami head coach Jim Larrañaga**

**Opening statement...** “It’s very interesting. Yesterday, with so few bodies and so many guys banged up, we didn’t practice. We did a film review of Duke. I told the players after the game tonight that it was very apparent to me that there was a lot of team spirit at the meeting. It was the most there has been since the new year began. I liked that very much and thought that was a good sign. We had a good shootaround, so that was a good sign. We had a great team effort. We changed the starting lineup to accommodate their speed and quickness and their bigs and how effective they are. We started Anthony Walker as a five-man and Elijah [Olaniyi] at the four, which we had never done before. Those five guys who started had never even practiced. It was a gamble, but it certainly paid off. Then Nysier Brooks and Deng Gak came in and they were terrific; a very good four-five combination throughout the game.”

**On confidence of the team...** “You can really credit [Kameron] McGusty. I don’t know how many threes he made, that is not the significant part. The guys on the team know that he’s a very good 3-point shooter. Elijah had a very good night shooting the ball from two and from three and Isaiah Wong continues to play very well. With Isaiah at the point, Kam at the two, Elijah at the three and then our two big guys, we had some very good size at the end of the game. And then Anthony Walker contributed mightily, as well.”

**On importance of the win...** “I told them how proud I was of them and that it all started yesterday with the team meeting and the very good team spirit that was exhibited. Everybody was paying attention, everybody was in a good mood, everybody was smiling. That is sometimes difficult after a tough road loss like at Wake Forest. I think the players knew that we actually played pretty good offense [at Wake Forest] in the second half and that made the guys feel like, ‘Hey, maybe we’ve found something that will work.’ Of course, we didn’t have Elijah [in that game] and if we didn’t have Elijah tonight, we’d have had no chance against Duke. Isaiah and Elijah scored all those big buckets at the end. Isaiah hit a jump-shot and Elijah drove the ball to the basket, got fouled and made the layup. [Those were] some really key buckets.”

**On hitting big shots in critical moments...** “I would’ve preferred, instead of going 2-for-6 from the foul line, that we would have gone 5-for-6. We had good free-throw shooters at the line, but one of the things we talk about all the time is that there’s always going to be adversity. Something goes wrong, a turnover, a missed free throw, a missed block out. What we did tonight is handle the mistakes pretty well. We were able to still fight defensively and still make it difficult for Duke to go on a run like they did to end the first half. That was critical. I think a lot had to do with and them yesterday being in such a good mood. It’s the best we’ve been in a very long time.”

**On the play of Elijah Olaniyi...** “Elijah didn’t even play on Saturday. His left shoulder has been bothering him for a while, since the Louisville game. He rested and didn’t play on Saturday and didn’t work out on Sunday. Today the shoulder wasn’t bothering him so he had lots of energy. He was very well-rested and he played every aspect of the game. He was defending their leading scorer. He was rebounding and going after the ball. He was sharing the ball on offense, but he was also nailing threes and driving the ball to the basket very aggressively and effectively. He had a terrific all-around game.”

**Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski**

**Opening statement...** "I'm disappointed in our team. It was a quick turnaround. We had two really good games and we acted like a really young team against a team that's had a lot of—they're still talented. Jim's team's talented. They're older and they've lost close games and they've lost, obviously, people and I don't know on the quick turnaround if our guys felt this was going to be easy. We did not play well, bottom line. We can go through a whole bunch of things; I didn't think we competed. I thought we were soft and I saw it in practice yesterday and tried to take steps to change that and we were not able to change it. I'm really disappointed in our team. They did not play like a Duke basketball team tonight and obviously I'm responsible for that. The last two games we won and were deserving to win; we were not tonight. We threw the ball to them about five times and threw it right to them and they got layups and we were very soft. We were very soft and just extremely disappointed, extremely disappointed."

**On who needs to step up to get out of this...** "If anybody steps up it helps. You need to hit it at the moment you see it. We saw it yesterday. You took care of it yesterday; you don't take care of it during a ball game and they're real young. They are really young and for us to win, we have to play really hard and well together. We're just a good basketball team. We don't have the old—we have talent, don't get me wrong. We have to really play hard to win and if we don't play hard, we're going to lose. If we play hard, we still might lose. We're going to get better and get after it, but we didn't play hard tonight. It's sad. It really is sad. Coming off those two games—again, you play three games in six days and we're not tired, don't get me wrong in that, but you have to be mature enough to handle three games in that period of time and be prepared for each one. I told them if you [do not] come down to Miami to play, we will lose. If you come down to Miami to compete, we will win. And I give them the example of, the game of basketball is a great game and had been great to me and I love it passionately, but the game that I'm talking about is the game, like tonight is the game. That single game is the most selfish thing in our game and it's selfish because it does not care what you did in the previous game. It doesn't care what you're going to do in a future game and if you don't come completely immersed in it, it will not reward you. That's what I've talked to them about. You have to handle this game and the game will hold you accountable and obviously your opponent will, too. Unless they don't do it, too, then you might win. I believe in all that stuff. That's what I try to teach each one of our teams and we'll still continue to try and teach this team."

**On similarities at the beginning of the season to tonight's response...** "It is similar, but we're also older. At that time, they had not won like that. Lessons to learn. The best teacher is experience in anything and you have to learn from those experiences. Yeah, we brought that up like don't be happy, be hungry. I told them, if we do the job, be happy on Tuesday and be really happy and giddy and so none of that worked. None of that worked. Again, that's on me and I'm not just saying that. It is on me to get your message across. I wasn't able to get my message across."

**On going to a zone defense in the first half...** "We couldn't stop them. Our man-to-man was horrible. The zone really was effective. We got the lead and we probably should've been up four or six points. That teetered out in the second half because we weren't playing with the aggressiveness that we need to play. It didn't matter what we played, we didn't play it well, but the zone helped us for a little bit."

**On what Miami was able to do tonight...** "They just executed their stuff better. They're good. They got older guys and [Isaiah] Wong and [Kameron] McGusty are two of the better players in the league and they beat whatever we were trying to do. A couple times when you get a one-possession lead, if you are

really fighting this game, you get a stop. We did not get stops and a couple times just gave them the ball and they got something free. That helps."