



# Duke University

## Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski Quotes

*February 2, 2019 - vs. St. John's*

### **HEAD COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI**

#### **Opening Statement**

"Our guys played a really outstanding defensive game against an explosive offensive team. Just a really good job, and they kept it up for a full 40 minutes. Tre [Jones]'s pressure on the ball was outstanding, but our two big guys did a great job of defending the ball screen. We changed our method of what we were doing about 10 minutes into the game into what we call a "high ice." Marques [Bolden] has been moving his feet since Christmas break. He's playing so well. It was beautiful what he was doing, and Javin [DeLaurier], too. Once we started defensive rebounding in the second half, we kind of blew it open there. R.J. [Barrett] only had 15. In out perimeter rebounds like that we can get a break, so he had 14 rebounds. So, overall, a really great performance by our kids."

#### **On the energy before half:**

"It wasn't a 10-point game, but it was, because of that explosion. But we played defense. We scored a few buckets on our denial. In the first half, we got a couple, and [Zion Williamson's dunk before half] was a big one. Thank goodness we only had five fouls, so when we did foul, they had to rush in the last four seconds or so. We kept it up in the second half, which was good."

#### **On what he was telling his team over the physicality of play:**

"I don't even remember. I don't know. I just tell them to fight and go play. I'm never mic'd so you'll never find out."

#### **On coaching against Chris Mullin:**

"Well, I've coached against him before. They beat us last year. Chris is one of the great players in the history of the game. It's so good that St. John's has him back. For him to take the job and try to bring back the brand. Obviously, the St. John's brand, with Coach [Joe] Lapchick and [Lou] Carnesecca, but it started with Coach Lapchick. The St. John's brand is spectacular, but it hasn't been as much recently. But it's still there, especially with Chris being there and Mike Cragg who left here to be there. I think Mike is really a godsend because he recognizes that. He'll do everything he can, which is a lot, to make sure it's what it's supposed to be. Thank goodness for Chris that he's made that effort and commitment, because it's a big commitment."

#### **On the "Zion phenomena":**

"I think the world is different. The world's changed in the last couple of years, and who the hell knows what it will look like two years. Nobody has brought in the exposure that he's brought in. In other words, he had a million or two million followers before he ever got here. When does that happen? It may never happen. But it's happening for him. We're such high profile, so everything we do is looked at closely. His excellent play is looked at by everybody. The thing about that kid is that he doesn't want all of that attention, and he handles it so well. We have a good group. I'm not sure many groups would handle it the same way. It's nothing on me; it's on my kids. Zion does it great. He deflects a lot. Thank goodness he deflected a couple of passes today too."

#### **On Cam [Reddish]'s first half play:**

"He's played really well, but to start out that way, to play that aggressive and to knock those shots down, shows he's on an upward trend. He's been that way for about two weeks now, and it shows up in his defense primarily. If you watched him on [Justin] Simon in the second half when [Simon] became the primary ball handler, he was all over [Simon]. That's not something he would've done early. So instead of looking at shooting and looking at Cam, what I've tried to say is, 'Look you're a good basketball player. Just play, and the scoring will come.' And it's come. He's on an upward trend."

#### **On anything special in Tre's practice that predicted his play tonight:**

"He's the same. He's the same no matter what. You would love to be able to coach him. He comes every day like that. He understands the value of his defense and that it's not a stat. But it is for the other team. It's not a personal stat, but if he's doing his job, then they're going to shoot under 40%. Our guys will be able to do more. He's as good as anybody in the country on defense. When he was out, our defense kind of backed up. We were in more of an attack mode today, not to get turnovers, but to make them earn the court. Make them earn that. Instead, when he's not here, they pick him up and so they get that for free. That's the value that he has for us."

#### **On how much attention Tre gets vs. what he deserves:**

"I don't know. I don't follow attention. I follow performance. Attention will take care of itself if you perform. If you perform for attention, you don't perform for the right reasons, the basketball gods will not be good to you. He performs because of him, not because of what someone's watching, just like every great performer. Any great performer sings and dances because they love it, and they share it with you. That's the way this kid is."