



**FINAL FOUR
MEDIA SUPPLEMENT**

DUKE BASKETBALL

CLIPS FILE

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Coach K leads Duke back to the Final Four for one more college basketball ritual

By Tim Keown, ESPN.com (March 27, 2022)

SAN FRANCISCO -- He swears he can't remember records or scores, but he can't forget an ending. The devastating ones, the jubilant ones and every one that falls somewhere in between. This one, though -- the final one -- has been an ending from the beginning.

It has taken on the feel of ritual. Every game begins the same way, with Duke's players taking the court, followed by the assistant coaches and, finally, Mike Krzyzewski. He walks out of the locker room with a slight limp these days, looking like a man who has left something behind but no longer has time to find it. He is a 75-year-old king at the end of a royal procession, a half-minute or so behind assistant Jon Scheyer, the young heir.

Krzyzewski has made this walk 1,569 times as a head coach, an astounding 1,437 of them in 42 years as Duke's head coach. For the past two weeks, he has walked out of every locker room knowing it might be for the last time. Every game, every practice has carried the potential to be wildly significant or just another day, and by defeating Arkansas on Saturday night, Krzyzewski's long goodbye earned itself another week. Either Saturday or next Monday in New Orleans, where the Blue Devils will play in the Final Four for the 13th and final time in Krzyzewski's career, a practice will be the last and a walk will be the final one. Saturday or Monday, and the difference between those 48 hours is immeasurable.

He swears he doesn't want it to be about him, but there's no hope of that. The next week in college basketball, like much of the past nine months in college basketball, will be about him. His players ensured that with their 78-69 win over the Razorbacks in the West Regional final, and when the questioning turned to the inevitable -- the players setting out to win one for Coach K -- he interrupted with a tone that could pierce skin.

"We've already been two champions," Krzyzewski said. "They've fulfilled everything. Let's talk about them. They've won a regular-season championship and now a regional. They did that. They did it for us. Enough about doing it for the old man here. We're not going to do it unless we all own it. We all own this moment together."

This came just a day after a reporter suggested that he had never seen Coach K display the looseness he'd exhibited over the first two weeks of this tournament. "I'm not a loose guy, but ..." he said, and everyone laughed at the mere suggestion that he possesses the capacity to prolong even the most generous definition of loose for longer than a self-deprecating quip. From the outside, this is the way it's always seemed: the joy far outweighed by the angst.

He is the oldest of the old school and the purveyor of a brand of goods that has gradually dwindled in popularity over the decades. Regimented, demanding, at times severe. Much will leave with him when he goes -- some of it worth keeping, some of it not. He has grudgingly succumbed to the changes in the game, taking full advantage of an evolving system while grumbling all the way.

Even his celebrations are muted. When Trevor Keels hit a last-second 3 to give Duke a 12-point halftime lead over Arkansas, Krzyzewski allowed himself two vigorous hand claps as he walked across the court. This exuberance -- he looked like a man smacking dust from his palms -- is about as much of a celebration that's permitted within the strict diet of stoicism.

He will be remembered for the wins record that currently sits at 1,202, and for five -- maybe six -- national titles, but the enduring image will be a man standing on the sideline, his face a rictus of anguish as he cups his hands around his mouth and screams for his team to relax.

Duke's run through this tournament has been an extended exercise in connecting the past to the present. In the final minutes against Texas Tech, Krzyzewski led the call for his team to slap the floor on defense as a callback to the days of Quin Snyder and the sainted Wojo. It drew a huge ovation from the folks who are into that kind of thing. Calling all ghosts, it seems, and you could say it worked. Or, at the very least, you could say there is no evidence it didn't.

At 2:42 P.M. on Wednesday, the day before Duke defeated the Red Raiders to advance to the Elite Eight, several Duke student managers scurried onto the court at Chase Center to set up the gear necessary for what could have been Coach K's final practice as Duke's head coach.

He didn't know it at the time, but after 42 years, 12 -- now 13 -- Final Fours and five national championships, after decades of All-Americans and first-round NBA draft picks and a near-infinite number of hours in the gym, this weekend would provide him with five or six more opportunities to assess the geometry of the game and the strengths of his players and attempt to devise a plan to take them one step closer to where they all want to be.

Practice folder in hand, whistle on a loop around his neck, he walked onto the court at precisely 2:45, because practice begins at precisely 2:45. He walked with a slight limp, his face -- at ease just minutes before in a news conference -- tightening the moment his feet hit hardwood. The jaw set, the mouth pinched. The brow dropped to darken his eyes, creating the impression of a man looking for something important.

This is what they all miss the most: the control. This is the time only the privileged see, and only he manages, the invisible moments that dictate what will eventually be brought into the light. This is when it's the game, and only the game.

His players ran through a staccato shooting drill, shots going in from the corners and wings, and Krzyzewski stood under the basket, watching the scene play out for what might be the millionth time. The players hollered and laughed and celebrated each other's abilities, while Krzyzewski stood unmoving, his expression unchanged, and occasionally cut the levity with instruction. "Shot ready," he barked when someone took too long to gather. "Shot ready."

The former Army officer's practice is crisp and organized, all sharp angles and functional movement, as it has been since he first hung a whistle around his neck at West Point when he was 28. Coaches can control only so much of it, which is why so many of them micromanage all of the controllables, knowing that once the game starts it can become impossible to rein it in.

Control what you can control is usually a partial surrender, a way of explaining how you achieve peace with what exists beyond your realm. Sometimes, though, it means inventing things to control to counteract the times when control is impossible. Micromanaging the controllables is a way of counteracting what happens when the game starts and nothing can be reined in, which might begin to explain why he keeps two sets of rosary beads in his pockets during games.

Three players, Paolo Banchemo, Wendell Moore Jr. and Mark Williams, spoke for the Duke team at the podium on Wednesday afternoon. The conversation, of course, eventually wound its way around to Coach K's retirement: what it means to him, to them, to the world at large, and what amount of motivation it provides.

They were allowed to answer this time. (Coach K wasn't there.) They looked at each other blankly, with the heavy-lidded look of teenagers asked to speak in class. Two looked at one and one looked at two, their eyes begging each other to take the topic they've been done with for a long time but know isn't going away. Finally, it fell to Banchemo, who said all the right things, including, "All season we've been dealing with it. It's been Coach's last something every game." But then he added something that's been lost in the coronation and conversation: They wanted to win it for themselves too.

"I mean, that's not all we're motivated by, obviously," he said. "We come out and we know it could be our last game as a group."

Krzyzewski's fortune -- and his legacy -- was built by young men like these: strong, talented, on their way to something better. From Grant Hill to Elton Brand to Kyrie Irving to Zion Williamson to AJ Griffin, they have sat in some version of this same formation, their coach to their right, in front of hundreds of reporters intent on chronicling his ability to form their talents to his vision.

Given the circumstances, this group has heard it more than any other.

"It wears on you a little bit, because everywhere you walk, everyone is taking a picture of you and they're watching everything," Krzyzewski said. "Look, that gets old. You know, that gets old, but I feel for my guys. They've had pressure put on them that we're not putting on them."

Their response shows they can compartmentalize as well as their coach. At the postgame news conference after beating Texas Tech, Krzyzewski's wife, Mickie, sat at the back of the room and his daughter, Debbie Savarino, stood next to her. They nodded along to just about everything he said, knowing this win bought their husband and father -- and them -- more time. As he finished speaking, Krzyzewski praised the growth of his young team, made the sign of the cross and said, "Such a joy."

It's been his particular tell for as long as anybody can remember: He leans forward in his chair on the bench, reaches down and nervously pulls up his socks through his pant legs. He usually does this while doing something else, either yelling down the line for a substitute or barking out the kind of expletives that have made him America's leading professor of beginning lip-reading.

The first sock pull of the West Regional final came exactly two minutes into the game, after Stanley Umude flipped in a layup to give Arkansas a 4-2 lead. For the most part, though, the socks got a break; the outcome was only sporadically in doubt. (Close games are hell on the seams.) As the clock wound down, Krzyzewski was still calling plays and dictating the terms of engagement. The first indication that this was something more than a January game against Wake Forest came in the final minute, when he stood on the sideline and flung his arms out in a spasm of excitement. He brought Moore, clearly a favorite, out of the game and gave him a hug before he could reach the bench. The 1,202nd win of his career was a certainty, along with his record 13th Final Four.

He admitted this one is different, presumably better, but he wouldn't go that far, and nobody was brave enough to ask. But how could it not be better? A national title with this team, which starts two freshmen, two sophomores and a junior, would show the world he can win in whatever era you throw at him. As much as he laments the changes in the game, the one-and-dones and the transfers, it would mean something to walk off with a net around his neck as the old guy who could evolve and adapt. There was a little bit of a rasp in his voice after the game, and it cracked ever so slightly when he finished a statement by saying, "Let's go to New Orleans."

He had completed all the prescribed rituals: He had walked diligently down the handshake line to congratulate and console the Arkansas players; he had dutifully but reluctantly held up the trophy for winning the region, making sure Moore joined him; and he had ascended the ladder to cut the final strand of net, goofily pretending to dunk before completing the task.

And then he walked away and kissed his wife, and they walked hand in hand toward the tunnel. He looked tired and worn out, but also as close to happy as he's likely to get. He wore the look of a man who can take -- at most -- another week of this. And somehow, inside that same exhausted, drained look, you could detect something else: a man who is going to miss the hell out of it the second it ends.

Duke, Coach K cross bridge to Final Four again with demanding win over Arkansas

By Mike DeCourcy, The Sporting News (March 27, 2022)

SAN FRANCISCO – The bane of Mike Krzyzewski's current circumstance is being asked so frequently to sort through his memories. These are the final few college basketball games he ever will coach, and that is rather a big deal given he has won more games than anyone in the history of his sport, and so in advance of such occasions as the NCAA Tournament Elite Eight, reporters had been bringing up moments that occurred on the way to here that seem germane to this one.

Instead of reflecting, he has become an expert at deflecting, often by noting it is best for a coach to have "no rear-view mirror." There are some things he recalls instantly, though.

"The Final Four is mecca for a player and a coach. It's just – there's nothing like it," Krzyzewski told all of us on the day before his Duke Blue Devils played Arkansas for the West Region championship. "For me I call it 'Crossing the bridge,' and very few people cross that bridge. And so I've been able to cross it with my teams 12 times."

Oh, yeah, there are some things he remembers to the digit. He began Saturday with 12 appearances in the NCAA Final Four, the same number as the great John Wooden. He ended the day with 13, following a comprehensive but demanding 78-69 victory over Arkansas.

Krzyzewski never will match the 10 championships won by Wooden, was never going to do that in an era with more colleges competing seriously in the sport, more players going professional after less time in college and more games – and more difficult games – required to reach the NCAA championship. This record, though, it is all his.

Of course he would never say such a thing. He is too gracious a competitor. "It's an honor," Krzyzewski said. "Coach Wooden, if he had kept coaching, probably would have 24."

Wooden retired at age 65, the final game of his career being the 1975 championship game victory over Kentucky that gave him the 10th title. The overwhelming pressure of keeping the program at a near-flawless level had taken too great a toll on his health and family. Krzyzewski has managed demands that are similar, but perhaps not as extreme, 10 years later into his life.

He might have retired a year ago, had all things been normal, but declined to depart after the misery of the 2020-21 season, which included every program being impacted in some way by the COVID pandemic. His, in particular, was shut down for the season with an outbreak during the ACC Tournament.

He returned having assembled a glorious young team, with five players demonstrating the ability to become future NBA first-round draft picks. That there was no obvious point guard was an issue, and Krzyzewski worked through multiple alternatives, from running the offense through veteran wing Wendell Moore to experimenting with freshman power wing Trevor Keels. On the eve of the NCAA Tournament, Krzyzewski returned to the unimposing sophomore he'd benched twice during the course of the season. Jeremy Roach not only hit the game-breaking 3-pointer to shut down Michigan State's second-round challenge, he wound up on the All-West Region team along with shot-swatting center Mark Williams and All-American freshman forward Paolo Banchemo, who was named the region's Most Outstanding Player.

They fought through a furious challenge from Texas Tech's top-ranked defense in the Sweet 16 and arrived in the matchup with Arkansas, featuring a different sort of demonic defense that was more disruptive and unpredictable.

"This game, I saw something Bill Self said yesterday about the regional championship game, that it really is the biggest game a college coach has to coach because it gets you into the promised land," Krzyzewski said. "For me to have that, I guess it's 17 times now, that's a big-time thing for me. I'm so proud of that, that my teams have put us in that position, and that we've won now 13 of them. And then whatever happens afterwards happens."

Krzyzewski coached the Devil out of this game, starting with the emphasis on refusing to allow All-American guard J.D. Notae to be the engine of the Arkansas offense. Duke rotated multiple defenders against him, starting with Roach, who stands 6-2 and could more or less look Notae in the eye. Later it was bigger bodies such as Moore and Keels, both 6-5.

Wendell Moore

And it wasn't just different defenders handling the assignment on a possession. The Devils switched defenders against him any time a screen or cross was coming, even if there was time for the primary defender to stay in the play. The idea was to assure Notae never – well, almost never – had the hint of a crease to attack the goal.

And still he scored eight points in the first half. He got off only a half-dozen shots, though, a sign of his diminished influence. If it weren't for a "career" half by sophomore guard Davonte Davis, who hit his first three shots, all of them pull-up jumpers, Duke might have begun making dinner reservations for Thursday or Friday at Galatoire's during the 8-minute media timeout.

This would be more difficult, even after an 8-0 run at the end of the first half to put the Devils up a dozen at halftime, even with Williams yanking down nine defensive rebounds and guarding the rim so effectively that Krzyzewski said if he were a hockey goalie, he'd win the Vezina Trophy.

"At the start of the second half, I thought they took control of the game," Krzyzewski said. "We were not playing well, but they were making us not play well. They got it down to five, and at that timeout, our guys really got organized offensively. We scored on four or five straight."

"Changing the defense helped, and from then on we just had control over the game. For this group to do that in that half – because we were not playing well, and we were getting ready to get knocked out, and the last 12 minutes they didn't get knocked out. They played beautiful basketball."

It was a 9-2 Arkansas run that slashed the Duke advantage to just five points that led Krzyzewski to call timeout with 13:13 left. Having spent much of the first half emphasizing the work of its ballhandling guards, often enough to good effect, the Devils chose to begin attacking Banchemo's matchup with 6-6 Au'Diese Toney. It did not go well ... for Toney. Banchemo immediately scored on a layup, with guard A.J. Griffin following with another after catching the ball on a curl at the middle of the lane. In the next two minutes, Banchemo had Toney bewildered enough to be able to draw two fouls against him while shooting fadeaway jumpers. Converting three of those four free throws stretched the lead to 15 points.

"I was just trying to take my shots and make strong moves," Banchemo told The Sporting News. "I just wanted to be aggressive. I wanted to get to the line and convert. We needed a boost."

From there, it was mostly about managing the remaining time and pondering the celebration. Krzyzewski congratulated Razorbacks coach Eric Musselman, offered kind words to All-Region teamers Notae and Jaylin Williams, did the obligatory CBS interview and then headed to the stands to greet his wife, Mickie.

The postgame ceremony was narrated by a PA announcer as though we all were at a wedding with an overeager DJ. "And now it is time for the ceremonial cutting of the nets."

Banchemo, son of former University of Washington star Rhonda Smith, had seen his mother win a state championship as a high school coach and then swing the net around, and he always wanted to copy that. This became his first opportunity, but not because it was his first big victory.

"I won state in high school, and they lowered the hoop to cut the net. They didn't bring the ladders. So it kind of ruined the moment a little bit," Banchemo said. "So when I got the ladder, I made sure I looked up there to tell my mom, 'Make sure you get this on video.'"

