



# Duke University

## Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski

*March 9, 2019 - at North Carolina*

### **HEAD COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI**

#### **Opening Statement**

"Well congratulations to North Carolina and Virginia... It's been a heck of a conference season. When Carolina's playing lights out basketball - we have been - we fought hard today. It was a hard-fought game today and I'm proud of my guys. It's been a while since the ACC - we have four teams that have 25 or more wins. I mean, that's crazy. It's been a hell of conference regular season. Now everyone's 0-on-0 and we go forward. Marques [Bolden], the initial diagnosis is an MCL sprain. I don't know the degree or the level, but it's not an ACL so that's good for that kid. We've just had some what I call in-combat injuries. They're not getting hurt in practice or sick or whatever, but they're playing hard and we've just had a lot of injuries. Hopefully, I think we'll get Zion back for Thursday. He worked out this morning again no contact, but Monday there will be and hopefully we'll get a couple good days of practice where he can play five-on-five and then see how that goes. But the way he looks right now, I think it's just a matter of getting in shape. Getting in game shape and going forward. Congratulations to [North Carolina's] seniors. Those are three unbelievable kids. Luke [Maye] has been one of the best players in the country and just a stalwart. What does he play, what position? He plays winner. He's just a winner. Obviously, Kenny Williams - great defender, shooter, great kid. And Cameron Johnson. They have great kids and Coby [White] had a hell of a game, especially in the second half, so it's an honor for us to play against them. I think they feel the same with us and that's why it's North Carolina, but congratulations to them [winning] and being co-champs in our conference."

#### **On what teams can do to combat Coby White when he's on a next-level of play**

"I mean they have other players who do that, too. We have some players who do that and that's what makes me and Roy [Williams] better coaches... What they've done with him is they've given him the freedom to do that. It's not just like he does it. Once he feels that he knows he has the support of his teammates and his coaching staff and that gives him even more confidence. Probably the most proud I was of our team was when he hit us with that and we're down by 15 and we put ourselves in a position where we had a chance. Down by five and RJ [Barrett] took the ball to the basket and you're hoping you get an and-one or a bucket or whatever and they blocked it. But I'm proud of the fact that our guys put us in that position. We had a chance. We had our chance there and we kept fighting. We'll be okay if we keep doing that."

#### **On what makes Coby White a difficult match up**

"He's big and he can shoot and he's good. He's talented. What else do you want to know? He's one of the best players in the league. He's going to be an NBA player. He's got all those things and he's got the support. What's cool [is] when a freshman gets supports from the seniors."

#### **On whether he prefers senior day games when both Carolina and Duke have senior foundations**

"Yeah. They're going to find out too, it's just the way of the world. Both programs attract high-level talent and we both do a good job of developing talent so the talent's going to go earlier. I liked when Nolan Smith and [Kyle] Singler and they have that type of team still right now. They have that blend of great old and really good, great young and it makes them a special group."

#### **On Cam Reddish bouncing back from the Wake Forest game**

"Just to be aggressive. It was a game that they allow in both ways. It's a very physical game and for him to take it to the hole that much - in some games he'll get rewarded a little bit more - but it's just a maturation process for him. I think it was very critical that he had it in this game because if he can keep that when Zion [Williamson] comes back, then we have three guys who can really score the ball and play off. When Cam [Reddish] was not playing [that] was when we had one and today we had two and then you've got a better chance to win. And that's just the way our team make-up is. When the three of those guys are together then they play off one another better. Then the other guys aren't asked to make as many plays. They might make a shot, get a rebound. It's more of a successful level for them."

#### **On what Duke needs to do to get back to its potential regardless of Zion Williamson's return**

"Just to be together. They've shown when they're together, they're very good. And we've been good - not real good - without Zion [Williamson]. The kids have fought, but it's inconsistent. It's not at the level that's needed to win a championship. It's at the level of being good and in order to win a championship, you have to be outstanding. So these guys will react quickly. It depends on Zion [and] his shape and I think it'll happen real quick."

#### **On how different it is to hit a reset button with a young team for postseason**

"Just the fact that we can hit a reset button. If Zion [Williamson]'s healthy and whatever, we'll have a chance."

#### **On his team's poise**

"We had good poise today. Just a tough, great environment. Great team. I didn't think we lost because we got flustered or nervous or anything like that. We stayed with them in rebounds. It was a really good game. It was a really good game and Coby [White]'s flurry kind of did that. Shame on him for doing that. He shouldn't have done that."

#### **On why his team is able to respond when they fall behind**

"These guys, they believe and they are good. We're not going to lose because we're afraid or we're going to back down or anything like that. If we lose, it's because the other team played better. Not that we didn't play well, and tonight they played better. We played well and in going forward, that's good. It was good for Jack [White] and Javin [DeLaurier] to play the minutes. One did have double figure rebounds, the other nine, and playing in this level game, doing that helps them. It helps them. It helps me, too."