



# Duke University

## Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski Quotes

*December 1, 2018 - vs. Stetson*

### **HEAD COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI**

#### **Opening Statement**

"Our guys played really hard. That was the main thing today. We had more talent than Stetson [University], but Stetson's kids played hard. Actually, they're coming off their two best games, so they're improving and we're improving. When we play hard like that, it's going to be hard for them to score against us. Today, the main thing is that we were playing hard and together. We had 27 assists—no 29. We shared the ball well. Two of the guys that really didn't score had the biggest impact on the game, and that's Tre [Jones] and Jack [White]. They're just such good teammates. Tre goes another game where he doesn't turn the ball over, has seven assists, and was all over the place defensively. Jack had nine rebounds in 15 minutes. I think he reluctantly shot the ball, which is why he missed. This is a rough stretch because of all the academic work that has to be done now. For a lot of these kids, their courses end this week. They're not finals—they're projects, papers, and presentations. I'm not sure for how long it's been, but it's like we have two weeks of finals, instead of one week. A lot of time it has a really tough impact on our team. Obviously, it did not tonight. We'll see for the rest of the week as we do study halls tomorrow and tutoring and all of that, to keep that up for Wednesday [against Hartford] and Saturday [against Yale], and then go into finals. But overall, a very good job by our kids."

#### **On balancing playing time and rest:**

"I thought we would play the starters more in the second half and we just exploded. When we're in transition, we're very hard to beat, and because we have so many guys that can bring the ball up and make plays, we just exploded there. So, then we thought, alright, we're not going to get anything out of them doing that so it's time. J Rob [Justin Robinson] had a really good game and he showed some things that maybe can be used. I thought Jav [Javin DeLaurier] played well. I don't think anyone didn't play well, but it gave guys extended minutes and that's good. It gave Tre some rest, as we need to watch hip with his little groin/hip thing. Might as well not wear him out."

#### **On using defense to start a play:**

"They know that—it's the best way to start a play. That, and defensive rebounding by the perimeter, if you can get both of those with multiple ball handlers. Obviously, the best way to have transition is to turn someone over with a live ball because you can have the numerical advantage. If you get it off of a defensive board, you may not have the numerical advantage, but you have mismatches. A guy who was supposed to guard you is guarding someone else. It forces the team to talk more. The more we get of that, the better we're going to be."

#### **On continuing to improve defensively:**

"We're working hard. We played those six games in 15 days with travel and all that. When you have a younger or more inexperienced group, habits are not completely there unless you're doing them daily. Since we've been back, we've been trying to get back into our defensive habits. We're getting there. We're good, and we're going to get better as long as we're healthy because we're going to keep working at it. These guys have really good attitudes. They were up for the game. There was a really good crowd, a lot of people came. Did you know there were some people from Des Plaines, Illinois here? Can you believe that? It's unbelievable. We had people from everywhere here."

#### **On the late former President, George H.W. Bush:**

"I always wear these two pins. This one is for the CEO Roundtable to Fight Cancer. I've been a member for almost two decades. It's one of the organizations that President Bush started. He and Mrs. Bush lost a child, a daughter, at the age of three. Behind the scenes, which is pretty much what he always was, he fought an intense battle against cancer. I became—thankfully—a friend and close to him because of this and for Jim Nantz, who's like a son to him. I've done some things with them."

"When you talk about great Americans, I don't know if there's been anyone better than he and Mrs. Bush as a team for 70 years. He never celebrated himself. Imagine being a stud athlete and then a fighter pilot, being shot down in the Pacific [Ocean], going on 58 missions, was Distinguished Flying Cross. He's the guy that helped establish relationships with China. He's just an amazing American and gentlemen. I don't think I've known anyone better than President Bush. That combination, that team, of he and Mrs. Bush really provided a lifetime of service to our country. Pretty darn good. I'm starting to get emotional about it."

"I found out about it when, for some reason, I got up at 1 o'clock in the morning. I was looking at my phone and, I said 'ah, man.' We should just thank God that he set the example for how you should serve our country. It was an honor to know him and his family."