Krzyzewski has done this more times than anyone, and there may be another opportunity in eight days, but he was eager to dismiss any discussion of that. This Final Four matters, because it's a chance to share it with a team he loves, for his wife and three daughters and an army of grandchildren to experience with him all of its rewards.

"In this NCAA Tournament, my team has played such good basketball in pressure situations," he said. "They were a close team before the NCAAs, but during these last four games, they've been terrific."

"I'm so proud of you guys and happy for you. You crossed the bridge, man."

How the West was won: Why Coach K's 13th Final Four is among his sweetest

By Andrew Carter, Raleigh News & Observer (March 27, 2022)

SAN FRANCISCO -- Mickie Krzyzewski stood near the corner of the court and waited. The final minutes turned into the final seconds, the anticipation building. It was real now, one part of the storybook dream turning into reality. This is a walk she'd made many times, from the first row of the seats at an NCAA tournament regional final to the edge of the court and then onto it to celebrate with her husband, another trip to the Final Four secure.

Now it was different, though. She knew this would be the final time, just like everybody knew this would be the final time. Mike Krzyzewski is retiring whenever Duke's NCAA tournament journey ends, and for a while it looked like it might end last week against Michigan State, in Greenville, S.C., just like for a while it looked like it might end here at the Chase Center on Thursday night, against Texas Tech.

Instead, here were the Krzyzewskis, Mike and Mickie, embracing on Saturday night in a far corner of the court near the Duke bench. After two agonizing victories, the kind that might age a younger coach and even tested Krzyzewski's mettle, the Blue Devils made it look comparatively easy during their 78-69 victory against Arkansas in the West Regional final.

The horn sounded and the celebration began and Mickie waited patiently for her husband to find her in the aftermath. When he did the cameramen gathered all around them. Their family was lined up nearby, their daughters and their grandchildren, and a few of their longtime friends, too. A crew of workers hustled past, carrying parts of the makeshift stage they were assembling for the victory ceremony. Blue and white confetti had fallen from the ceiling. Duke had done it.

"I can't explain it," Mike Krzyzewski said several minutes later, while some of his granddaughters bent to the court and gathered pieces of that confetti and tossed it up over their heads, creating a blue and white paper shower. "I'm a grandfather, and I've lived through my daughters. (Now) I'm living through my grandchildren."

Krzyzewski first experienced this kind of moment back in 1986, when his hair was jet black and when his future as a college basketball coach seemed much less certain than it soon became. Some Duke supporters had wanted him fired before that breakthrough. In '86, when Krzyzewski first led Duke to the Final Four, he was a much younger man – not even 40.

He and Mickie were a young couple, at least much younger than they are now, after more than 50 years of marriage. His trips to the Final Four became milestones to mark the years, and perhaps there was a part of him on Saturday night that could look back and see some of those past celebrations, his little girls becoming young women and then mothers themselves; his family expanding, some of the grandkids growing up before his eyes.

That was part of why his voice cracked a bit Saturday night, during the celebration on the court. He's a 75-year-old man now – an "old man," he called himself at one point during Duke's postgame press conference – and he's traveling this road for the last time. That the journey will end in New Orleans, in his 13th Final Four, is all Krzyzewski could've hoped for when he announced his retirement early last June; indeed, it's the stuff of Hollywood or boyhood dreams, to go out like this.

Yet what makes this regional championship even grander, beyond the fact that Krzyzewski is now at most eight days away from coaching his final game, is how the Blue Devils won it. It wasn't that long ago when Duke was thought to be too young and too inconsistent. Wasn't that long ago when the rap against the Blue Devils was their toughness, and whether they possessed the kind of fortitude to survive this tournament.

They were a consistent top-10 team throughout the season, yes, but they melted down during that humiliating defeat against North Carolina in Krzyzewski's final home game. In the ACC tournament championship game defeat against Virginia Tech, Duke allowed the Hokies to look a little like the Golden State Warriors, and there in Brooklyn, too, Duke lacked much fight. And besides, before Thursday Duke had never won a game out West in the NCAA tournament in Krzyzewski's 42-year career.

And so yes, he said on the court after his team had won the one regional he never had, this is different. It's the first time since 1994 that Duke has advanced to the Final Four without being a No. 1 seed. It's the first time ever that Duke has made a Final Four with this kind of roster composition, with a team so reliant on freshmen and without a senior starter.

"This isn't that four-year team," Krzyzewski said, "or even (2015), where you have Amile (Jefferson), Quinn (Cook), Matt Jones – they're really young."

Now Jefferson is a member of Krzyzewski's staff and Jones was there Saturday night, among the masses in the maw of the postgame celebration. Mike Dunleavy, a member of Duke's 2001 national championship team, was there, too, while Grant Hill, among the leaders of the 1991 and '92 title teams, worked the West Regional with Jim Nantz and the rest of CBS' lead broadcasting crew.

Krzyzewski's farewell season has been the dominant story in college basketball over the past several months and everything surrounding that story – the drama and the exposure and the attention – has only increased in March. It has made for a cauldron of pressure and yet for once, after stress-test victories against Michigan State and Texas Tech, Duke allowed itself a chance to exhale in the final minutes against Arkansas.

The folks behind the Duke bench, Krzyzewski's family and friends and one white-haired man in the first row who goes by Pucci, could feel the impending victory throughout much of the second half. They could feel it especially when the lead grew to 18 with 6 1/2 minutes remaining, and soon enough Mickie Krzyzewski was making her way to the corner of the court to greet her husband.

"The most amazing moment," said John Pucci, a longtime Las Vegas casino executive formerly at the Wynn and now with Caesar's Palace, who insisted people only knew him by the one name, his last, like Madonna or Prince. "Like Zorro."

Pucci and Krzyzewski have become close friends over the past 20 years – close enough that Pucci was right behind the Duke bench Thursday and Saturday nights; close enough to hear Krzyzewski pleading with his team to muster some defensive stops against Texas Tech, and close enough to

watch Krzyzewski breathe easier with the Blue Devils in control against Arkansas.

"We've become so close," Pucci said. "But tonight was an amazing moment because he's retiring, and everybody thinks when you're going to retire you're done. He's not done. We're going on. We're going to carry the flag out in New Orleans, too. ... He's going to go out with a sixth ring. That's what I think."

It is becoming a more and more realistic thought, though that was for another night to decide. On this one, Krzyzewski embraced the people closest to him and stopped to share a few quick thoughts while all around him his players and their families soaked this in.

Duke is certainly Duke, as former Virginia coach Pete Gillen once said, creating a meme before anyone knew what a meme was. And yet the Blue Devils celebrated Saturday night not as though they represented one of the most successful programs in the history of the sport, but as if they weren't sure this moment would arrive.

A good number of these Blue Devils had never played in an NCAA tournament game before this team's first, which had come eight days earlier, in Greenville, when Duke's direction seemed much less certain. And in college, at least, no member of this Duke team had ever climbed a ladder to cut down a net following a championship. Paolo Banchemo, the Blue Devils' freshman forward, had wanted to climb such a ladder after a high school championship. He'd been left somber that it didn't happen.

He shared the story Saturday night, wearing a hat that said FINAL FOUR on it.

"My mom won a state championship as a coach, and she got to go up on the ladder and cut the net, and I remember her swinging the net around and (saying) I always wanted to do that," Banchemo said. "Then I won state in high school, and they lowered the hoop to cut the net. They didn't bring the ladder, and so it kind of ruined the moment a little bit."

When he climbed the ladder Saturday night, Banchemo said, he locked eyes with his mom. He said he told her, "Make sure you get this on video, and get a picture."

Listening to the story to Banchemo's right was Krzyzewski, beaming like a father.

"That was good," he said. "That's really good."

Moments earlier Krzyzewski had turned to his players when they'd arrived in the interview room and, unprompted, told them that they'd been "terrific," which is one of Krzyzewski's go-to words when he's pleased, along with "my guys" – as in, "proud of my guys." He hadn't had an opportunity to use any of those during the first two Saturdays in March, after defeats against Carolina and Virginia Tech, but he could use them now.

"I'm so proud of you guys, and happy for you," Krzyzewski said. "You've crossed the bridge, man."

For the next several minutes, Krzyzewski did his best to keep himself and his players in this moment. It was as though he didn't want to think about anything except having just won the West. He deflected one question about the prospect of meeting North Carolina, again, in the Final Four.

Krzyzewski swatted away another question, directed at Banchemo, about whether the Blue Devils felt confident they could send their retiring coach out a national champion for the sixth time. That was when Krzyzewski referred to his age, saying, "They've won a (conference) regular season championship and they've won the western regional championship. They did that."

"They did it for us, and enough about doing it for the old man here."

It was true, in a way: Krzyzewski has aged. The hair isn't quite as black. The step isn't as spry. He limps when he walks, especially when he's out of sight, away from the bench and in the bowels of an arena before or after a game. Sometimes it looks as though he's in pain, like the work isn't comfortable anymore. Not that he showed it, much, in the heat of the moment.

Next to him his players were trying to put this all into words, with Jeremy Roach, the sophomore point guard, acknowledging the pain of last season and how "we came back hungry," and Wendell Moore, Jr., a junior forward who is a captain and the most experienced of Duke's starters, saying, "You come to Duke looking to get to moments like this."

Moore and Roach, like their teammates, were carrying souvenirs – the pieces of the net they'd cut down – and earlier, on the court, Krzyzewski had done the honors on the final strand. He'd just spent a few minutes around a crowd of reporters, a couple of his granddaughters playing in front of him, when he said, "I'm going to go cut down the net," and with that he made his way slowly to the ladder and climbed it while someone handed him some scissors.

Soon he was waving that net around, as jubilant as when he'd first done it a decades ago, and it had been a long time, seven years, since he'd had the occasion to climb a ladder during an NCAA tournament. If Duke had lost before now, Krzyzewski's career would've ended with its longest Final Four drought. Instead it continues on.

A good 45 minutes after the final buzzer, some of Duke's players and their parents were still on the court, taking everything in. They posed for pictures. They embraced each other. The blue and white confetti was everywhere, still. It was almost like nobody wanted to leave, as if they wanted to remain in this moment forever.

But the journey wasn't yet finished. Duke would celebrate throughout the night and return home to North Carolina, if only briefly.

Krzyzewski's final March would stretch into April. New Orleans awaited.

The timeout where Coach K, Duke proved they had what it takes for Final Four

By Brendan Marks, The Athletic (March 27, 2022)

SAN FRANCISCO -- Before all the fun -- before the ladder-climbing, scissor-snipping, net-waving, granddaughter-hoisting jubilation Mike Krzyzewski felt after making his 13th Final Four, the one that pushes him past John Wooden on the all-time ledger -- there was frustration. Borderline fury, really. Krzyzewski's Duke team, 13 minutes and 13 seconds away from "the promised land" of college basketball, had allowed Arkansas to rip off a 9-2 run and come storming back into contention. A 12-point halftime lead, suddenly, dwindled to five. Notions of New Orleans, suddenly, weren't so certain. Krzyzewski was clearly pissed, and you can't really blame him.

Sensing this special something was teetering, he called timeout. But as Krzyzewski's players meekly slid into the five folding chairs across from their head coach, he said nothing. Straight silence. Steam wasn't quite shooting out of his ears yet, but judging by his fully-flushed cheeks? That internal fire was raging. He stared at each and every one of them, the sort of glare that cuts straight to your soul. That alone might've sent the message, but since timeouts are timeless, he eventually articulated his anger:

"We've gotta keep our poise," he growled.

OK ... just, how exactly?

Let him show you.

So while the rest of Krzyzewski's spiel couldn't be printed without a pass through the PG-translation machine, his actions could. He pulled out his double-sided Duke dry-erase board, the one designed like the Cameron Indoor court that bears his name, and at that point, school was in session. With an uncapped black marker in one hand, and 47 seasons worth of coaching wisdom in the other, Krzyzewski started drilling into his squad the details of how, actually, they were gonna win this game. Like a mad architect, or a toddler tapping into previously-unknown fingerpaint reserves, Krzyzewski started scribbling everywhere, back and forth and dots for emphasis. It was a ride, his players along for it, college basketball's winningest coach crafting a team-crusher in real-time. Occasionally he'd look up at Mark Williams, or Paolo Banchero, and bark out an observation -- sometimes as simple as staying down on shot fakes, sometimes much more complex -- and, like a flight attendant to the exit row, require verbal confirmation. Yes, Coach. Got it, Coach. Finally the horn sounded, the hurricane-force winds whirling in the huddle wound down, and Krzyzewski got back to basics. He slapped himself on the chin, as if to say, they just did that to you. And then he summoned them together, standing this time, and sent them on their merry way.

By this point, everything burning inside him had boiled over, appearing in the form of sweat streaking across his brow. Like his players checking back in, he needed a towel to wipe his face. You want intensity? A coach who isn't ready for his career to end? Well, there you have it.

"In the start of the second half I thought they just took control of the game, and we were not playing well, but they were making us not play well," Krzyzewski said after it was over, after Duke had beaten Arkansas 78-69. "At that timeout, our guys really got organized offensively."

That timeout only matters because it worked. All of it. Out of that break, Duke rolled off a 10-0 run of its own that all but ended any hope of an Arkansas win. If you're looking for the moment in the Blue Devils' final step to Krzyzewski's 13th Final Four, it was right then. Because from the clipboard to the court, Krzyzewski's crash course came to life. He isolated Banchero -- the eventual MOP of the West regional -- on the block, letting his 6-foot-10, 250-pound star do the sorts of things only he can do. Banchero backed down Arkansas big man Jaylin Williams, or whoever else was unfortunate enough to wind up in his way, and sank the shots (or got fouled trying to) that survival requires. "They ran a wedge play, a little mid-post up-screen for number 5 (Banchero), and he converted or got fouled," Arkansas coach Eric Musselman said, "and we go down to the other end and didn't convert."

Speaking of the Hogs' inability to convert, that wasn't an accident either. On Duke's defensive end, Krzyzewski went back to the well he tapped against Texas Tech, breaking the "in case of emergency" glass and pulling out of the Blue Devils' backup plan: its zone defense. By parking 7-foot center Mark Williams around the rim, rather than forcing him to defend ball screens he sometimes struggled with, Krzyzewski kept his Naismith Defensive Player of the Year candidate on the court rather than the pine. "All these guys played well," Krzyzewski said, "but Mark really was the difference-maker for us today." From that moment on, Williams made life miserable for Musselman's two most important players, J.D. Notae and Jaylin Williams, forcing them to shoot just 3-of-11 for nine combined points. (Notae eventually fouled out with 3:47 to play, finishing with 14 points while making just five of his 14 attempts.)

"Going zone helped. I think it gave them a different look, slowed them up a little bit," Mark Williams said postgame. "Obviously (Notae) was trying to get downhill a lot, so I tried my best to protect the rim. I thought that was important for us."

You know who else did? Ding ding ding: The dude who now has made at least one Final Four appearance in five straight decades. And while Arkansas perhaps presented less of a challenge than Michigan State or Texas Tech before them, you've got to give credit to Krzyzewski for coaching his tail off. The reason that's relevant? Because if there has been a criticism of the Hall of Famer in recent seasons, it's that he has sometimes failed to make the most of the talent at his disposal. See: 2019, and a team with three eventual top-10 picks -- including the no-doubt national player of the year, that Zion Williamson fellow -- not getting past the Elite Eight. That squad's postseason shortcomings still sting, or stung, for a Duke fan base dying to see Coach K make one more March run.

"For me it's been a three-year wait," Wendell Moore Jr. said from the postgame podium, still donning his celebratory cap and its new netting attachment. "You come to Duke looking to get to moments like this, and unfortunately for me, those first two years, that moment was taken away. So to be able to do it with these guys right here, I wouldn't want it any other way."

