



# Duke Postgame Quotes

## Duke vs. North Carolina



New York Life ACC Tournament Semifinals  
March 9, 2018 // Barclays Center // Brooklyn, N.Y.

**Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski**

### **Opening Statement**

"Well, it was a really physical game, and congratulations to North Carolina. You know, we've had three really good games against one another in a short period of time. Kind of a disjointed game. It was kind of a weird game tonight. But the turnovers hurt us, and their offensive rebounds. We're not going to win a game against a team that caliber if we turned it over 18 times. We learned a lot here. We played two really good games, two really good teams, and we know we can play better. I'm proud of my guys. I thought in the last six minutes they showed an incredible will to win against a very, very good basketball team. We had a chance. We had a chance, but we've got to do that a little bit earlier."

### **On what your team learned this weekend:**

"Yeah, I just think the experience, one, playing against a desperate, old, really good team in Notre Dame, and being we were really ready for the tournament, and I thought we played really well last night. Even to play the second game where you have just a 20-minute warmup, those kids haven't -- Grayson has gone through it, but I'm not blaming it on them, I'm just saying it's different, and that's what can happen in the NCAA Tournament. You can play the first game or the second game. You'll get about 30 minutes then. And then you're playing at 9:30 or 9:45 or whatever, it's different. So you learn from those experiences. That's the whole year for us is there's so many new things for these guys, and playing against two top-quality opponents. Winning and then -- I thought we got off to a bad start, not that we weren't ready. I thought that we weren't physical enough. Kind of like in the first half against Notre Dame where you -- the game is physical. I'm not saying they're fouls. It's physical inside. So you have to do more than try to get your shot off because you're going to -- there's bumping in that, not necessarily fouls but there's bumping, and so you have to -- yesterday in the second half, we did a great job of that. And today at the start of the game, we did not, and then Trevon (Duval) got hurt, there were disruptions. It was kind of a weird thing. And then we kind of played the game in different stages today, and we have to play it at the same stage throughout. It's just maturing. It's our 33rd game, and these kids have won 26, and they've been really good, and they have a will to win. They just hopefully will get a few good days of practice, hopefully Trey is not -- the X-rays are negative, we got that done right away, and we can get healthy and then move on. Everyone is 0-0 starting next week, so that's the way we're looking at it. I think we're much better prepared for the NCAA Tournament than we were a month ago, and these two games will help us, even though we lost tonight and could have played better. But they make you not play well. They're very good. They did a good job against us."

### **On late-game comebacks:**

"Well, I mean, no one wants to put themselves in a hole. Sometimes you can play well and the other guys are just hitting and whatever. Like in the first half, boy, boom, boom, boom, they got threes, and that can knock you out, but it didn't knock our team out. You just try to have a consistent effort for 40 minutes and not put yourself in those positions. But if we are, like throughout the last 15 minutes of the game, we kept telling our guys, look, stay with it, stay with it, just stay with it, and we've been here before. We will have an opportunity. And we've added some things to our defense in the zone where we can trap. We've just added them in the last week. And to be quite frank with you, a couple of those things worked today, which we hadn't had. So we're just trying to get better, and maybe we do those things a little bit earlier, I don't know. I'm good with my team. Again, congratulations to Carolina and Virginia. I mean, Virginia has been stupendous, and again, thank you for the people here, for their hospitality. I think Brooklyn has been great. The Barclay's have been great, and we'll just find out Sunday where we're going and be 0-0 and go for it."