



# Duke University

## Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski Quotes

*November 14, 2018 - vs. Eastern Michigan*

### **HEAD COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI**

#### **Opening Statement**

"Well we played really well tonight, obviously. In the first half, we played so hard. We played at a pace that's different than a pace they're (Eastern Michigan) really good at. It kind of snowballed for them after that. The intensity was excellent. I thought this was probably the best game where we talked well on both ends of the court. We encouraged one another. I think in the past few days we grew up a bit more as far as communication goes, so really good. We shared the ball well and got every loose ball in the first half. It was really fun to watch, and I'm proud of my guys. Cameron [Reddish] had a bit of a soreness in his groin, nothing serious. If it was a different game situation, he would've played. It's better to give him tonight. We're not going to do much tomorrow besides lift, give feedback, a little bit of conditioning, and get ready to leave for Maui on Friday morning, so it's okay to give him a couple of days."

#### **On Zion [Williamson]'s vertical:**

"More so than how high he jumps is his incredible body control, especially on a fast break. Kevin White (Duke Athletics Director) and I were talking, and even though 'slither' isn't a word you would normally use to describe him, he basically does that, which is crazy. Also, his guys look for him. The thing he did really well tonight was play defense and specifically post defense. They have some really good big guys. They have the Preseason Player of the Year in their conference and [Boubacar] Toure, a graduate transfer, so they had some big guys. And our guys look for Zion."

#### **On Duke's transition:**

"Generally, everyone except the center, who got the board, should go. EMU had not played a game like that. They'll be better after playing this game, as in their first three games, they hadn't had much transition and we took advantage of that. I thought we handled everything well during this game, especially in transition, we were relentless. We did the three-quarter-court press, that 1-2-2, and it got them out of it a bit. Everything we did kind of worked, but it only worked because we played so hard."

#### **On Duke's ease in navigating EMU's large zone:**

"I think they're still learning their zone. Even though he's big, Toure's only played four games. They haven't played against a bigger team with bigger guys. I thought Marques [Bolden] had a great game. We're lucky that we have two guys that can flash in the middle and make plays in Zion and RJ [Barrett]. If you can flash in the middle there and be a play-maker in the zone, your zone offense works a lot better. That big guy in the middle has got a plan, and we had a lot of lobs because of that. That big guy had to play two guys, and our big guy had to see the guy that was open, and it worked."

#### **On bench players carving out their space on the team:**

"They have to be ready to go at any time. I thought Jordan [Goldwire] did a really good job today of playing simple and putting pressure. He got a couple of loose balls from putting that pressure, along with no turnovers. He played with good energy. Alex [O'Connell] can score the ball. Alex continues to have to learn to play defense. He's trying, but he's not there yet. When that comes, he becomes better. It's our third game, and he's playing hard and well, but he can do that better. Jack [White], Javin [DeLaurier], even Antonio [Vrankovic] know exactly what they're supposed to do. So even if we were to go to 10 or 11 guys, who, even if they don't play much, know what they're supposed to do, then we're going to be better."

#### **On the Maui Invitational:**

"It's a great field. You don't know what's going to happen there. It only simulates what could happen in the ACC tournament, so really it doesn't prepare you for the NCAA tournament. You learn, but you're playing three straight days, which will never happen otherwise during the season, so success or failure there has to be looked at a little bit closer. It's a great opportunity for competition, and there are some big-time teams in the tournament, which usually there are when we're in the tournament."