And so much as Krzyzewski has shied away from it, count him in as one of those guys. Sure, he's way past his playing days -- even if, in winning his first two NCAA Tournament games ever in the West region, he was conveniently close to the old Presidio gym where he once tried out for the All-Army basketball team -- but no ride keeps rolling without a conductor. And this postseason, at least from an Xs and Os perspective, Krzyzewski has confirmed an old coach can still show out with a few new tricks.

Go back to Michigan State, when Duke trailed by five with five minutes to play. Yes, Banchero and Williams got the necessary stops, and Roach rattled home the dagger 3-pointer, but... who do you think put them in those spots? Who do you think enabled them in the first place? It was Krzyzewski's decision, after all, to insert Roach back into the starting lineup against Cal-State Fullerton, to entrust the sophomore guard with the keys to the Duke blue sports car. And how Roach has responded? Oh, just by rattling off four of the best performances of his career in a row, the last two of which landed him on the All-West Region team. "Just getting to this point, all the hard work has paid off since June," Roach said. "I'm very happy for that." It was also Krzyzewski who came up with a solution, or at least the semblance of one, against Texas Tech and Mark Adams' maniacal no-middle defense. Long heralded as a defensive-minded coach, Krzyzewski instead leaned on offensive sets -- like Roach wrapping from the wings around elbow ball screens, straight into the middle of the lane and the belly of the best -- that sent the Red Raiders home on a Thursday night redeye. And against both Texas Tech and later Arkansas, Krzyzewski was the one willing to trust a defense he, according to Synergy, had only thrown out there on 4 percent of Duke's pre-Sweet 16 possessions.

The man's been in the Hall of Fame for 21 years already for a reason.

But, hey, a little reminder never hurts.

"Thought Duke was phenomenal," Musselman said, after a masterclass of his own two days earlier when Arkansas toppled top-seeded Gonzaga. "Would be surprised if they're not playing to win a national championship."

The storyline side of that is, at this point, severely overdone. By now, the news that this is Krzyzewski's final season has even made its way to those living under the most far-removed rocks. And, yes, doomsday still looms, the possibility that Krzyzewski's penultimate (or final) basketball game comes against rival North Carolina, in the first meeting of the schools in the Big Dance. (Standing in the way? A pack of pesky Peacocks.)

But on this circus ride to a regional championship, and whatever comes after the West, it's Krzyzewski's coaching chops, the clinics he's put on, that deserve as much of the spotlight as any spicy newspaper headline. "Enough about doing it for the old man here," Krzyzewski said. "We're not going to do it unless we all own it, and we all owned this." Be it A.J. Griffin's team-high 18 points, the tantalizing way he hung in the air en route to multiple midrange makes, or Williams' game-high 12 rebounds, it was the players who cut down the nets first and foremost. But that moment in the huddle, a microcosm of the tactical mastery Mike Krzyzewski has shown this March, is deserving of its own serious shoutout. (This is to say nothing of the near-perfect two-for-one sets Krzyzewski drew up in the final minute of the first half, which culminated in a Williams offensive putback and a Trevor Keels 3; those two baskets, and the stop sandwiched between them, were the reason Duke led by 12 at the break instead of seven.)

Not even two full minutes after the huddle, after order had been restored, after Duke's runway to New Orleans had been repaired, Krzyzewski once again found himself in a huddle. Even with momentum, and in the midst of that aforementioned game-sealing 10-point swing, the Blue Devils were in a high-wire trapeze act; press the wrong buttons, don't prepare your team properly, and things can twist in the worst way, fast. Only this time, rather than steely silence, Krzyzewski played good cop. "You guys are winners!" he said, breaking out in a smile. "Come on, men!" He was part military officer, part basketball coach in that moment, equally as entranced with his players' emotions as he was his own tactics. But you know what else he was in that moment, when he said that? What he's been during each of Duke's last four games, the ones that determine how his sendoff season ultimately ends?

Right.

Duke dispenses with drama, embraces celebration as it crosses bridge to Final Four

By Luke DeCock, Raleigh News & Observer (March 27, 2022)

SAN FRANCISCO -- There was, nearing the end but not at the end of this final season, finally a net for Mike Krzyzewski to cut down. He ascended the ladder a little more cautiously than he did six years ago, one rung at a time, but he swung the detached net around in front of him with practiced nonchalance.

Duke had, finally, lived up to the expectations placed upon it by these circumstances. The farewell tour has new dates, in New Orleans. It hasn't been a smooth path to this point, but this was how it was supposed to go all along.

"The joy, you can't explain," Krzyzewski said, on the floor, while the celebration erupted around him.

The remarkable turnaround since the disappointment ACC tournament continues to push Duke farther down their coach's final road. The Blue Devils are headed back to the Final Four for the first time since 2015, and they may see a very familiar face when they get there.

But if it is indeed North Carolina that awaits, the Tar Heels will find a very different Duke opponent than the one it last saw, one that has developed an identity of its own while embracing the traits and tactics that made its predecessors so successful over Krzyzewski's four decades.

Saturday's 78-69 win over overmatched Arkansas was a clinical performance, free of the drama that had accompanied Duke's previous two wins or, quite frankly, most of the second half of the season, when the Blue Devils seemed to be awash in self-doubt. There was none of that Saturday, just a vintage Duke performance, of any era, to deliver Krzyzewski to his 13th and final Final Four, passing John Wooden, chasing a sixth NCAA title at this last gasp.

So this traveling basketball circus moves on to the biggest tent of all, a national semifinal in the Superdome against either North Carolina or Saint Peter's, the significance of either opponent almost too gargantuan to contemplate in very different ways.

Almost lost amid all the hoopla, there's a curious coda to this coda, with Krzyzewski now avoiding the longest Final Four drought of his career. Not since his first five seasons has Duke failed to make the Final Four in five straight NCAA tournaments. Who knows what might have happened in 2020, but this is the sixth season since 2015. Amid the cavalcade of acclaim, it would have been a quietly ignominious way to go out.

Of course, that narrative would be completely different if either or both of the Elite Eight games in 2018 or 2019, both decided by a single possession, had gone the other way. But that's not how this works, and the drought was the drought was the drought. Was. It's over now. This team has done what its immediate predecessors could not.

"You come to Duke for moments like this," Duke's Wendell Moore said. "Unfortunately, my first two years that moment was taken away. To do it with these guys, I wouldn't have it any other way."

Krzyzewski talks about making the Final Four as "crossing the bridge," and until Saturday night there was still that nagging doubt whether this group could make it to the other side, this team that proved itself capable of beating the best teams in the country before struggling and, finally, collapsing in Krzyzewski's final home game at Cameron and the ACC tournament.

But there was also a gift buried in that mess, one final throwback to the early days of Krzyzewski's career, when his teams were tempered into shape over a period of years like hardened steel. This group, with three one-and-done freshmen, grew as much in two weeks as Krzyzewski's older teams would in the space of two seasons or more.

That growth ushered in a series of games that, in their searing intensity and his team's newfound heart, amounted to an inadvertent tribute to Krzyzewski's entire tenure. The way Duke closed things out against Michigan State, in a game Tom Izzo thought the Spartans had won, hearkened back to the players a generation ago that made Duke -- and Krzyzewski -- great.

Then they made that lineage tangible, slapping the floor like days of yore as they crushed Texas Tech's spirit, turning the tables on the best defensive team in the country by going zone, and then telling Krzyzewski when it was time to go back to man, the players calling their own shot.

And against Arkansas, more classic Duke. The Blue Devils more or less ended the game at halftime with a classic Krzyzewski gambit, the use-it-or-lose-it timeout with 56.8 to go to set up a two-for-one. Mark Williams scored at one end, the Blue Devils forced a miss at the other and Trevor Keels buried a 3 at the buzzer to turn a seven-point lead into 12, just like that.

All that was missing was the possession arrow for Krzyzewski's beloved silent run, getting the ball to start the second half. They even went back to zone in the one moment in the second half when Arkansas threatened, with Mark Williams swatting away shots around the basket with volleyball swings and Paolo Banchemo taking over at the other end.

Somehow these kids have figured out how to play all the hits. It's a two-way street. Krzyzewski has pulled all the strings. His players have hit all the right notes.

"In this NCAA tournament, my team has just played such good basketball, and in pressure situations," Krzyzewski said. "They were a close team before the NCAAs but during these last four games they have been terrific."

He turned to the players on the dais next to him.

"I'm so proud of you guys and happy for you," Krzyzewski said. "You crossed the bridge, man."

Duke's path to this point has been anything but easy, but getting to the Final Four creates a completely different series of challenges given the two potential opponents awaiting in the neighboring quarter of the bracket.

Saint Peter's, the upstart of upstarts, has beaten Wooden's alma mater, the home of Wooden's dynasty and, with a win over North Carolina to go with its first-round win over Kentucky, would have knocked off two of the bluest bloods. If the Peacocks do eliminate the Tar Heels, they could potentially face Duke and then Kansas or Villanova. That's ... everyone.

So college basketball's greatest giant would put his career on the line against the greatest giant-killer in college basketball history. And it's not like Krzyzewski has never lost to a No. 15 seed before.

More likely, a rematch with North Carolina awaits, the basketball Armageddon everyone has feared for decades and came narrowly close in 1991, a sort of Carolinian Hoops Crisis safely averted by a Roy Williams-led blockade. Even under normal circumstances, the winner of a Final Four game between the two would have ultimate bragging rights forever and ever, amen, but the stakes in this particular season would be catastrophically high.

A Duke win would avenge March 5 when it truly matters and bring Krzyzewski to the brink of a farewell title, the worst nightmare of Tar Heels fans entering this season. And North Carolina being the one to apply the coup de grace to Krzyzewski's career, after ruining his Durham goodbye, would make Tyler Hansbrough's undefeated record in Cameron feel as insignificant as a Champions Classic championship banner.

Banchemo, famously, said in Brooklyn he wanted North Carolina again. Virginia Tech interfered. CBS' Tracy Wolfson hit him with the same question Saturday night.

"You're not going to get me this time," Banchemo said.

All of that will depend on what happens Sunday in Philadelphia. On the other coast, across the country, Duke has taken care of its business. Krzyzewski's career lives on. The Blue Devils move on, across the bridge, no matter what awaits on the other side.

Duke Makes the Final Four in Coach K's Last Season

By Billy Witz, New York Times (March 26, 2022)

SAN FRANCISCO -- Spanning several generations, Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski has molded four-year stalwarts and one-and-done hot shots into championship teams, instilled some teams with a floor-slapping toughness and others with a freewheeling offense, and at times has seemed to be able to bend a referee's whistle to his will.

Krzyzewski's neatest trick, though, may be taking his final team – and his greenest – to another Final Four.

The Blue Devils, seeded second in the West region, kept alive their hopes of sending Krzyzewski into a retirement with a sixth national championship by turning back fourth-seeded Arkansas, 78-69, in the round of 8 on Saturday night.

As befitting a talented young team that is hitting its stride at the most opportune time, freshmen Paolo Banchemo, who scored 16 points, and Adrian Griffin, who had 18, spurred Duke. They were complemented by the defensive anchor, center Mark Williams, a sophomore, who added 12 points, 12 rebounds and 3 blocked shots.

The victory sends Duke to a Final Four for the 13th time under Krzyzewski – and the first since the Blue Devils won the title in 2015. Duke (32-6) will play either its fiercest rival, North Carolina, or the miracle makers from tiny St. Peter's next Saturday in New Orleans.

As Duke dribbled out the final seconds, guard Wendell Moore wrapped an arm around his coach's shoulder, and when the buzzer sounded the Blue Devils danced off the bench.

The players dumped a bucket of confetti on their coach and he climbed a ladder to snip the last strand of the net under one of the baskets.

Krzyzewski, 75, tells his players that reaching the Final Four is like crossing a bridge, and on the other side is an entree into an exclusive brotherhood with the Blue Devils' best teams, though he refused to compare this team to others. "Just like I don't rate my daughters or my grandchildren," he said.

He also intercepted a couple of questions directed at his players – one wondering whether they might secretly be rooting for North Carolina to get another shot at the Tar Heels, and another to Banchemo, who had said earlier this week that the players wanted to send Krzyzewski off with a title.

"Enough about doing it for the old man," Krzyzewski said.

While Duke had earned a high seed and had a roster again dotted with blue-chip prospects, this trip to the Final Four was hard to see coming when the tournament pairings were announced two weeks ago.

Krzyzewski, who called the Blue Devils' performance "unacceptable" in a home loss to North Carolina in the regular-season finale, realized he had some work to do to repair the psyche of an exceptionally young team – the top six rotation players are 20, 20, 19, 18 and 18.

"I had a good meeting with myself," Krzyzewski said on the eve of the game, emphasizing the leadership importance of being his own chief critic. "I said that I've got to do something. I've got to help in some way, and part of it was my approach with them."

He added: "If you don't put truth on the table and take responsibility, they you won't make the best out of the situation that you are in."

A team that looked fragile, even in advancing to the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament final, has gradually gained its footing in the N.C.A.A. tournament. It began with a comfortable win over Cal State Fullerton, and continued with late comebacks against Michigan State and Texas Tech, fueled by impeccable shot making. (The Blue Devils made their final five shots against Michigan State and their final eight against Texas Tech, the nation's top defensive team.)

Over the last two weeks, Krzyzewski – who was shaped as an Army point guard by the unyielding Bob Knight – has given the air of a coach in tune with his team. He put point guard Jeremy Roach into the starting lineup for the first time in a month to begin the tournament and he has been superb. Krzyzewski turned to a zone – which once would have been unthinkable – in the second half against Texas Tech, and then let his young players convince him to switch back to man-to-man in the final minute.

He even got down on a knee and slapped the floor late against Texas Tech – and his players followed suit, sending Duke fans here into a frenzy.

On Saturday night, with Roach being harassed by the Hogs defense, Krzyzewski turned early to Trevor Keels, who had been replaced by Roach in the starting lineup and played a season-low 14 minutes against Texas Tech. Keels, a freshman with a sturdy build, steadied Duke's offense and delivered a 3-pointer at the halftime buzzer to push the lead to 45-33.

When the Razorbacks surged in the second half, narrowing the gap to 53-48, Krzyzewski called timeout to calm his team. "We were getting ready to get knocked out," he said.

Krzyzewski made sure the offense ran through his best player, Banchemo, and signaled "1-2" from the sideline, instructing his defense to switch to zone. Banchemo, who would be named the regional's most outstanding player, scored in the post, passed to A.J. Griffin who drove for another basket and made two free throws and in a flash Duke had a working margin at 59-48. The Blue Devils also scored on their next two possessions.

Arkansas never threatened the rest of the way.

A year ago, Krzyzewski had left the impression that he had lost his iron grip on the program that he had become synonymous with: an N.B.A. prospect quit at midseason, he snapped at a reporter from the school newspaper, and his team missed the N.C.A.A. tournament for the first time in more than a quarter century.

No men's coach has retired after winning a national championship since 1977 when Al McGuire, who was 48, retired after Marquette won the title. Two years earlier, John Wooden told his team after a semifinal victory over Louisville that he would retire following the title game, which the Bruins won against Kentucky.

Krzyzewski, 75, gave himself a much longer runway. He took the rare step last June of announcing his retirement effective at the end of this season. He said he did not want to go out the way he did last season, when Duke was 13-11 and saw its chances of making the N.C.A.A. tournament vanish when it had to drop out of the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament because of a coronavirus outbreak within the team.

The decision to announce it – and assistant Jon Scheyer as his replacement – was to avoid misleading recruits who might have asked how long he intended to coach, he said. Still, the whole season has been something of a last waltz tour.

"It wears on you a little bit because everywhere you walk, everyone is taking a picture of you, they're watching everything," Krzyzewski said earlier this week. "Look, that gets old."

