



# Duke Postgame Quotes

## Duke vs. St. John's



February 3, 2018 // Madison Square Garden // New York, N.Y.

### Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski

#### On the game:

"The very first thing, congratulations to Chris (Mullin) and his team. They've been involved in a lot of really close games in the conference. I know it's been frustrating for them, but they came out and they were the better team today. (Shamorie) Ponds was terrific, but also, they played with an enthusiasm and a togetherness that I'm sure they liked. It was tough for us to defend them. I thought they made us look bad, but we made ourselves look bad. We didn't play - we did not play basketball the first 32 minutes worthy of our program and we had blank faces, we didn't talk, we were like five individuals out there and it was disgusting really, and no matter what we said nothing worked with our team, until the last eight minutes, then we had a chance to win. You can say why? I don't know why. I do not know why. I can tell you that's not the group I've coached all year, and they were a very frustrating group to coach today, because they didn't respond to anything until the last eight minutes and that's unacceptable. That's unacceptable. You have to respond while it's going on, at halftime, at a timeout - you've got to respond, and if you don't you are into your own stuff for whatever reason that is. Whether you're not ready, you're sick, you're whatever; you have to give it up. We didn't give it up and the team that was deserving of winning won, and it made the loss, because we came back all the more frustrating. But the basketball gods understand in most cases who should win so losing when you had a chance to win after not playing well, we got what we deserved."

#### Did you overlook St. John's?

"No, I don't think that's it, because they saw them on tape playing really well and we prepared with ultimate respect for St. John's. Where Ponds was really as good as a guard offensively as we've played against. Their ability to steal a ball and they've been in close games. Ponds goes 37 (points) against Villanova and you have a chance, you play Creighton - it's not like they don't play good teams. They play some of the best teams in the country, and they're that close. We came in prepared, you don't look at records, you look at who you're playing, and we looked at them and said 'hey they're good, they're good,' and we had to defend them that way and we didn't."

#### On Duke's shot selection:

I like seeing the players on my team who are open taking open shots. Whether it be Grayson (Allen) or whomever and we have confidence in them to be able to do that. Trevon (Duval) hit a big three, he was open so he should take it. I always allow my guys - I want them to have the confidence of shooting good shots and we didn't lose because of shots. We missed some free throws. We lost because we didn't play well for 32 minutes, and then you're in this frenzy and we did well in the frenzy, but so did they. They did well enough to hold on and hit a huge shot. Ponds hit a huge shot, but they responded. We weren't able to knock them out after we lost the first 12 rounds of a 15-round fight."