



Duke Pregame Quotes

Duke vs. North Carolina



February 8, 2018 // Dean E. Smith Center // Chapel Hill, N.C.

Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski (February 7, 2018)

On North Carolina's small-ball lineups:

"They're not really that small. (Luke) Maye is 6'8" and as good a player as there is in the country and strong. (Cameron) Johnson's 6'9", (Theo) Pinson's 6'6", (Kenny) Williams 6'4", what they all have are perimeter skills and that's the difference. I think they've adapted really well to fit their style to fit their kids and they play it very well. They're tough matchups because Maye can bring it down the court, he can be in the post and in the same exchange he can go out to the three-point line. It's a tough team to defend. They can all shoot. Then they bring all their big guys off the bench which gives them an older Carolina look. They score a lot of points. I think one of the things they've done unbelievably well is rebound. When you think of the past you think those big guys rebound and they do. But this team, their perimeter guys rebound, Pinson is as good as an offensive rebounder as they have. It's a really good team, which they have a really good team all the time which makes it such a great game."

On relationship with Roy Williams:

"By the time Roy became, one from when he was an assistant there, he could see the change in our part of it, I think he could see a difference in me. As a young coach, you're trying to develop a program and you're fighting for everything and in the 1990's, both of were really good. That's where it started for me to change, I had a lot more empathy and living it like Dean (Smith) was living it every year on what he had to go through, where 'oh I'm going through that.' Actually Dean and I became very good friends. Through the NABC, even when Roy was at Kansas, on the board whenever there were issues, we were two of the veteran guys. We're always looking for what's good at the game, not necessarily what's good for your specific program at the time. We should both be mature enough to realize that we're the caretakers of the program, but we don't own it. We're privileged to be in that position and in that respect we see a lot of things in the same way. Obviously he wants to beat me and I want to beat him, but we also look at what's good for college basketball."

On Grayson Allen's recent play:

"I don't think he's going through a slump, I think he's playing well and then we all had a bad game on Saturday. I think he's done a really good job as a leader. The Notre Dame game here, I thought he started to get his shot again. He just needs to play. We're not having all these in-depth sessions with these kids right now. It's not what about you, it's what about us. We played really bad on Saturday and we have been playing good. That's what I'm most concerned about. We could have a really, completely different effort than we've been having. That's the human nature aspect of what we do."

On studying the recent series with Carolina:

"I don't look at the recent series; I think that's a mistake. That means their team is exactly the same and so is ours. I have an entirely different team, they're different, why would it make any difference to me what we've done. Whether we lost 10 in a row to them, I don't even know our record against them. I think it's wasted feel. It doesn't do anything. The main thing that I look at is how we finish. I'm proud that we've won two national championships since 2010. That's as good as anybody. Can we be good enough to participate in this tournament and go for another one. That's my goal. I don't have many years to have those goals so I'm not going to get caught up in the other stuff."

On containing Joel Berry II

"He's a great player. I'd like to get Matt Jones out of Reno, and Tyus (Jones) and Quinn (Cook). It's just different. I haven't looked at any tape from last year. I just try to concentrate on now and especially what each team we play have done in the last two weeks. Joel is one of the great players in college basketball. He's been on the stage of great games. He's won most of them and lost a few, but he's been there. That's what they have going for them. They have, with Pinson and Maye, those three kids were a huge part of a national championship team. We're trying to get that experience. One of the big things for this game is the stage our guys get to play on. The stage our guys got to play on Saturday was a big one. We didn't do well in that one. Hopefully we'll do better tomorrow night."

On Duke's Brotherhood:

"We kind of always had that, I don't know if we always called it that. You could look at the 1986 team and they became brothers, they became friends. Not just the fact that I've been here, but that I've had my former players on the staff. Obviously there's the continuity of me being here. It really helps when you have your former players, when Wojo (Steve Wojciechowski), and Chris (Collins), and Johnny (Dawkins) and Tommy (Amaker) were there, the guys I have now, they bring the guys from the different eras back because they were on those teams. As much as it's me being here, it's the continuity of the assistants being former players and I think all of my guys have been former captains of teams, although that's not some criteria, I think that's helped. We do different things. I think our fantasy camp has helped with that. We're in our 17th year and a lot of the proceeds go to help the Emily Krzyzewski Center. When you bring back about 30 to 40 guys each summer from different teams, they get to develop their relationship. Then they came up with that. I just like the fact that they're all close. We feel good about the fact that we have that type of relationship with our former players."