He added: "But I feel for my guys. They've had pressure on them that we're not putting on them. I tell them all the time, we're playing for us – for you – but then it just works out. No one – it's not a sinister plan against us or anything, but it just happens that way."

Duke won the A.C.C. regular-season title for the first time since 2010, but lost Krzyzewski's final game at Cameron Indoor Stadium, against North Carolina – which soured the postgame celebration that included 96 former players – and were trounced again in the A.C.C. conference tournament championship game by Virginia Tech.

"All season we've been dealing with it," Banchemo said earlier this week. "It's coach's last something every game."

The two late-season losses wiped away any opportunity that Duke would be a top seed – or the chance that the Blue Devils would head to Krzyzewski's hometown Chicago for the round of 16, as he had requested if they were a No. 1 seed.

Instead, Duke was slotted into the West region, which has been a graveyard for Krzyzewski's teams.

The Blue Devils had been placed in the West six previous times without reaching a regional final – even in 2011, when as a No. 1 seed they were tripped up by Arizona in the round of 16.

This trip, though, has been a stroll down memory lane.

Krzyzewski spent four six-week stints in the early 1970s living at the barracks at the Presidio, the former Army post that sits in the shadow of the Golden Gate Bridge, when he was playing for the All-Army team that competed in an international military competition.

His team practiced this week at the University of San Francisco, on the same court where he had practiced regularly 50 years ago. His players surprised him by knowing the answer to a pop quiz: who was the best player on the Dons' back-to-back national championship teams in 1955 and '56. (Answer: Bill Russell.)

"I was ready to dig in on them, but they knew it," Krzyzewski said.

And when it came time to take the court, the Blue Devils had all the answers, too.

Powerful push to the Final Four has made Duke's players the big story

By Matt Norlander, CBSSports.com (March 26, 2022)

SAN FRANCISCO -- There wasn't ever a second to waste. Every moment in every timeout was opportunity. There are only so many more days, minutes, hours and seconds Mike Krzyzewski has left to coach this team. This was for -- as Krzyzewski has referred to it this week -- a chance to walk across the bridge to the mecca of college basketball.

Final Four glory was on the line.

They know bridges well in this city. The most famous of them all stands in distinction -- "international orange" is its official color -- a mere seven miles from the Chase Center, looming over the Presidio and linking one part of San Francisco to another. In this metropolis of drastic slopes, where streets pitch and droop like ski pistes, and where the inclines and tablelands of its thoroughfares give incredible views around this beautiful slab of earth and water, everything was, instead, steady, level -- in balance -- for the second-seeded Blue Devils on Saturday night.

For as big as this Elite Eight matchup against No. 2 Duke and No. 4 Arkansas was, we were low on drama.

Duke was its unrelenting best here in a 78-69 victory. The Blue Devils grew again, proving their talent was as irreplaceable as this storybook narrative itself. Can't be that Krzyzewski's going to the Final Four in his last season, can it? Is this really happening? It is. Passage has most definitely been earned.

"They were a close team before the NCAAs, but during these last four games they have been terrific," Krzyzewski said. "I'm so proud of you guys and happy for you. You crossed the bridge, man, and we beat an outstanding team."

Back to those timeouts. With a press row perch behind Duke's bench for this game, CBS Sports was able to eavesdrop on every huddle over the course of two hours. The Blue Devils briefly trailed 9-6 early, but otherwise held this game in its control. Krzyzewski had fire in his tummy and a classic coach's scratch in his throat as he bellowed out over the PA system and pep bands.

"You gotta go! We're going too slow!" he told his team at the under-16 timeout of the first half. He looked inflamed. The game had barely begun.

Krzyzewski didn't allow himself to show relief or triumph, not even when Duke was in command late and most of the building realized what was happening here. To wit on the rest of us: a Trevor Keels deep 3 at the first-half buzzer gave Duke a 45-33 lead going into the break. Moments later, one support staff member quietly dropped four golden pairs of scissors to the Duke side of the scorer's table. The regional-champion trophy, and the box it was stuffed in, was also not-so-inconspicuously tucked near the Duke bench as well in advance of the second half.

"Duke was phenomenal," Razorbacks coach Eric Musselman said. "Would be surprised if they're not playing to win a national championship."

Only with less than 30 seconds remaining and during a dead ball did Krzyzewski let out a "YES!!!" before returning to business-as-usual before the game hit triple zeroes.

The Blue Devils are still in this thing -- they may well win this thing. This story won't quit. The old man's done it one last time, breaking his tie with John Wooden for Final Fours, now sitting at 13 ahead of Wooden's 12. After doing it the hard way, Duke's season and Krzyzewski's career will end in in the Big Easy.

There was only one point in the second half where things got hairy. Arkansas managed to cut it to a 53-48 Duke lead with 13:13 to go. K wanted a timeout. It was the only time the entire night where he waited a minute to address his team. Duke's starting five -- Wendell Moore Jr, Paolo Banchemo, Mark Williams, Jeremy Roach and Keels -- all sorted matters out amongst themselves before K pulled up a chair once more and got to directing on the whiteboard, marker in hand.

Coming out of that timeout, Banchemo and Griffin made back-to-back plays to bloat Duke's lead to 57-48. Soon enough it was a 16-6 run, and Duke had a 69-54 lead.

"We were getting ready to get knocked out, and they the last 12 minutes they didn't get knocked out," Krzyzewski said. "They played beautiful basketball."

It was effectively over. Yet with 3:58 on the clock, Krzyzewski was still treating the game like Arkansas needed one 3-pointer to take the lead again.

The score was 72-57.

"Listen! LISTEN!!!" he commanded to his team. "No let-ups!"

He's coached his 75-year-old ass off the past two weeks in this tournament. The man has said over and over and over again that he's ready to retire, but to see him run a huddle, it sure doesn't look it. Almost every second of time given is methodical.

Duke never did let up. Because of that, the program is going to its 17th Final Four. The Blue Devils got 46 points in the paint against Arkansas, continuing a trend that has defined Duke's teamwork instincts. Duke's gotten by with 52% of their points through four games in the paint, according to ESPN research. It's one of the most dominant near-the-rim teams in tournament play ever. They'll get you from deep too, though. A mere 10 3-point attempts for the Blue Devils in this game, but four of them fell true. Toss in seven steals and 12 points off Arkansas turnovers while we're at it. A dash of deep-threat scoring combined with interior relentless, which turned this team into the No. 1-rated points-per-possession offense in the sport, per KenPom, as of Saturday night.

"We knew we were capable of this, and that's what we've worked for since June," Banchemo said. "So to finally be able to get to New Orleans and have a chance to play for a national championship is a blessing. I'm just proud of the way we came together."

Krzyzewski wants to make this about the players, and we should. Here's to them. This Final Four is theirs. So much of this season and the pressure around it has fallen on them. That was Krzyzewski's doing, of course, but he's said retiring this way was the only way he felt how to do it and be ethical with recruiting. He wanted one more year but didn't want to privately know the end was coming. With that, a burden of sorts was placed on Duke's players. They've handled it brilliantly, particularly after not winning the final home game vs. North Carolina, then getting run out of the ACC Tournament by a Virginia Tech team that rallied to win the ACC championship before going one-and-done in the Big Dance.

The four-in-a-row response to make it to the national semifinals amounts to one of the more impressive March showings a Krzyzewski team has ever put forth. My, how they've grown.

Williams must be singled out. He was outstanding again: 12 points, 12 rebounds, three blocks, and tangibly the most valuable player for either team.

"He is a hell of a defensive player," Roach said. "Love having him on the court. Makes it so much easier for the guards to really try to pressure the ball. So they really don't have to worry if a guy gets past you, you know big fellow is always back there to back you up. He is a huge part of this team. We wouldn't be here without him."

It's exceptional how Duke has seen every starter elevate his game -- even A.J. Griffin had a quiet team-high of 18 points against Arkansas. Yet again, Krzyzewski wasn't having much in the postgame press conference about what this means for him. His passion and gratitude was for the players. Program win. Players win. He's right. You can roll your eyes at Krzyzewski all you want about what's come of this season and how announcing his retirement nine-plus months in advance inherently makes him the story, but on this Saturday night, the story is the resolve and incredible evolution of Duke's team.

They have had a claim as the most talented one in the sport all season. Now that the talent is meeting potential, Duke has become the tournament's top team and favorite to win the entire thing.

"They did it for us, and enough about doing it for the old man here," Krzyzewski said. "We're not going to do it unless we all own it, and we all owned this. We all owned this moment together. That's what we're playing for."

This is not the same team, not by many measures, that was filleted by North Carolina at Cameron Indoor Stadium 21 nights prior. Was it really just three weeks ago that the Heels spoiled Krzyzewski's retirement party?

"But you really find out about character in those situations," Krzyzewski said. "It's not luck. It's them. That's what I'm trying to tell you, it's on them because they're the ones. No matter what you do as a coach, they have to show that level of character, and in this tournament it's really lifted them. They've been beautiful. They've been sensational. And they were really good. I loved them before, but now I respect them so much, how much they've done."

Krzyzewski is heading to his 13th Final Four in a fifth decade: three in the '80s, five in the '90s, two in the 2000s, two in the 2010s, and now this one to wrap an unparalleled career. His 42nd team at Duke has risen up to ultimately be remembered as one of his best. What's coming next is almost too outrageous to feel true. Are we sure this isn't a simulation?

A North Carolina win Sunday would put the greatest rivalry in sports on the biggest stage in college basketball. The Blue Devils and Tar Heels have played 257 times in their history, but never in the NCAA Tournament. Something phenomenal is heading down to Louisiana: either Duke will face its blood rival in a revenge game, with Krzyzewski's retirement on the line after UNC embarrassed Duke at home in K's last home game ever or ...

Well ...

Saint Peter's. Duke vs. Saint Peter's. It would be the greatest symbolic representation of David vs. Goliath in sports history. That's the other outcome. Either one is incredible. This Duke run has been incredible. The mere fact that it's going to play North Carolina or the first No. 15 seed in a Final Four is so outrageous it borders on fiction. What a universe we live in. We'll learn what our reality is soon enough. Duke's reality moves toward New Orleans all the same. Mecca awaits. These players are two wins away from achieving what would be one of the grandest championship-run stories in American sports history.

No matter who starts or finishes, Duke is finding ways to win in NCAA tournament

By Steve Wiseman, Raleigh News & Observer (March 26, 2022)

SAN FRANCISCO -- More often than not, by the time March rolls around, college basketball coaches have landed on substitution patterns with lineups and roles cemented.

That regimen is regularly a hallmark of successful teams.

No. 9 Duke, now one win away from the Final Four, represents a different approach.

The Blue Devils finished off NCAA tournament wins over the past week with one finishing five against Michigan State on Sunday, and a different group against Texas Tech on Thursday night.

They've alternated big men Mark Williams and Theo John regularly this season, but have also gone with their smaller "ball-handling" lineup with both of those centers on the bench.

Throughout all the changes, and some tough, late-game losses that dotted the regular season, the team is playing its best basketball when the highest stakes are in play here in the NCAA tournament. It's a testament to the cohesion this team – put together for one season that happens to be the last for their retiring Hall of Fame coach – has forged.

"They are really a good group of kids, and they're becoming men," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said Friday, the day before Duke faced Arkansas in the NCAA tournament's West Regional final at Chase Center. "They've been really good, and for me to have that group in this final year for me, I think I'm very thankful for that."

That togetherness and trust paid off last Sunday in the second round when starting small forward A.J. Griffin sprained an ankle in the second half against Michigan State with the game's outcome, and the fate of Duke's season, in the balance. He went to the sideline for treatment, replaced by part-time starter Trevor Keels. Instead of feeling uncertain, Duke closed the game on a 20-6 run, hitting its final five shots from the field to win 85-76.

Keels hit the 3-pointer that tied the game at 72 during that surge.

On Thursday night in the Sweet 16 against Arkansas, Griffin was healthy and back in the starting lineup. Once again, Duke needed a strong finishing kick. This time, Keels was on the bench for all but 12 seconds of the game's final 10:17.

Three guys who have started every game – Paolo Banchemo, Wendell Moore and Mark Williams – were joined by sophomore guard Jeremy Roach and Griffin. Duke made its final eight shots, not missing in the game's final 8:53 to rally and win, 78-73.

"It can be tough at times," Duke associate head coach Jon Scheyer said, "because we have more than five players who have won games for us, who can really help us down the stretch. If you look at the entire season, it's been different guys stepping out the different moments. And so when you talk about it as coaches, you always talk about everybody being ready. It's true for this group is any."

Krzyzewski and his staff have used three different starting lineups this season. The first 14 games, it included Banchemo, Moore, Williams, Roach and Keels. The next group replaced Roach with Griffin. A third lineup, necessitated when Keels suffered a calf muscle injury to his right leg in January, re-insterted Roach to go with Banchemo, Moore, Williams and Griffin.

That second lineup – Keels, Griffin, Banchemo, Moore and Williams – started Duke's three ACC tournament games. But Krzyzewski made a change for the NCAA tournament, removing Keels and starting Roach again.

The finishing group against Michigan State was Duke's original starting five. Against Texas Tech, it was that second lineup.

It doesn't seem to bother anyone on Duke's bench.

"The main thing is everybody who steps on the floor it's all about winning," Moore said. "None of us have our own personal agendas. When we're on the floor, we all just want to win. So that's really what's been showing in these close games these past five-minute games we've been showing, it's really just our will to win."

That chemistry began last summer when Moore, Roach, Keels, Williams and Banchemo twice made the four hour, 30 minute drive from Durham to North Augusta, South Carolina, to watch their former summer-league teams play at the Nike Peach Jam event.

But it didn't stop there. Throughout the season, the players regularly get together for meetings without their coaches. Moore and senior Joey Baker, the team's co-captains, did most of the talking at first. But that's changed as the season has progressed.

"Now everybody has a voice," Moore said. "That's something that we've been stressing all year. If you have something to say, say it in the moment because you never get that moment back to say it again."

That kind of real talk permeates up and down the 14-player roster. The Blue Devils believe, and their play of late shows, it has made them a better team no matter who is on the court and who is on the bench.

"It's a great culture," Roach said. "This is probably one of the best teams I've been on just camaraderie wise. We get along so well. Like coach says, we have six starters."

Just because one player starts one game, and another one helps finishes off a win, the Blue Devils have found ways for that not to cause a fractured locker room. The egos, it appears, are under control as everyone finds a way to be at their best.

It all stems, Moore said, from those regular team gatherings.

"Everybody's been I mean just growing ever since that," Moore said. "For A.J., it's been talking. For Jeremy, it's been his leadership. For Mark, he's been really just aggressive in a simpler way. For P (Paolo), it's been just playing instinctually and not thinking about too many things. Just everybody. It's made us become one of the better basketball teams in the country today."

How Duke discovered its mojo after earlier March losses left its direction in doubt

By Andrew Carter, Raleigh News & Observer (March 26, 2022)

SAN FRANCISCO -- There was a time, not all that long ago, when Mike Krzyzewski could watch one of his younger players make a mistake – a not-smart foul, for instance, or a poor decision – and imagine how the experience of the blunder might one day prove beneficial. That's how it used to be, he said here on Friday, back when "you would have years" to build teams, little by little.

Krzyzewski was dressed for work, all activewear and sneakers, when he took a moment to reflect on how things were. It was the day before Duke's game against Arkansas here on Saturday in the NCAA tournament West Regional final; the day before his Blue Devils would be playing for the chance to go to another Final Four, which would be their first since 2015.

After 75 years on Earth and 1,201 college basketball victories and 42 years at Duke, none of this is all that new for Krzyzewski. He has been on this stage many times, on the precipice of the Final Four. This is the 17th time he has led Duke to an NCAA tournament regional final. Twelve times, his teams have won those games and advanced to the national semifinals.

