



# Duke Postgame Quotes

## Duke vs. North Carolina



March 3, 2018 // Cameron Indoor Stadium // Durham, N.C.

**Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski**

### ***Opening Statement***

“Well, obviously we played a lot better in the second half. We beat a really, really good basketball team tonight. In the first half, I thought our guys definitely were ready to play. North Carolina plays with such great poise and they put so much pressure on you in pushing that ball down the court. Somewhere in the middle of the first half, we just kept missing free throws and then we missed shots and then we just started dribbling the ball. Our offense, and their defense was good, but we helped them tremendously; we didn’t move the ball. You could see that each kid was trying to do something on his own. They’re not selfish, but they’re young, they’re just young. In spite of 4-14 from the free throw line and really not running offense, we were only down by 10 because our defense overall was pretty good. At halftime, I just spent a good amount of time with them and I just said look, take the pianos off your back, quit playing with all the pressure in the world, get a smile on your face, just play. I said I’m not going to call any plays. You hit, cut, everybody touch the ball, you see a play to make, you make the play, and get comfortable in the game, and they did that and you could see them do that. Obviously, Marvin (Bagley III) went nuts there for a while and just put us on his back. Gary (Trent Jr.) hit huge, huge threes and Trevon (Duval) played his best half; six assists, no turnovers. And I think in a game like this, Grayson (Allen) got worn out because of the emotion of the night, it’s his last game. Taking him off the ball there for a while in the second half, we were able to run better offense. We’ll keep looking at our team and how we might improve, I’m trying to condense four years into one here. But Trevon was huge for us, huge. The whole team played their butts off and we kept playing good defense. They got more offensive rebounds I think in the first half, it seemed that way. I’m trying to forget the first half. I’m proud of my guys, and it’s a big time win for us, to turn it around like that for a young group after just not playing well in the first half was really commendable for our team. Thank you for the crowd, incredible atmosphere. Our guys even said after the game that they never felt tired because they felt the crowd. It was a great way to end the regular season, 25 wins and our 13<sup>th</sup> conference win. Now we move on.”

### ***On Roy Williams gesturing that he was not going to foul:***

“I never look at the other coach, so I don’t know. He may have tried. Roy and I are good friends, I just never look at the other coach, I’m supposed to look at my team. When the game was going on, I just wanted to sub Grayson, so that’s what I did. Whether Roy was complicit with that or not, again, I don’t want to start something here. I didn’t dis him by not looking at him, but I knew I wanted a sub for Grayson.”

### ***On meaningful moment when Grayson exited the game:***

“Look, I love that kid. For the rest of the time I coach here, for however long that is, I’m not going to have a senior like that because they’re going to be too good and they’re going to leave. To have a four-year guy who, depending on how much we play in the ACC and the NCAA (tournament) could be a 2000-point scorer and a four-time academic all-ACC, an All-American, a National Champion, and an ACC Champion. The kid, if he was in the military, they would say, ‘Well done, my son, well done.’ He did that and the fans were so appreciative. His ovation to start out was incredible. I’m always jealous of the guys who play here because as a player I would like to have run out on that court, I would’ve liked to have had a senior night like that. I loved being at Army, don’t get me wrong, but it’s not this. So, you get in those moments with your players. I’m glad we shared that moment tonight.”

### ***On words to players during critical timeout:***

“I don’t remember the specific timeout. Probably something good, probably just keep it going, like you’re doing a good job. But Marvin during that stretch, just some of the best plays of any player in the country occurred during those few minutes by that kid. He got angry, he didn’t want to lose, and the will that he showed was phenomenal.”

### ***On zone defense performance:***

“Apparently, we’re one of the top two teams in the conference defensively. Remember when you all said we couldn’t play defense but we could play offense, now you’re saying we can play defense and we can’t play offense. So, make up your mind. We’re just trying to get a balance. One thing in playing zone, you don’t get as many possessions and we have to figure out how to maybe do something with tempo in it, like we did tonight. We extended the defense and I thought that helped us in the second half. If you take out the first three conference games, we’ve played as well as anybody on the defensive end in the conference. Even with those three games, we’re right there. Not one, Virginia would always be one, but we’re two or three in everything. The kids have worked hard on that.”

### ***On mentality of freshman who played last home game tonight:***

“I met with a few of the freshmen on Friday and talked to them. I said this isn’t a win it for Grayson type of thing, it probably will be your last game, too, and to approach it that way. I said you won’t have any introductions, except the starting lineup. We talked about it, and it’s a really good point.”

### ***On Grayson’s statement that Coach K and staff helped him fall in love with basketball again:***

“It’s kind of what happens to a kid in college. Sometimes you get knocked right on your butt. Whether it be a course that you thought you were really good at, a broken relationship, something that happened. That’s why you’re in college and there should be an umbrella over these kids that give them the protection and aid that they need so when they do leave here, they learn from mistakes. I would not be a proponent for a trophy for everyone, because you never teach your kid how to lose and how to react to adversity. If you’re here for four years in our program, you’re going to get your butt beat at some time, and he got his butt beat in a lot of different ways, but he had the umbrella. Not just me, he had a lot of people who were supportive of him, and our fans, and that’s what all these kids need, they need that level of support. What a way to end.”