



# Duke University

## Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski Quotes

*January 26, 2019 - vs. Georgia Tech*

### **HEAD COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI**

#### **Opening Statement**

"We beat a really good team today. Josh [Pastner] had his team ready to play us. Their zone is obviously a different type of zone, 1-3-1 to 2-2-1. Their kids are very active, and they were ready to play. We didn't hit some shots, and we didn't convert fast breaks in that first half. We and their defense worked together to only score 27 points. It was mainly their defense, but then you could tell that we didn't have fresh faces because the ball wasn't going in. It didn't impact our defense until the last couple minutes of the first half. In the second half, we didn't start out well, and I thought we were in a trance. After the timeout, our guys really started playing defense, and we did a couple different things against the zone that got us quick buckets. Our guys were just different, which says a lot about them. This was a game that you lose if you're thinking about being a winner. It's a game that winners win, when you can turn it around with 18 minutes to go when you're just really not playing well, and then play great. We played great the rest of the game. Alex [O'Connell] gave us a huge lift. Antonio [Vrankovic] did some good things in the first half. Marques [Bolden] was playing really well. [His injury] is not serious, but it's painful; it's something about the toenail on his big toe. He tried to play in the second half but couldn't, so we went to that smaller lineup. I liked the defense and that post that Zion [Williamson] and RJ [Barrett] played. They had two good post-men, like there's a reason they're 3-3 in the conference. Really good win for us, and for Tre [Jones] to play that number of minutes and cover one of the better guards in the league, [Jose] Alvarado. He felt really good after the game. Sometimes when you're apart for a couple weeks or three games, it's not like you just come back together, like that [snaps]. It takes a little bit, and I thought that was probably part of it, too. It was a huge win for us, the crowd was great. I've been doing this for a number of years, and sometimes in these 12 o'clock games, the home team isn't as ready. I remember going to Louisville when we won in 2015, they weren't in it. But also, their crowd was just a crowd. Our fans were our sixth man today. That combination of things produced a win. Thank goodness."

#### **On Alex O'Connell's contributions today:**

"He would say I'm telling the truth, but he hasn't played well, and he hasn't played with the verve that he has in the past. The last two days at practice you could tell he was different. When he wasn't playing well, I thought he was into himself, like trying to figure it out instead of playing the game. Today he played. He had a big bucket, a big offensive rebound, and got two loose balls. Guys expect him to shoot, so when he missed, we rebounded at least two, maybe three, of his misses and scored. When the right guy shoots the right shot and misses, the percentages go up for you to get an offensive rebound. He was terrific. He was a big part of us winning."

#### **On bouncing back from missed transition points:**

"We played defense. We are a transition team, and we had transition in the first half. We didn't score. You have to either score the bucket or score on fouls, or both. You can't come up empty. I bet there are four or five times, even in the second half when we did. You can't come up empty in transition at the basket. You can't do it because of how hard you've worked to get there. We'll show our guys that you have to finish or get fouled, and we weren't fouled. We didn't finish."

#### **On having Tre back:**

"It was great having him out there, obviously. He's one of the top guards in the country, and he's our guy. After the Pitt game, he had done some stuff in shoot-around and he said, 'I'm really starting to feel well.' And then on Wednesday, he and Nick Potter did a lot more work. They've been working like crazy in rehab. Then Thursday, he said he was ready to do part of practice, and he looked good. We got him in and out. Yesterday, he said, 'I feel great, ready to go.' Again, after the game he felt that way as well. We're moving on from that."

#### **On anticipating Tre's conditioning and playing 35 minutes:**

"There's physical conditioning, and there's mental and character conditioning. He never gets out of condition mental- and character-wise. His mind is in complete control over his body. Because of his mind, he's not going to be tired. This kid is a special, special competitor. I love him. It's not anything I taught him but thank goodness he's with us. This kid's a special kid, and his teammates know that."