And yet this feels different, too, in part because of the obvious storyline that this is Krzyzewski's final March but also because of how different this particular journey has been. Exactly three weeks ago Saturday, Duke lost at home against North Carolina – a defeat that's sure to be remembered among the most humbling of Krzyzewski's tenure given it came in his final game at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

And exactly two weeks ago Saturday, the Blue Devils at times looked flat and unresponsive in losing against Virginia Tech in the ACC tournament championship game. Those consecutive Saturdays raised all kinds of questions about the Blue Devils, ones about their capacity for defense and whether they'd hit a wall or what had happened to a team that looked so promising earlier in the season.

Perhaps the most pressing question of all, though, was this: Was Duke tough enough for March?

It all had to be grating for Krzyzewski, who has built his program and Hall of Fame career on the intangible and difficult-to-define grit at the foundation of his best teams, which were defined by the floor-slapping intensity of relentless man-to-man defenses, and the courage to rise to the occasion in the biggest moments. And now here he was, approaching the end, with a team that suddenly had to answer for its lack of toughness. But that was then and this is now, and now the Blue Devils have suddenly discovered some resolve.

The Duke of two or three weeks ago would have found it difficult, indeed, to muster the fortitude to overcome a five-point deficit with five minutes to play last Sunday against Michigan State. And the Duke of early March might've found a way to lose against Texas Tech here on Thursday night, when the pressure of the moment seemed to seep through every crevice of the Chase Center.

Both times, though, the Duke of now found a way to prevail. The turnaround – from an inability to rise from the mat in consecutive weeks against North Carolina and Virginia Tech, to now, on the verge of the Final Four after surviving the exact circumstances in which the Blue Devils melted just weeks ago – has to rank among the most improbable of Krzyzewski's trips to the NCAA tournament.

He has not had years to mold this team amid its challenges, after all, but weeks.

Krzyzewski on Friday thought back to his fourth national championship team, in 2010. That year, Jon Scheyer and Nolan Smith and others completed a transformation that had been a long time in the making, with the same players going through the same trials and, ultimately, experiencing the same euphoria when they were part of the last team standing on the first Monday night in April.

"They were able to have adversity help build them," Krzyzewski said, and it had long become more difficult to reap the benefits of such adversity in a time of constant roster turnover due to one-and-done NBA Draft entries and transfers. With younger teams that haven't had years together, Krzyzewski said, "you're trying to avoid as much adversity."

"But in the last 10 days or so of the regular season and the (ACC) tournament, we experienced a very deep level of adversity," he said, "and in some respects it really helped us. I would rather not have experienced it, but I think it helped us.

"It hurt. They grew together and we all took responsibility and figured out what was wrong, and then we tried to correct it. It was actually in some respects a good thing, but that usually happens over a – it used to be, over a decade ago, over a period of time."

It is not as if Krzyzewski has waved a magic wand during the past couple of weeks, or reached into a tattered bag of tricks that might be showing its age in his 47th year as a head coach.

Krzyzewski has been "the same old guy every day," sophomore guard Jeremy Roach said here on Friday, though Roach acknowledged that the Blue Devils have benefited from an attitude adjustment that Krzyzewski engineered.

After the defeats against UNC and Virginia Tech, Krzyzewski embraced the approach, as he does every year, of treating the NCAA tournament like a new season. He asked his players to deposit their baggage somewhere else and not carry it into the tournament where, Roach said, Duke has adopted a fresh motto: "We can, we will."

By now these Blue Devils have spent nearly a year living inside the college basketball version of an aquarium. Visitors step into their world a bit and look behind the glass and wonder how it might be in there, amid the swirl and drama of Krzyzewski's farewell season. Wendell Moore Jr., the junior forward, acknowledged Friday that perhaps he and his teammates might have been "a little distracted" entering the regular season finale against North Carolina, and one could pardon the Blue Devils if that were the case.

After all, that game became the main event in what seemed like an endless ESPN infomercial recapping Krzyzewski's career and accomplishments. The network's "GameDay" show set up outside of Cameron Indoor Stadium, where nearly 100 former Duke players arrived to see their old coach on the home bench one last time. Since then, though, it feels as though a weight has been lifted off of Duke – or at least as though the pressure of the tournament hasn't exceeded the sort of pressure the Blue Devils have already endured, and perhaps become acclimated to playing through.

"It's not only his last tournament, it's our last tournament," said Mark Williams, the sophomore center. "Like, it'll be the last time the 14 of us are going to be together, playing. Obviously, we know the stakes for Coach, but at the same time, for us, we're not going to get this back."

Williams revealed that he and his teammates had spent some time this week with Steph Curry, the NBA All-Star and face of the hometown Golden State Warriors. Curry shared some advice with the Blue Devils, Williams said, as did Grant Hill, the former Duke All-American who is in town to work the West Regional as part of CBS' lead college basketball broadcasting team. Both Curry and Hill shared the same sentiment, according to Williams, the message being about "just cherishing the moment."

If anything has become clear for Duke during its past two games, it's that the moment no longer appears too big. That wasn't the case on those back-to-back Saturdays earlier this month, but it has become so now, and the Blue Devils seem to have somehow managed to condense a yearslong growth process into a couple of weeks.

Their evolution now has them one game from the Final Four, and if they get there it'd be the first time since 1994 that Duke advanced that far without being a No. 1 seed. Of Krzyzewski's 12 Final Four teams, seven reached the national semifinals after earning top seeds, including the ones that made it there in 1999, 2001, 2004, 2010 and 2015.

Those five teams all entered the tournament as Final Four favorites, with the certainty that they belonged. This one, meanwhile, began the tournament with no shortage of questions. Before it began, Krzyzewski issued his team a challenge, said Moore, one of the Blue Devils' captains.

"We've just been playing with that immense intensity lately," he said, before describing how Krzyzewski has coached the potential out of this group. "He's gotten on a couple of us just because he knows we can play better. Everybody he's gotten on has responded in a positive way to what he's been saying.

"That could be his kind of way of using tricks to get us motivated. But it's been working."

Duke has responded with its two grittiest victories of the season, throwback performances to a different time, when teams grew up together and grew older and tougher as the years passed. The Blue Devils don't have that luxury now but they have this moment.

Jeremy Roach and his takeover moment, leading Duke to the Sweet 16

By Brendan Marks, The Athletic (March 21, 2022)

GREENVILLE, S.C. – Joe Roach needs two phones. Probably more.

One for the texts, obviously, popping onto his iPhone screen with the fervor of a furious concert pianist. One for the FaceTimes, from cousins and family friends and damn near everyone in the entirety of Leesburg, Va. Managing all those messages, in the waning minutes of Duke's second-round NCAA Tournament game, would be a full-time job in itself. But really, he needs a third more than either of the other two: for recording purposes. The better the camera, the closer the zoom, the better.

Joe wants to record this all. He will record this all. Just look at him there, in his aisle seat six or so rows off the court inside Bon Secours Wellness Arena, directly behind Mike Krzyzewski on Duke's bench. (His wife, Carole, has migrated to the middle of the aisle beside him, with more room for pacing and praying. Who can blame her?) They're not hard to miss, in their dueling Duke jerseys – Joe in conventional blue, Carole sporting the Gothic script – with the same number centered in the back: 3.

Fitting, huh?

The number. The play. And it all comes back to one person: their son, Jeremy. For much of this season, and especially of late, he's been a valuable cog in the Blue Devils' backcourt backlog. Now? Well, he's more than that. Much more. Because when Wendell Moore whipped a pass his way with 1:18 remaining in Sunday's game against Michigan State, Duke desperately clinging to a one-point lead, it was Jeremy Roach who wound up in the moment – shot clock at seven, six, needing to summon something, anything, to keep this season alive – with only two options:

Meet the moment, or melt from it.

That simple. There is no middle ground, no gray area. You make the play, or you don't. "I was wondering," Krzyzewski said later, "if we were going to stay young." And can you blame him? After amassing a nine-point lead early in the second half – and in the process, Duke looking every bit the dangerous, deadly, rolling ball of knives it can be – the whole damn thing came undone. Turnovers, forced shots, porous perimeter defense; Michigan State, makers of 15 3-pointers in their previous three games combined, suddenly turned into the Splash Brothers, draining 11 treys. With just over eight minutes to play, A.J. Griffin, Duke's designated sharpshooter, went down with an ankle injury and couldn't return. So, yeah, when Marcus Bingham Jr. made the second of two free-throws with five minutes to go, giving the Spartans a five-point edge? You better believe Coach K (and the rest of Duke's crowd) started to sweat. If anyone affiliated with that hue of blue tells you otherwise? Pssshh, they're lying.

It was all too real, all too fast. The end of the season, this team, Krzyzewski's career. Those threads are all woven so tightly together, there's just no separating stitch from stitch. It was a subtle terror, simmering in the stadium, but a terror nonetheless.

And then Jeremy Roach, with one dribble and a perfect parabola, erased it all.

"That's who he is," Carole told The Athletic. "That's who he's been all along."

"Since the fourth grade!" Joe interjects. "You can check the film on that."

So, let's. Only, start the cut-up at that 5:10 mark, when it all felt feeble and frail and on the fringe of falling apart. Yes, Roach put the punctuation mark on Duke's eventual 85-76 win, sending the Blue Devils to Mike Krzyzewski's 26th Sweet 16, but his teammates sure played their parts in even making that moment possible. Immediately after those Bingham foul shots, Paolo Banchemo imposed his physicality with a layup to bring things back to three. A small dent, but one nonetheless. "We were like, man, we got four minutes. We can either lay down, or we can turn it up. That's really all it was," Banchemo said. "Just fighting ... having heart, and just trusting each other." Next came a defensive stop, one of Mark Williams' team-high eight rebounds, and a nifty layup inside to cut it back to one with 4:17 remaining. Breathe. For the next three minutes thereafter, the two teams traded punches and the lead. Banchemo's driving layup with 2:05 left, and his subsequent block on Joey Hauser, then set up the aforementioned moment. Banchemo got blocked off at the elbow, tossed the ball back to Moore on the right side of the arc, and ... well, let the actors describe the scene themselves.

"The clock was winding down. Normally in that situation we call green, which means we have to get a good shot up," said Moore, Duke's junior captain. "I was just looking at the matchups and thought Jeremy had a good matchup."

So he whirled it across the court, to a spot right in front of his 75-year-old coach, the one clinging to the final few games of his Hall of Fame career. Seven, six seconds on the slot clock ... "The four-minute media (timeout), I was thinking to myself, if I get an open 3, I'm knocking it down," Roach said from the dais, his hair sufficiently soaked from a postgame water bottle shower. "The shot clock was winding down, and I knew I had to make a play." When he caught Moore's pass, his wrist already cocked, it was only a matter of how quick he'd get off the shot.

Five, four... One dribble, a step forward from the midcourt logo to the edge of the arc, and the rise-up.

Meet it, or melt from it, right?

Swish.

"Tears," Carole said, "almost came out my eyes."

"I'm just elated, man," Joe adds, shaking his head, not wanting to wake from this dream. "It's crazy. It's surreal right now."

From the 10,000-foot view, it doesn't quite make sense. On a team with arguably five future first-round NBA Draft picks, Roach is the sixth guy you'd think could play hero. Except, Roach, after bouncing in and out of the starting lineup all season, has thoroughly stated his claim to being in the first five during the last month. "It's like he put the chip back in from (his high school days at) PVI," Joe said, hailing back to when Roach was a five-star recruit. "We plugged it back in, like, 'Do you, baby. Just do you.' He's clearly gotten his confidence back, and that's what it takes."

Call it confidence, cajones, whatever you please. But since Duke traveled to Charlottesville, Va., on Feb. 23 – a short two-hour sprint due south of Roach's hometown – he has been averaging 11.6 points and 1.6 assists per game while shooting 41.9 percent from 3. Twice, he has scored 15 points, his season-high. Heck, even before that, when Trevor Keels was still out nursing his ankle injury in late January, "Jeremy kind of carried us," Krzyzewski said, crediting Roach's consecutive nine-assist games. So when Duke rolled into South Carolina this week, Krzyzewski finally rewarded his sophomore guard by slotting him in with the starters. "(When) we started the week, we just said we need great ball pressure," Krzyzewski said. "He can do that, and he did that today, but also to lead us."

You know what leaders do? They deliver amidst the drama.

Bobby Hurley against UNLV. Tyus Jones against Wisconsin.

And now, regardless of how the rest of Duke's season turns out, Jeremy Roach against Michigan State.

"It will sound a little crazy to you," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said postgame, "but their two best players, in my mind, were Roach and Moore. I love Banchemo, and Williams is hard to cover, but it was Roach and Moore that really took over."

You know why he'd say Roach. As for Moore, well, scan the stat sheet and focus your gaze on his free-throw percentages: nine makes in 10 tries, four of which came after Roach's 3. Roach provided the cushion, but Moore made sure there wasn't another undoing over the last 60 seconds. "I didn't see anything but me and the bucket," Moore said of stepping to the stripe late. "That's my routine. I really have to close my eyes just so I can lock in." And he did.

This brings us back to Joe, Carole, and their son – Duke's difference-maker Sunday. Thirteen of Roach's eventual 15 points came in the second half, through an array of drives Krzyzewski said were, "some of the best drives I've seen as a Duke coach, really, especially in a pressure situation." But none were bigger, or more memorable, than that 3. The one that cemented Roach's spot in Blue Devils basketball lore, and sent this team to San Francisco for a meeting with No. 3 seed Texas Tech. So damn right Joe's got his phone out, flipped sideways, panning throughout the stadium for every possible angle. He wants to remember it all, right down to the student section screaming a few rows back of him. And like any sports parent, no, he won't relax until it's finally final. "Oh my gosh," Joe said the second the final buzzer blared. "Just let it get down to zero, and let's be ahead."

At that point, at long last, right behind the bench, it all boils over. Keels, Roach's high school teammate who scored 12 points, comes over to embrace Joe and Carole. Mickie Krzyzewski, Coach K's wife, is clapping toward the center of all her grandkids, who are simultaneously pushing SEND on booking their flights to the Bay Area. Roach won't come back out until after his media obligations – uh, yeah, we'd like to talk to him, please – but that doesn't stop Joe and Carole from celebrating with all the other parents.

There's just one last question, then, about Jeremy Roach and his family and what this moment – the moment – means to them all.

What's Joe gonna do with his iPhone video?

"This is for right here," he said, pounding the place on his chest right where the heart is. "That's all I can tell you."

Duke faced down the end of Coach K's career -- and grew up when it mattered

By David M. Hale, ESPN.com (March 20, 2022)

GREENVILLE, S.C. – Mike Krzyzewski looked down the dais at the five players who'd refused to let his last dance come to an end, who engineered a frenetic comeback to advance to the Sweet 16 with an 85-76 win over Michigan State, and he choked back tears.

For nearly a year, he has known the finish line was in sight. He chose this path, a farewell tour on which he might relive some of his classic moments and, perhaps, pen one final chapter worthy of his epic 42-year career. The finality of Krzyzewski's run has hung like a cloud over everything Duke has done this season, each game, junior Wendell Moore Jr. said, another "last something" for Krzyzewski, but always with the knowledge that more "lasts" awaited.

Sunday was different though. When Marcus Bingham Jr. drained a pair of free throws to give Michigan State a five-point lead with 5:10 to play, the end wasn't simply a point on the horizon. It had arrived.

As Bingham lined up for his first free throw, Paolo Banchemo was furious. Mark Williams was stunned. Trevor Keels hung his head. Moore clapped his hands, almost as if he was trying to wake his team from an unfathomable nightmare.

All season, Duke struggled to protect leads. On Sunday, the Blue Devils coughed up a nine-point cushion to Michigan State.

