



# Duke Quotes

## NCAA Selection Sunday



March 11, 2018 // Durham, N.C.

### Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski

#### ***On reaching the NCAA Tournament:***

"That's the beauty of it. There's so much excitement to see the teams get so excited, our team get excited and to get a No. 2-seed. We're very proud of that. Everyone, well not everyone, will say we wish we would go here. Look, there are a lot of people that wish they were one of the 68 teams. We've done this now, for our program, I think the 34th time and it never gets old. It's exciting and I'm really happy and proud for my team."

#### ***On the lessons the team has learned through the season:***

"Well everything. Hopefully everything because there's always something new. Different times to play games, handling success, adversity and injury. Playing together. Someone not playing well and how you have to pick him up. All of these things. We're a team right now. We were a group of really good kids and now we're a team of really good young men. Hopefully we'll be deserving of playing really well and advancing in the tournament."

#### ***On focusing on Iona:***

"That's the only focus. It's not hard for me and we've already talked to our team about it. You cannot, well you can, look ahead and then you'll be looking at a lot of things because you won't be playing anymore. Each game is a championship game. That's how I've tried to do it. Once I've learned a little bit more about the tournament because anybody can beat anybody. We learned that during the season too and the fact that we can beat anybody. So let's just focus on Iona."

#### ***On the week's schedule:***

"Well we're on spring break so that's good. That means we can have earlier practices and get some sleep. We'll get out of Durham sometime Tuesday after practice because the NCAA always has the day before the games a bunch of practices and media requirements. So we'd rather be there the night before, but we'll practice here before going on Tuesday."

### Duke senior guard Grayson Allen

#### ***On his first reaction to the bracket:***

"Very happy and very proud of what we've accomplished in the regular season and in the short conference tournament. But we're looking forward to the next step. We're happy and grateful for the two seed. Iona, that's our first step so we've got to prepare for them."

#### ***On focusing on each matchup:***

"You have to have blinders. You can't even talk about what's going to happen next, can't talk about what's going to happen in the next round, can't even think about it. We can't fill out of bracket, can't picture playing who, where, what. You have to focus on one game at a time. I know that from this being my fourth tournament and from watching Duke teams in the past and other schools. It happens every year, when teams get upset. As far as records go, everyone's 0-0 right now. The tournament does not care at all about what you've done before this. All it cares about is winning."

#### ***On preparing younger teammates for the tournament:***

"First of all, it's an amazing atmosphere. For these guys, they've seen it on television and watching it in high school, watching all the madness go on. Now you're a part of it and it's real. Now you have to pick up the extra level of focus, the extra level of dedication you're putting into the game. This is it. Your season ends really quickly. We could lose Thursday and then it's over. It's so abrupt that you have to put everything in."

#### ***On how the team has changed during the season:***

"We've grown a lot. With a young team you have to gain experience through the year. You don't bring it in from past years so I think we've gotten a lot more mature from that. I'm trying to be the leader and prepare them for stuff like that, but experience, there's nothing like it. We're a more mature team, we've gotten a lot smarter as the years goes on. Figuring out game situations and being more prepared on the fly. Not relying on Coach as much, not turning to him for everything although we need him. We're a much older team than when we first started and I'm very happy with the guys' growth so far."