



# Duke University

## Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski Quotes

*March 5, 2019 - vs. Wake Forest*

### **HEAD COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI**

#### **Opening Statement**

"We were fortunate in the last play because that's inexcusable, what we did. I don't think we were fortunate to win. They (Wake Forest) played great, not good. [Chaundee] Brown and [Brandon] Childress were sensational. But the whole team played as good as I've seen them play. They played throughout. Obviously, they were playing a lot better than us and took a 10-point lead. I thought in the last 15 minutes of the game, we played better. We put ourselves in a position then to where I thought we should've won by 8-10 points because we did the right thing until the last play. But we didn't put the ball in the basket for free throws. I know RJ [Barrett] is beating himself up. He played a great game. Without him, forget it. Especially with Cam [Reddish] in foul trouble, we had a hard time scoring. [RJ] missed free throws, but he made the biggest bucket of the game to put us up by three. Look, if we're in a similar situation, we'll do the same thing. Hopefully we'll have more of a lead and whatever. Our kids fought like crazy. Jordan Goldwire really gave us a huge spark. Jack [White] gave us a huge spark with 10 rebounds. We couldn't finish. We had frustrating plays when we were playing so hard, like the 2-on-1 fast break with Goldwire and Tre [Jones] when it was 53-51, one, two, three times and it didn't go in. They stayed with it. I was impressed that our team continued to play at that level on the defensive end, even though some of those things weren't happening. Tre hit those two free throws. His knee is going to be okay. He bumped knees real hard and had a little bump on it. I didn't know if he'd come back. Then he came back, said, 'I'm ready,' and I said, 'If you're ready you're going to play.' That kid's a winner. Hard-fought win. In the last sequence, we're fortunate that it went our way. But I want to say we're not fortunate to win. We are fortunate in that sequence, because after those 15 minutes, we played our butts off. Playing with not a full deck has been very difficult. I think we thought it was going to be easier, and when it wasn't, we're not old enough and we haven't played together enough. When all of your pieces work, you don't have to be up, but you have to be good. We're not there right now. We better be ready and go after it. I mentioned to the TV people that this afternoon, Zion [Williamson] actually did some basketball stuff this afternoon. Good. Getting him more confidence. We just have to get him in shape. I don't think he'll be ready for Saturday. I have to be careful not to push this. I want to give him a chance to get in game shape. I would be surprised if he wasn't ready by the ACC Tournament. Hopefully we'll play some games there, not just one, and get ready for the NCAA Tournament. Our crowd was great. It was good seeing Dwyane [Wade] here. I love him. He was our leading scorer in Beijing, so we've been very close friends."

#### **On what they've learned over the last 4-5 games without Zion:**

"We're not as good as we are with him. That's the first thing. You can't put together a well-oiled machine in a couple practices to play in this conference at a level when you lose a kid like that. And there is no other kid like that. He's probably the National Player of the Year. Our guys have fought. I think Alex [O'Connell] has gotten better. Goldwire has gotten better. Our bigs have been playing well. No one started out playing well to begin with, but then we were playing better. The big part of tonight was Cam's foul trouble, because he's the second scorer. What happens with Zion not being there is that it's harder to score. When you have the three of them and Tre as a compliment, they don't have to make big contributions, and then all of the sudden you're an 80-point team. And then all of the sudden you just have R.J. in there and Cam is sitting on the bench with 4 fouls, their defense was good."

#### **On Zion missing his potential last game in Cameron:**

"No, no. We're not talking about that. I'm sure he'd love to play Saturday too, if he's ready. I'm not sure that he'll be ready, but we'll let you know Friday. He will be in some basketball workouts now, which he hasn't been in. Today was the start of that. That's a really good sign for us."

#### **On NCAA Tournament seeding:**

"We have a great resume. I don't know where it'll all end up. We've played probably the toughest schedule. I know in conference, we've played the toughest schedule, especially with road and playing Virginia and Carolina twice. That adds to the schedule. We have a great resume. Whatever happens, happens. I'm not going to politic for anything. If Zion doesn't play Saturday, we will have only had our team together for nine of the 18 conference games, and we have 14 conference wins. The kids have done a hell of a job."

#### **On what changed when Wake's lead hit 10:**

"We stopped calling sets. We just had them run motion offense. Then, Tre hit the three. Actually, Alex O'Connell had a big three-point play. Then you could see we were more ourselves. We did say at that time, 'Look, we're not playing well, but we've got 16 minutes to go. There's plenty of time.' And there was. I mean in those 16 minutes, I thought we played with great passion. It was good to be home, as our crowd really helped us a lot. We beat a team that played great tonight. Danny [Manning]'s team played absolutely sensational basketball tonight."