All season, Duke's players have shouldered the responsibility of scripting a fitting ending to their coach's legendary career, and too often -- in the regular-season finale against North Carolina or the ACC tournament vs. Virginia Tech -- it has seemed too heavy a burden. Now, that weight threatened to crush them entirely.

All season, the Blue Devils have worked to carve out their own space amid the overwhelming narrative of Krzyzewski's last dance. The NCAA tournament was supposed to be a fresh start, and yet the basketball gods conspired to provide one more compelling moment all about their coach. Krzyzewski vs. Tom Izzo was no doubt the NCAA's dream matchup when it placed Duke and Michigan State in the same region. It was only fitting, of course, that these two friends, who had faced off 16 times in their careers, should enjoy one last showdown, too. Now, Izzo had the upper hand.

In truth, the entire season had built to this, and if it had ended there, it might've almost felt fitting.

But it didn't end there.

Banchemo will be Krzyzewski's last truly elite prospect, and he looked the part late, driving to the basket and delivering a layup to stop the bleeding after the Spartans' 11-2 run.

Keels had struggled, but he buried a 3 with 3:24 to play to tie the game. It allowed a legion of Duke fans to exhale for the first time in what felt like an eternity.

Williams, who'd been a force of nature in the paint early on, didn't take a shot in the final 14 minutes of play, but on defense, he swallowed up the Michigan State offense, playing "like a hockey goalie," Krzyzewski said.

Jeremy Roach was the forgotten member of Duke's band of lottery picks, but he drove to the basket again and again in those final minutes, attacking the basket with such determination that even Krzyzewski was stunned. Those drives, Krzyzewski said, were some of the best he'd seen in his 42 years on the sideline. And then Roach delivered the dagger -- a 3-pointer that Krzyzewski insists found the basket not through accuracy but sheer force of will.

That's what had Krzyzewski's eyes watering after the game. This season has been about him, a celebration of nearly a half-century in college basketball, but when the end finally arrived, it was those players who reached out and pulled him back from the brink.

"I think they showed their truest colors," Izzo said. "They lost at home to North Carolina. They lost to Virginia Tech. Same kind of games. We came back and went up. They [could have] just drifted into the sunset. And I thought they reached down, in Mike Krzyzewski fashion, and did an unbelievable job of kind of taking it at us."

When it was over, Moore was asked whether he was thinking about a last stand for Krzyzewski in those excruciating seconds when Bingham stood at the free throw line to pad Michigan State's lead. No, he said. He never thought about losing. He was thinking about a road trip.

Actually, two road trips, Moore said.

Twice in July, Moore, Banchemo, Roach, Keels and Williams packed into a car and drove to Atlanta for the annual Peach Jam basketball games, a chance to witness their former grassroots teams face off while they watched from the stands.

"Ever since then, we just called ourselves 'The Road Crew,'" Moore said. "We knew it was going to come down to us at some point [this season]."

With five minutes left in Krzyzewski's career, the Road Crew huddled up.

"We looked into each other's eyes," Moore said, "and we knew we weren't going to lose."

Duke is on to the Sweet 16. Krzyzewski survived another trial by fire against a worthy opponent. In a game sold as a matchup of legendary coaches, Duke's players scripted their own mythology.

When Michigan State took the lead in the second half, Krzyzewski said his team looked young. It's a refrain he has echoed often this season, and he wondered if the bill had come due for packing a roster with potential lottery picks who hadn't quite found their sea legs.

"We were young for a while there," he said, "and I wondered if we were going to stay young."

Instead, this group grew up, and in doing so, the Blue Devils made their 75-year-old coach feel young once more, winning a game that belongs in the pantheon of Krzyzewski's greatest.

The end will come. It's waiting, out there on the horizon in San Francisco next weekend or in New Orleans at the Final Four.

But whenever the music stops, Sunday proved this group of Blue Devils were worthy of the dance.

How Duke's best five minutes of basketball this season saved everything

By Matt Norlander, CBSSports.com (March 20, 2022)

GREENVILLE, S.C. – This was it. The moment had truly finally arrived. A South Carolina Sunday was where and when Duke had to prove itself. If not, everything would come crashing down.

The second-seeded Blue Devils found themselves trailing 70-65 against No. 7 Michigan State with five minutes remaining in this feverish, meeting-the-hype second round NCAA Tournament game. Elimination was now on the table. The prospect of the end of Mike Krzyzewski's career had entered the room and hung in the air.

Michigan State hadn't come to play -- it came to bust Duke open. Tom Izzo's team looked hungry, opportunistic and alert. Deep into the second half, the Spartans were showing they could spoil matters for Duke and ship Krzyzewski off to retirement a couple weeks before he wanted.

"I thought when we got down -- we were young for a while there, and I was wondering if we were going to stay young," Krzyzewski said.

Making matters more problematic for Duke was its gimpy starting shooting guard, A.J. Griffin. He was reduced to a spectator after hurting what appeared to be his left ankle with 8:32 remaining and Duke up 63-61. So, here were these fun-but-flawed Blue Devils, their best shooter but a fan. MSU took its first lead since 11:11 of the first half three minutes after Griffin's injury, when Tyson Walker drained a 3-pointer to make it 68-65. A pair of Marcus Bingham Jr. foul shots grew it to a five-point gap for Sparty.

You've gotten to this point, you've seen the headline, you likely watched the game or caught highlights. There's no spoiler here. The result is not in doubt. The story of getting there is why we're here. Who knows where, when or how this Duke season will end? It could be on Thursday in the Sweet 16, in San Francisco vs. 3-seed Texas Tech. It could be in the ultimate game in New Orleans with a national championship on the line.

That mystery will solve itself in relatively short order. But it remains an unknown because of the five-minute stretch of play to close out Sunday's game.

"What a game," Krzyzewski said. "It was reminiscent of the Final Four games. Both teams were lights out with the effort today. We're so very proud of winning this game because we beat a heck of a team, obviously as well-coached as any in the country."

There's a chance the final five minutes of Sunday's 85-76 win over Michigan State winds up being the best and/or most important stretch of Duke's campaign. It saved it Sunday, and it might spur it to something much bigger. The Blue Devils responded to their largest deficit of the night by turning Michigan State upside down. From the moment the game got to 70-65 in favor of MSU, Duke had its best defensive stretch this season, all circumstances considered.

"My guys were so tough in those last six minutes of the game," Krzyzewski said. "The last four or five minutes, the defense was incredible."

How incredible? From the time the game was 70-65, here's how it finished from an efficiency standpoint:

Duke points per possession: 1.80
Michigan State points per possession: 0.67

The Blue Devils went on a 15-4 run, which also contained an 8-0 run, and overall finished the game on a 20-6 hammer-throw to vault themselves into the regional semifinals.

"We went to a little bit different coverage in the full court, like a soft, soft press, just so they didn't get a run because they can really run," Krzyzewski said. "Then we started -- we were going to switch 1 through 5. Mark (Williams) has improved so much during the year in his lateral movement that he can stay in front, and that's what he did."

Duke needed this. It had to be pushed. It had to have its toughness tested. They knew it was coming. One stop wouldn't do. Neither would two or three. It had to be consistent. MSU was too well-coached, too deep, too abundant with scorers and slashers who smelled some blood.

The situation inside Bon Secours Wellness Arena was immediate, urgent, and Duke knew it. But they didn't bring up the looming possibility this game, and season, could end.

"Losing didn't come up one time," Wendell Moore Jr. said.

Over the course of five minutes, Duke defended Michigan State to the tune of 2-of-9 shooting and a turnover.

"You're not going to talk about losing, or else you're going to lose," Krzyzewski said.

Paolo Banchemo showed some of his best on both ends. He started Duke's run with a layup. A few possessions later, Banchemo took Hauser off the dribble, backed him down. A move between bully-ball and top-pick-in-the-draft stuff, Banchemo gently kissed his shot off the glass to give Duke a 75-74 lead with 2:05 to go. It would never trail again. Hauser was blocked by Banchemo on a spin-to-the-left attempt on the ensuing possession. For Banchemo, a huge moment. A definitive block. Duke had snatched momentum.

"I knew once we got our foot in the door, there was no looking back from there," Moore said, later adding that once the team was together at the under-four timeout, "we just looked in each other's eyes, and we knew we weren't going to lose."

Banchemo had a block, Williams had a block, Moore had a steal. And Jeremy Roach hit the 3-pointer that gave Duke a four-point lead with 1:16 to go. That ball going in, as the shot clock was expiring, was the biggest shot of the second half. It put Duke up four and seemed to spook Michigan State. Roach was the guy once Griffin couldn't play. Stepped up. Shined.

"He willed that ball," Krzyzewski said. "He willed that ball in. They were some of the best drives I've seen as a Duke coach, really, especially in a pressure situation."

Another big defensive play materialized on the ensuing possession, as Moore stole an absent-minded pass from Christie. He was right there and Christie, the freshman, didn't even see Moore.

"The last five minutes, I think they made every shot," Izzo said.

He's right. Duke was 5 for 5 from the field in the final five minutes; its only misses came at the foul line. As the clock expired, Krzyzewski and his staff couldn't hold back their smiles, their relief, their joy. There was some easy breathing. A second win had come here in Greenville, which wasn't the case five years ago, when No. 2 Duke was upset by No. 7 South Carolina. Krzyzewski hadn't looked this joyous in weeks. It almost felt as though losing before the regional semifinals would have amounted to an embarrassing end to an unparalleled career -- and rightfully so.

"Look, I'm 75," Krzyzewski said. "To have moments like that, you've got to be kidding me. Really, how damn lucky can you be to be in that? And I want to share it. I don't want to sit down and say, 'You guys enjoy it.' I want to be in the party a little bit. That's the enjoyment I've got, I've had for 47 years. Today was one of the really good days."

What a way, by the way, for K to get career win No. 1,200. He's now one shy of 100 NCAA Tournament victories, too. Both records his, of course. And may prove to be forevermore. This is also his 26th Sweet 16 trip, another record.

Krzyzewski got emotional in his opening statement to the media, as Banchemo, Trevor Keels, Moore, Roach and Williams sat next to him.

"I'm incredibly proud of my guys," Krzyzewski said with a quiver in his tone. "This is -- this was -- you guys were terrific, man. I'm really proud to be your coach. It had nothing to do with coaching those last four or five minutes. It all had to do with heart and togetherness. They followed their hearts, and God bless them. We're in the Sweet 16."

The final head-to-head between Krzyzewski and Izzo played out in riveting fashion. Duke pulled away late, but it was a contest in doubt for 39 of its 40 minutes. The potential was there for it all to end for Duke and K, for Michigan State to spoil. Instead, Krzyzewski's players turned up and turned in a performance as clutch and convincing as they've had all season. To see them in that stretch was to be reminded that Duke, when it finds that zone, is as dangerous as any team in the country.

San Francisco awaits.

Jeremy Roach, not his more well-known teammates, extends Coach K's final season

By Mike DeCourcy, The Sporting News (March 20, 2022)

GREENVILLE, S.C. – It seemed as though every one of Duke's many stars touched the basketball on the possession that determined whether Mike Krzyzewski was finished coaching – all but the two on the bench, Coach K and injured freshman shooter AJ Griffin. No one on the court either wanted the responsibility or could concoct a way to fulfill it responsibly. So it fell to Jeremy Roach, the other Blue Devil.

On a team whose roster is spread across the first round of every media mock draft, Roach will not be a lottery pick. He will not be a first-round selection by any NBA team. He may or may not play in the league. He was benched multiple times during the regular season, until Krzyzewski chose to start him in this tournament to provide better on-ball defense following two losses in the past four games. Ostensibly the team's point guard when he did appear, which certainly was plenty, he ranked just third on the team in assists.

He will have this moment, though, whatever becomes of this Blue Devils team in the one or two weeks that now are promised to them. He forever will be the hero of their 85-76 victory over Michigan State in the NCAA Tournament West Region second round, which assures another Sweet 16 and at least one more game for Krzyzewski on the Duke bench.

"That last media timeout, I was just thinking to myself: If I get a 3, I'm going to knock it down," Roach told reporters. "So I think there was like a minute-thirty, something like that, the shot clock was winding down, I knew I had to make a play."

Retiring at the close of this season after 42 seasons as Duke head coach, Krzyzewski had been one or two plays from the final buzzer sounding on his career, and it happened that his guys made them and extended it, as well as securing the 1,200th victory of his career. The final score looks as though this had been a comfortable exercise for the Blue Devils, but it wasn't until 17 seconds left and MSU center Marcus Bingham's final shot deflected out of bounds, with the ball awarded to Duke, that Krzyzewski turned his back to the floor and pointed toward his assembled family in a gesture of joy.

A comfortable cruise toward his 26th Sweet 16 would not have left him nearly in tears, fighting them back just effectively enough as he talked about how much he loved coaching this team.

"You guys were terrific, man," Krzyzewski said to the players beside him on the press conference podium. "I'm really proud to be your coach."

"It had nothing to do with coaching in those last four or five minutes. It all had to do with heart and togetherness. They followed their hearts and God bless them. We're in the Sweet 16."

They will travel to San Francisco and its sparkling Chase Center, and they will go there for many reasons. All-American freshman Paulo Banchero tallied up 19 points and 7 rebounds, and center Mark Williams had 15 points, 8 rebounds and 5 blocks, the latter two categories coinciding when he snuffed Spartans guard A.J. Hoggard's drive with 2:16 left and MSU up a point. That was turned quickly into drive by Banchero that put the Devils ahead for good.

Veteran forward Wendell Moore greatest contribution might have been his massive interception of a Max Christie pass with 1:01 left, which led to a couple of free throws he converted to secure the Devils' late lead. His 15 points and 4 assists mattered so much, especially his last scoring pass, which was delivered to Duke's unlikely hero.

"(Roach) is a sophomore, you know. We've had guys we were playing against – not today – but guys who were in their sixth year," Krzyzewski told TSN. "Along the way, you're going to have ups and downs. He's had many more ups than downs."

"We needed great ball pressure, and he can do that. He did that today. But also to lead us. His scoring, though ... He made some big-time baskets. It wasn't just that three. Those drives to the basket were huge. And everybody got energy from it. We never stopped believing in him because he was believable."

Ahead by only a point with fewer than 90 seconds remaining, the Devils attempted to work the matchup that had generated so much success throughout the 40 minutes: Banchero against anyone MSU put in front of him. In this case, though, a switch matched him against 6-11 Marcus Bingham, who used his impossible length to even make an entry pass to wide-open Williams seem uninviting.

So Banchero moved right and dished it to playmaker Moore. Hoggard, concerned about Moore possibly throwing the ball inside, momentarily lost track of Roach coming up from the left wing. And what would it matter? It was Jeremy Roach. He wouldn't take a shot in that situation. Would he?

"Knowing that situation, we call 'Green.' Which means a person has got to get a shot up – got to get a good shot up," Moore told The Sporting News. "I was looking at the matchups, and I thought Jeremy had a great matchup. I took my one dribble, gave it to him, and he made it happen."

Roach's 3-pointer boosted the Devils to a 78-74 lead with 1:16 left, and they protected that cushion to the end. Roach finished 6-of-10 from the field and scored 15 points, but that was his only successful 3-point try. Given the distance, the angle and the consequence of the shot, anyone who was in the building on both occasions – and it might not have been many more than me, Krzyzewski, his wife Micki and their daughters – might have thought at least once about its similarity to the 3-pointer launched by Bobby Hurley in Duke's massive 1991 upset of UNLV in the national semifinals, the shot Coach K has called the most important during his career.

This one may not deliver a championship. But it could. And there might have been even more weight on Roach when it launched. The sudden proximity of Krzyzewski's retirement imposed a debilitating sense of pressure inside Bon Secours Wellness Arena, and Roach wanted every part of that.

