



# Duke University

## Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski Quotes

*October 19, 2018 - Countdown to Crazyness*

### **HEAD COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI**

#### **Opening Statement**

"First of all, I want to thank the fans. That was a great start to the season. It's a good long day. To have all the families here is really neat to kick it off. Overall, I thought our guys did a good job. You play against each other, we split them up, and so you don't get a chance to see what it would be like if you could keep them fresher in a game. You play three or four minutes and get a sub in. Instead of playing 20 minutes, they are playing 16. You can do that in different ways. We will find out about that on Tuesday and then Saturday. That'll be really good. But overall, I'm pleased. Cameron (Reddish) hurt his rib on Tuesday, a displaced fracture to the tenth rib. So he played really well tonight considering that. I was really pleased. He practiced yesterday. For him to do that three days after is pretty impressive. Javin (DeLaurier) has been back for about four days. I thought he did a good job. You can see he can actually hit a shot. He hit two threes in open shots. He's been working on that and he will be getting that type of shot with the guys that we play with."

#### **On how the team was split up**

"The role players get a chance to play with key guys. We'll get to see how the first unit does against another team on Tuesday and how the role players come in. Tonight, I'm not sure how you'd evaluate Jack White but I thought he player really well. He was on the boards, he played defense. If he's playing with those guys, Cam (Reddish), Zion (Williamson) and RJ (Barrett), he's going to get open shots and he can hit an open shot. It didn't distract him that he didn't get a shot. It helps the role players get better."

#### **On Tre Jones' role**

"I think either team that had Tre (Jones) would be better. He controls the ball well and he gets it to people. He can score but he's looking for us to score. That's something that can really help this group. He's obviously a really critical player for us. A tough kid."

#### **On RJ Barrett**

"He had to a little bit more because his team was struggling. Cam (Reddish) did a good job but he wasn't where he would be. Cam's been shooting the lights out of it. RJ's a winner and he's going to find ways to win. He's that positionless player. He can get to the foul line. He can get his shot off and still get fouled. He's a really good player."

#### **On teaching unselfishness**

"Overall, they are (unselfish). You'd have to teach it if they weren't. They all like to pass. More than that, they all like to win. They are ok with whoever scores. When we put them all together, they'll be very good. "

#### **On Barrett's fearlessness**

"He's been playing up his whole life. Really, he should be in high school. He reclassified at Montverde (Academy) and then with the Canadian team, he's always played up and that really helped him. And playing at Montverde helped him. Kevin Boyle is a heck of a coach. He just has that in him. That's something that we haven't taught him, he brought that here and hopefully we can use it really well."

**On a comparison to the excitement around Zion Williamson**

"I'm sure they were excited to see Marvin Bagley and Wendell Carter. We've had guys people were excited to see. Zion (Williamson) is a unique player in that he's not only positionless but with his body type, you can't say 'Well, he's like somebody.' What he does with his body is remarkable. He's a competitor. He's really a good passer. He dunks pretty well. What he has, in a couple of those plays, he has really powerful hands. He took it out of one guy's hand early and then it was kind of a loose thing and he just grabbed it and went up. We can't teach that. It just comes with him."

**On the friendly-competitiveness between Barrett and Williamson**

"That's another reason you play them. They can get better because they can play against that level of player. But RJ (Barrett) and Zion (Williamson) are really close. With that combination, you're going to see some really neat things throughout the season. But the fact that they can play against each other, guard one another, and the same thing with Cam (Reddish), at times Tre was put on RJ because he is a good defender, that makes those guys better, by playing in those situations."

**On the effects of Countdown to Craziess on the team**

"They are so excited. Part of it, why they were so tired, that wasn't just consecutive minutes, they're jumping for about five to six minutes. It's like the Carolina game where you get exhausted in warmups and in the first two minutes, you go, 'Holy mackerel, I need to play 38 more minutes.' They were really excited and the fans were great. I want to thank my daughter Debbie. She puts this on with her group. They do it well every year and we celebrate the Duke student in the first hour or 45 minutes, where it's all Duke. I'm starting my 39th year. I love Duke and I love this night. It's a rebirth. It's the start of whatever is going to happen but hopefully something good is going to happen."