"I'm proud of the fact that we've been there for four decades, that we're at least knocking on the door," Krzyzewski said. "Five times the door let us completely in. I got guys who want to win. And our goal is to win the whole thing all the time, even if we're young."

"It says a lot for the caliber of player that I've coached. These guys are good players, but they're really good guys. You don't go to those Sweet 16s just with talent. You do it with character. That's why my teams have had. But it's not like I've given them that. We've recruited that, and made use of it."

A mother's memory, a son's tribute: Coach K's legacy beyond basketball

By Luke DeCock, Raleigh News & Observer (March 19, 2022)

DURHAM -- As 4 p.m. approaches, the gym starts to fill up with grade-schoolers chasing each other around and dribbling basketballs. This is the blowing off of steam, the storm before the calm.

It takes only a few minutes for chaos to give way to study as these young students find their way to desks in classrooms, past tables full of Goldfish crackers and clementine oranges. The volume level drops. Laptops are handed out and opened. Another afternoon of study has begun at the Emily K Center.

Later, the high-school students who are the Emily K Center's most important clients will replace their younger predecessors for tutoring and meetings with college counselors. The biggest entry point for the center is in ninth grade, with students who spend four years in the Scholars to College program and then ideally remain in the Scholars on Campus program, which helps kids stay in school.

The work goes on, for a full-time staff of 28 and a dozen core volunteers, day after day after day.

Since opening in 2006, the Emily K Center has helped hundreds of Durham students attend college who might not have otherwise. There are several nonprofits and organizations that do terrific work alongside Durham Public Schools to improve access to higher education. The Emily K Center is the only one that shares a name with Durham's most famous current resident.

As Mike Krzyzewski has gone through his final season of basketball at Duke, Florida State coach Leonard Hamilton, Boston College and Clemson commemorated his departure with donations to the Emily K Center upon his final visits, and encouraged their fans to do the same. As gestures go, it was more meaningful than any physical item, as much as Krzyzewski appreciated those.

Contributing to the Emily K Center, named after the coach's late mother – that was truly personal.

"We've been in existence for 16 years," Krzyzewski said. "Really have touched thousands of youngsters. Hundreds have gone through our program and have gone to college, and a number of them have come back into the community and made the community better."

LEGACIES, TANGIBLE AND EPHEMERAL

Basketball stars Pau Gasol and Shane Battier are both distinguished fellows at the Coach K Center for Leadership and Ethics at Duke's Fuqua School of Business, which tries to teach first-year MBA students the same principles of leadership Krzyzewski learned at West Point, sharing that title with a retired general and admiral.

It's one example of Krzyzewski's attempts to leave an enduring mark outside of the world of basketball, and the COLE program codifies his belief that leadership is a teachable skill, not a gift. His reinvention of USA Basketball will linger as well, ending a pattern of Olympic embarrassment by getting NBA stars onto the same page.

There are also openly intentional attempts to reach out into the future: Duke's basketball fundraising arm is called the Legacy Fund, overseen by one of his three daughters. The transition to Jon Scheyer was orchestrated to ensure continuity in the program.

These are all, unavoidably, ephemeral legacies. Both Duke and Duke basketball existed before Krzyzewski and will exist after him, still a nationally prestigious academic institution, albeit one perhaps slightly better known for its basketball team than it was 40 years ago.

No matter what high moral principles one may ascribe to sports, whatever personal growth individuals may derive from it, in its highest forms it's still an entertainment industry at the core – and a venal and corrupt one at that, especially at the international and collegiate levels where Krzyzewski made his mark.

But at the corner of Main and Buchanan, just west of downtown Durham, on a plot of land owned by the neighboring Immaculate Conception church where Krzyzewski ritually attends 7 a.m. mass when able, the Emily K Center is a concrete and physical contribution to the community where he made his home, one that can outlast anything Krzyzewski has achieved in the game of basketball.

"I don't think basketball is his gift or his legacy," said his daughter Jamie Spatola, the Emily K Center's vice chairman. "Basketball was the vehicle."

The Emily K Center isn't exactly what Krzyzewski imagined when his parish priest first presented the idea to him. It evolved into something far more representative of what he once was, and evocative of what he became.

"You know how emotional Mike gets when he talks about his family and his upbringing in Chicago," said retired Gen. Martin Dempsey, a close Krzyzewski friend. "It is interesting how he's built, I'm not sure he would call it his legacy, but how he's built this foundation of what's important to him in his life. And it's reflective of what's important to him in his life."

A PRIEST AND A BASKETBALL COACH

The distance between St. Francis of Assisi, nestled among the leafy cul de sacs of north Raleigh, and Immaculate Conception is merely a few dozen miles, but a pastoral gap of light years. Fr. David McBriar, a Franciscan friar, made that jump in 1996, landing among the hard edges of Durham's West End. Krzyzewski was his most famous parishioner, sitting in the back pews and leaving after communion to avoid gathering a crowd.

McBriar believed then, and believes now, that his calling was to serve the needs of his community as much as the spiritual needs of his parish, or perhaps merely that the two were inextricably linked. Even now, in semi-retirement in Manhattan at age 87, he oversees a soup kitchen that serves breakfast to 200 people a day. Upon his arrival in the West End, he could sense many unmet needs, especially in the Burch Avenue area that sits in the shadow of the Durham Freeway, that Immaculate Conception could help fill.

One of those needs in particular needed the help of someone powerful and connected, with access to people of wealth. Someone like Krzyzewski, who at the time was trying to delegate and consolidate his commitments outside basketball in the wake of the disastrous 1995 season he now admits was a collapse of both his physical and mental health. The timing, actually, was not great. Any other idea, from anyone else, might not have landed as softly.

McBriar secured an appointment to visit the coach in his office and made his pitch: The students in that part of Durham lacked anywhere to go after school, a place where they could safely hang out, away from the streets. Immaculate Conception would throw open the doors to its own small gym, but McBriar imagined a larger one, perhaps a manufactured building on vacant land next to the church.

Krzyzewski listened. If he was going to help with that, his ambitions ran higher, rooted deeply in his own past. There had been a community center where he grew up on the West Side of Chicago. He and his pals – "The Columbus," after the nearby Christopher Columbus elementary school – would gather there after school, not just Polish kids like himself, but second-generation children of many nationalities.

This was something he knew and believed in. He had a vision, and if the ties to his own past weren't clear enough, naming it after his mother left no doubt. Krzyzewski put together a board of trustees and started raising money for a much grander facility, with a gym and classrooms and an entire infrastructure of programs that went beyond merely being a safe space.

"The design of it was something I never expected would take place," McBriar said. "He was not settling for second best."

In 2006, a decade after McBriar first had the idea, the Emily K Center threw open its doors to Durham. The early years were tenuous, both financially as a fledgling nonprofit, and spiritually as a community asset finding its niche. Like any new endeavor, it took the Emily K Center time to find its greatest value. That it turned out to be primarily educational was fitting, but not inevitable.

'IT'S THE BEGINNING FOR SOME OF THAT'

Emily Krzyzewski cleaned office buildings at night. William Krzyzewski was an elevator operator who later ran a bar. Their older son, a Chicago firefighter, never went to college. Only Michael, their younger, went to West Point, opening a world of opportunities not only for Mike Krzyzewski but for his children, and their children.

Increasing access to higher education for Durham high-school students was part of the original program at the Emily K Center, but it soon emerged that there was no greater need to fill, and the greatest allocation of resources pivoted that direction. As the mission evolved, it circled closer and closer to issues that touched on Krzyzewski's past, touched at his core.

"Once that seed was planted, then it was an easy connection for my dad, a first-generation college student," Spatola said. "He didn't say, 'I have a passion for college access, let's build a program.' It's a nice story but it's not the story."

The first educational program at the Emily K Center served 38 students. Now, between the students who come to the center and those who interact with it within their schools, there are about 2,000 who benefit in some way from the center's programs, whether they're going to college or not.

About 1,700 of those are enrolled in Game Plan: College, which is a mentoring and assistance program that works in the schools themselves, outside of the center, an attempt to cast a wider net. Many of the students speak English as a second language; all of the signage at the center is in English and Spanish.

"What the center is, as much as it is programs and tactics and commitments to students and families, what it's ultimately about is economic opportunity for students and opportunity for young people and social mobility for young people," said Adam Eigenrauch, who started as the center's director of academic programs and has been its executive director for the past 12 years.

The embrace of that vision over the next decade meant that what the center became wasn't necessarily what the schools themselves, outside of the center, an attempt to cast a wider net. Many of the students speak English as a second language; all of the signage at the center is in English and Spanish.

Last November, the center opened the doors on 7,500 additional square feet of classroom and meeting space that wrapped around the original building like a hug. The old part feels like a neighborhood school, with cinder-block walls and low ceilings. The addition feels like an art museum, spun out of glass and exposed concrete and light.

THE FOUNDER AND THE FUTURE

Duke won the national title in 2001 in Minneapolis, Krzyzewski's third. As most champions do, the school purchased the floor on which the game was played. That is now the gym floor at the Emily K Center. A few new lines have been painted for more courts and more sports, like any school gym, but the giant Final Four logo at the center leaves little doubt of its origins.

And just as every day, the students move from the gym to their classrooms as a studious quiet settles over the hallways, the center itself spiraled out of basketball and into education. At this point, to a degree, the center has become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Students graduate, attend college and return as counselors. The cycle continues. Set in motion, funded and grounded for the long term, it will endure. It will outlast.

In his retirement from coaching, Spatola expects Krzyzewski to take an even more active role, leveraging all the networking he'll be doing in his free time into more resources, more money for the Emily K Center.

"Most boards I've served on, people do their homework," Spatola said. "You hear stories about people who don't. My dad is not one of those people. He's up on the finances. He's a very involved board chair. You talk about this being the end of certain things, but when it comes to the Emily K Center, his legacy beyond basketball, it's the beginning for some of that. There are new opportunities that open up as a result of not being the head coach of Duke men's basketball every day."

What, of Krzyzewski, will resonate with the next generation? The 1,000-plus wins? The five national titles? The most polarizing college basketball program in the country, for better or worse?

Or this building and these programs, next to his church, close to his heart?

"It's not what people are going to say first," said ESPN's Jay Bilas, a former Duke player and former Emily K board member. "Maybe we should."

Krzyzewski attends the graduation festival every May, giving the keynote speech. His likeness is painted on the walls alongside the students the center helps. His last name is on the building. His personal history propels it forward. His true legacy lies within.

Ahead of NCAA tournament, Blue Devils work 'to get back to playing Duke defense'

By Steve Wiseman, Raleigh News & Observer (March 15, 2022)

DURHAM -- Duke's most important games have arrived, the ones that will define how coach Mike Krzyzewski's final season is looked upon from this point forward.

So when the Blue Devils start NCAA tournament play Friday night against Cal State Fullerton in Greenville, South Carolina, they desperately need someone, anyone, to step up and be a defensive stopper on the perimeter.

For all the success No. 9-ranked Duke experienced this season, placing first outright in the ACC regular season since 2006, picking up wins over Gonzaga and Kentucky back in November, none of that matters if the Blue Devils don't fix their ailing defense and advance through the NCAA tournament.

Krzyzewski himself made that clear on Sunday, after his team was seeded No. 2 in the West Region behind the tournament's top overall seed, Gonzaga.

"I think our group overall had a terrific year," Krzyzewski said. "The thing that waned at the end was a lack of practice time. I thought our guys got worn out and we compensated by trying not to wear them out as a result. I thought our defense really took a dip. Before this next game, we have to get back to playing Duke defense. We'll have a better chance of winning if we can do that."

The numbers are stark as Duke went 2-2 over its last four games, losing 94-81 in the regular-season finale before reaching the ACC title game where it lost 82-67 to Virginia Tech.

Per Ken Pomeroy's defensive efficiency statistics, Duke's worst games were the UNC and Virginia Tech losses, where the Blue Devils allowed the Tar Heels to score 1.25 points per possession while the Hokies scored 1.24.

It's a continuation of a late-season slump where the Blue Devils lost their edge, their grit and their effectiveness on defense.

In nine of their last 12 games, they've allowed teams to score 1.03 points per possession or better. Duke's season average is .957 points per possession, which has fallen to No. 44 nationally.

Just nine games ago, on Feb. 14, Duke sat at No. 18 nationally allowing .909 points per possession. But they've allowed teams to score more than a point per possession in eight of nine games since then.

Duke has the players to be good on defense, as evidenced by their play earlier in the season. After Duke won 57-43 at Notre Dame on Jan. 31, Irish coach Mike Brey marveled at how Duke 'swarmed' in limiting his team to 27.9% shooting.

"We've had Kentucky come through here, we've had Carolina come through here with bodies," Brey said that night. "Ain't nobody got bodies like these guys. And so how do we combat that? We make 3s. We couldn't do it and I think I got to give them a lot of credit. They were just on us."

Krzyzewski's plan is to use practice time this week to shore up his team's recent shortcomings. Duke didn't have that luxury at the ACC tournament, playing three games in three days.

But the Blue Devils did have time between that UNC loss, where the Tar Heels shot 59.4% in the second half to ruin Krzyzewski's final home game at Cameron Indoor Stadium, and the ACC tournament.

Even that loss to a bitter rival, in front of nearly 100 former players and managers, didn't spur the team to improve its defense for its ACC tournament title chase that fell a win short.

Leaving Virginia Tech guard Hunter Cattoor open for far too many shots on the perimeter, where he made 7 of 10 3-pointers to score 31 points, doomed Duke in its ACC title game loss.

The Blue Devils have a solid rim protector in sophomore center Mark Williams, the ACC defensive player of the year who led the league in blocked shots at 2.8 per game.

The problems are occurring on the perimeter, which includes situations where Duke's strategy of switching defenders all over the court to mitigate screens leaves Williams 20 feet from the basket guarding a strong ball-handler.

That's not the biggest problem, though. The issues Krzyzewski and his staff are working to correct include guards like Trevor Keels, Jeremy Roach or Wendell Moore, Jr., not closing out on shooters to make them uncomfortable. It's those same players getting caught up in screens despite the switches.

"I think our communication has been a little off," Moore said. "I definitely feel like the effort is there from all of our guys. I feel like we're a little late on talks, a little late on the switches. So again that's all little things we can clean up, so we have a couple days to prep for it."

Working on it and producing it have proven problematic lately.

Duke's opponents have made 41.3% of their shots this season, which has the Blue Devils No. 90 nationally in field goal percentage defense. They built that ranking with strong defense early in the season, like when Kentucky hit only 37.7% of their shots when Duke won 79-71 on Nov. 6 at Madison Square Garden in New York.

In nine of Duke's 20 ACC regular season games, its foes shot 41.3% or worse. But that's only happened once in the Blue Devils' last nine games, including the ACC tournament, as they enter the NCAA tournament.

Can Duke regain that edge, particularly as it faces veteran teams in tournament play? Krzyzewski and his staff are stressing this in practices this week. But only the players can answer that question.

It starts against Big West Conference champion Cal State Fullerton, whose starting lineup is packed with juniors and seniors. Though the Titans have only hit 44.7% of their shots this season, they shot 52.1% while beating Long Beach State, 72-71, in the Big West tournament championship game on Saturday.

Moore, a Duke team captain along with senior reserve Joey Baker, still believes his teammates have the hunger they need to play at their best.

"Extremely hungry, extremely motivated," Moore said. "We definitely feel like we have something to prove every time we step out on that court, so now we get a chance to prove it for one last time."

Once 'like a gated community,' Coach K has improved access to Duke basketball

By C.L. Brown, Raleigh News & Observer (March 4, 2022)

Dean Smith had Durham on lock.

North Carolina's legendary head coach was beloved in the Black community in Durham, and it wasn't just because the Tar Heels won a lot of games. Smith's recruitment of Charles Scott as the first Black scholarship men's basketball player at UNC and Smith's efforts to integrate the town of Chapel Hill put him in high regard.

With a parade of star players who were Black marching through the program, it was, frankly, a lot easier for Black people in Durham to identify with, and root for, Carolina. Duke was still viewed as a "white" program. Danny Ferry and Christian Laettner were viewed as the prototype players for the Blue Devils more than players like Johnny Dawkins.

Even Black players like Grant Hill, as evidenced by "The Fab Five" 30 for 30 documentary on ESPN, were viewed with a skeptical eye because of his privileged background.

"When I got to Duke, the stigma was still there – you know, the white guys that could play like Christian Laettner, Bobby Hurley," said Ricky Price, who played small forward for Duke from 1994-98. "Then you had Grant Hill, who they questioned, 'Is he really Black?' because of his circumstances and what he came from."

Mike Brey, who was an assistant coach at Duke from 1987-95, recalled throughout the early part of coach Mike Krzyzewski's tenure at Duke, his teams, if not the university itself, received only a lukewarm reception.

Brey, who has been Notre Dame's head coach for 22 seasons, intimated that the public, state school down Highway 15-501 seemed way more attainable than the private school in their own backyard.

"My time there, the Black community of Durham – and I was there eight years – was all Carolina," Brey said. "And maybe I think at that time, Duke was a little bit, we have fought it here, a little bit in our town. That Notre Dame or Duke, they're like a gated community that maybe that part of Durham or South Bend (Indiana) aren't able to have as much access."

That Krzyzewski changed that dynamic is one victory that shows his legacy stretches well beyond the national championships, Olympic gold medals and NBA first-round draft picks.

Krzyzewski will leave Duke after 42 years when the season comes to an end. And with it, he'll leave the Duke brand in a much better place than when he started.

"I don't think there's one thing, I think we've embraced Durham," Krzyzewski said. "Whether it be – whatever race, whatever gender, whatever part of Durham, we've embraced Durham. So has Duke."

LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT

The school's connection with the Black community in Durham started to resonate from some of Krzyzewski's small gestures.

When Krzyzewski reached his first Final Four in 1986, Duke commissioned Durham native Ernie Barnes to commemorate the feat. Barnes was best known for painting "The Sugar Shack," which Marvin Gaye used as the album cover for his 1976 release, "I Want You." The popularity of his work grew when it was featured as the background when credits rolled on the '70s television show "Good Times."

Barnes created "Duke fastbreak," which was a limited edition print of 300 copies. The painting depicts Duke playing a nameless team wearing Carolina blue uniforms in Cameron Indoor Stadium. Former Blue Devils guard Johnny Dawkins, who is the head coach at Central Florida, currently owns the original painting.

Former N.C. state senator Floyd McKissick Jr., who was also once the chairman of the state's Legislative Black Caucus, said Krzyzewski earned respect from the community in a different manner than Smith.

"Everybody was aware of his (Smith) outreach efforts, particularly in terms of trying to groom African-American players, being involved socially in the Chapel Hill community, and being out there supporting efforts involving civil rights," said McKissick, who was in law school at Duke when Krzyzewski first arrived. "I commend Dean Smith for all that he did. The era at the time was a bit different when Coach K was coming along. I think Coach K helped in ways that he could."

HBCU CONNECTION

Krzyzewski regularly scheduled Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The Blue Devils played South Carolina State for a six-year stretch from 1993-94 through the 1998-99 seasons. They also played N.C. A&T for a six-year term from the 1997-98 to 2002-03 seasons and twice played in Greensboro.

That morphed into Duke playing a team from the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) as an exhibition game for the better part of this century. N.C. Central, when it was still competing in the Division II conference, Winston-Salem State, Shaw and St. Augustine are among the HBCU's Krzyzewski has welcomed into Cameron Indoor Stadium.

Duke and Central have been linked in basketball since The Secret Game in 1944 when students from Duke's all-white medical school team played the Eagles while collectively thumbing their noses at Jim Crow laws.

Krzyzewski and N.C. Central coach LeVelle Moton built quite the friendship to where he spoke for free at the Eagles tipoff banquet back in 2017.

Moton said his biggest regret as Central's head coach was losing to North Dakota State in the 2019 NCAA Tournament's First Four. Had the Eagles won, they would have faced Duke in the first round in Columbia, S.C.

"If we were able to play Duke, it would have set the city on fire," Moton said. "And even after that game, he texted me, 'Hell of a job, I'm so proud of how you represented your school and your city.'"

CLASS OF 1997

Price pointed to the 1997 recruiting class that included Elton Brand and William Avery as when things started to change. Up until that point, Duke differed from most elite programs because its best players stayed four years. Brand and Avery left after their sophomore seasons, and Corey Maggette left after just one to enter the 1999 NBA Draft.

"The narrative started to change and then Duke became cool," Price said. "It wasn't cool to go to Duke, it was always cooler to go to Carolina up until that point. But late '90s, early 2000s. It was cool to go to Duke. Then after we got Kyrie (Irving) and then we entered into the one-and-done era, it officially took over where Duke is the place to go."

Len Lilly agreed with when the change started. Lilly, the owner of 40 Below barbershop, has been cutting hair in the Lakewood Shopping Center located about two miles from Cameron Indoor Stadium since 1993. He said the majority of his clientele used to be Carolina fans, but now it's more of an even split.

"(Duke) started to get a different kind of player," Lilly said. "They became more athletic and they were getting the kids that had that real struggle."

Lilly added that it helped seeing Krzyzewski hire former players Dawkins and David Henderson, who are both Black, to his staff.

That made the program feel more accessible, which was a far cry from when McKissick grew up going to games. McKissick won Duke season tickets for selling the most magazine subscriptions at Carr Junior High School as a kid.

"There were very few blacks there," McKissick said. "Hardly anybody."

EMILY K CENTER CHANGED THE GAME

All those basketball-related reasons were certainly enough to sway a generation of Black Durham whose parents probably preferred Smith and Carolina over Duke. But when Krzyzewski established the Emily Krzyzewski Center, which is named after his mother, he reached a different stratosphere of respect.

The Emily K Center is a nonprofit founded in 2006 that "implements four distinct programs designed to build on the academic, career, and leadership potential of students who are traditionally underrepresented in higher education," according to its website. They serve more than 2,000 students annually.

"For me, the single biggest thing that's been done for not just the Black community, but for low income is the Emily Krzyzewski Center," Mike Krzyzewski said. "I mean, we've been in existence for 16 years and really have touched thousands of youngsters. Hundreds have gone through our program and have gone to college. And a number of them have come back into the community and made the community better."

Bill Bell served as mayor of Durham from 2001-17 and prior to that was on the Durham County Board of Commissioners for 26 years starting in 1972. Bell, who is Black, said the center will continue to win hearts long after Krzyzewski leaves the sideline.

"If you go there, and you see the kids that attended the schools and know the type of environment they've been exposed to that will last a long time when he's gone," Bell said. "If we talk about where his legacy will be in terms of the community outside of sports, and what he's done in a civic way, it's got to be the Emily K Center."

Dean Smith got the best of Coach K, then he got the best from him

By Andrew Carter, Raleigh News & Observer (March 4, 2022)

DURHAM - There are moments, still, when Mike Krzyzewski walks into his top-floor office that overlooks part of Duke's campus and wonders, as he put it one day last summer, "How the hell did this happen?"

"No, really," he said.

He was surrounded by reminders of his life's work, in a building that didn't exist when he arrived in Durham 42 years ago. Now there was a Duke basketball museum on the first floor and here, five stories up, a museum of a different kind, one Krzyzewski personally curated.

Five large photographs of his teams celebrating five national championships hung high behind his desk. Old game balls and magazine covers lined the walls, along with honors from West Point and snapshots of his wife and daughters and grandchildren.

All around were odes to his most cherished people and moments, the things he loved, and for almost two hours he'd been reflecting upon some of them while attempting to keep a distance. The season was then months away and Krzyzewski insisted that once it began he'd stay in the present. There'd be no talk of the last of this or the last of that, he said. Even then, in mid-August, without a game to worry about or a practice to plan, he said he'd rather not look back.

Then he felt the pull of history.

"One more thing from me," Krzyzewski said, just as a long conversation wound down, and it was as if he had a secret to share. Perhaps he just wanted people to know that things could change, that he could change – that an old rival or nemesis could become something much more meaningful. His tone changed, too, as if he was even surprised at what he was about to say.

"Being in this area, with North Carolina State, but especially North Carolina, and our rivalry, relationship or whatever ... The friendship I eventually developed with Dean was kind of nuts."

It was an unprompted addendum to a long interview, and soon Krzyzewski was on his feet, walking to the other side of his office. He didn't fight the past now, memories of when he was much younger and attempting to build something in the shadow of what Dean Smith had built at North Carolina. Theirs was not an especially warm relationship in the beginning. Smith's UNC teams beat Duke again and again during Krzyzewski's early years. Sometimes Krzyzewski bristled.

"I needed to go through all that," he said, and he made his way to a wall where he'd hung photos of himself with some of his closest friends – one with Jim Boeheim; another of Krzyzewski and Jim Valvano, both young, in the prime of their lives. That was a long time ago now. And then above, in the middle – "let me show you," Krzyzewski said, "this is a cool picture" – was one of Smith and Krzyzewski in Smith's later years.

They were sitting beside each other, suit jackets and ties, at a function at the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame. They appeared to be sharing a laugh, or maybe only a smile. The scars of their old battles had faded away; one of the fiercest coaching rivalries in ACC history had become something more tender, something Krzyzewski still had difficulty articulating, years later.

In the photo, Smith and Krzyzewski looked like old friends. They'd become that, Krzyzewski said.

"And to me, that's like one of the hidden things in the history of our league," Krzyzewski said of his relationship with Smith, one that evolved into something meaningful, for both men, before Smith died in 2015. "Is how the hell could that happen?"

Krzyzewski will coach his final home game on Saturday. For 42 years he has made the short walk from the Duke locker room to the home bench on the opposite side of Cameron Indoor Stadium. It has become one of the most reliable constants in American sport, Krzyzewski's presence, and no one born after March 17, 1980, has known a world without Krzyzewski as the head coach at Duke.

The game Saturday will not only be the last one he coaches at Cameron Indoor Stadium, but also the last one he coaches in North Carolina, which hosts neither the ACC tournament nor an NCAA tournament site.

And it might be the last one he coaches against North Carolina, the school, the one Krzyzewski has most often been measured against over the past four decades.

The UNC-Duke basketball rivalry has long needed no explanation. It simply exists, a product of the schools' shared history and tradition and often successful pursuit of the same things; a product of their proximity and the whole "separated by eight miles of pine trees and two shades of blue" dynamic that ESPN dramatized in the old promos leading into the broadcasts.

The rivalry has been what it is for so long that it's difficult to consider a time when it wasn't that way, though that time existed, too. When Krzyzewski arrived in Durham in 1980, Duke hadn't defeated UNC in Chapel Hill since 1966. The Blue Devils had experienced national success – they'd been to three consecutive NCAA tournaments, including a regional final – during the previous three seasons under Bill Foster, but not sustained national success.

The ACC was much smaller then, more regionally confined and perhaps more contentious, every coach fighting for the limited opportunity to break through the grind of the regular season and reach the NCAA tournament. Terry Holland had built something lasting at Virginia. So had Lefty Driesell at Maryland. Dean Smith was already a beloved figure in this state, even if he had yet to lead UNC to a national championship.

Smith was 49, and a refined and accomplished presence when Krzyzewski entered the league. Krzyzewski then was 33, and he looked a little nervous at his introductory press conference, smiling sheepishly and spelling his name for the reporters who didn't yet have a chance to know how to pronounce it. They coached against each other for the first time on Dec. 5, 1980, in the last year of the old Big Four Tournament in Greensboro.

"I'm worried about Duke," Smith told reporters before the game. "They've got a great young coach."

Perhaps he was just being kind. Perhaps he really saw greatness in Krzyzewski, who arrived from Army relatively unknown. Either way, Smith led UNC to a close two-point victory in the Greensboro Coliseum, and Krzyzewski was 0-1 against Smith.

The teams met again about a month and a half later in Chapel Hill. Unlike their first game that season, this one counted in the conference standings.

These days, ESPN builds its college basketball television inventory around the two annual UNC-Duke games. They're always among the most watched of the season. But back then, in early 1981, Krzyzewski's first ACC regular-season game against UNC was not televised live. Locally, it aired on tape delay on WTVD at 10 p.m. The Tar Heels won by 15, and the headline in The News & Observer the next morning said: "Heels crush Blue Devils."

Krzyzewski was 0-2 against Smith, but not for long. He guided the Blue Devils to a 66-65 overtime victory against UNC about a month later, in Krzyzewski's first game against UNC in Cameron Indoor Stadium. Down two at the end of regulation, with two seconds remaining, Krzyzewski drew up a play to get the ball to mid-court and then, after another timeout with one second left, he set up the play that sent it into overtime.

"Hectic, feverish, spine-tingling, nail-biting," went The N&O game story the next day.

It was considered then one of the great finishes in the history of the series.

Krzyzewski was 1-2 against Smith. And then: 1-3, and 1-4, and 1-5, and 1-6, and 1-7, and 1-8.

More than three years passed before Krzyzewski beat Smith and the Tar Heels again.

During that span, Smith won his first national championship in 1982. Valvano, who arrived at N.C. State the same year that Krzyzewski did at Duke, led the Wolfpack to that improbable national championship in 1983. That same March, meanwhile, some wondered whether Krzyzewski might be fired after an 11-17 finish.

Even amid the losing, Krzyzewski developed little taste for deferring to anybody, least of all Smith. Roy Williams, then a young assistant coach under Smith, sensed that from the beginning.

"Mike came in, and the first couple years were tough," he said recently. "And Mike needed to stand up to anybody and everybody. ... He had to make sure that people didn't think he was going to give in to anybody. And so he was very competitive. And Coach Smith was very competitive."

"And, you know, some of the things that people thought about or people saw or people heard, made it feel like it was a very adversarial relationship."

It was intense from the start. More than 40 years later, Williams can still see the final seconds of UNC's victory against Duke in the 1980 Big Four Tournament, in Krzyzewski's first game against the Tar Heels. Smith began walking toward Krzyzewski to shake his hand, Williams said, "but there were still a couple of seconds left."

Krzyzewski, as Williams remembers it, offered a terse response:

"The game's not over yet."

"And that irritated some people, too," Williams said. "But again, it's in competition. So it was something that made me realize that guy really is a competitive guy. And that was OK."

Williams became UNC's head coach in 2003 and spent 18 seasons going head-to-head against Krzyzewski, himself, until Williams retired last April. Their relationship was different because they were more peers, men of roughly the same ages and ones who established themselves throughout the 1980s and 90s.

Once in the early 1980s, Williams said, he took the junior varsity team he coached at UNC to Durham to play against Duke's JV team. Krzyzewski, fighting to build something in those years, had just wrapped up the varsity practice. Williams walked onto the court at Cameron Indoor Stadium and met Krzyzewski and the two shared a conversation in the quiet of an empty arena.

"They only had a (JV) team for a couple of years, but Mike and I are sitting there talking for 20 or 30 minutes while my guys are getting dressed," Williams said. "So we had some opportunities to do those kinds of things that Coach Smith and Mike did not have."

In those years, Smith and Krzyzewski knew each other only as obstacles to what the other wanted. Smith had established himself as one of the nation's great coaches, and his program could not be the best in the country if it was not the best in his own backyard. Krzyzewski, meanwhile, looked at everything Smith had created and spent years trying to build his own version of it.

"I never, like, wanted to copy him," Krzyzewski said, recalling what Vic Bubas told him when he arrived at Duke: "Don't look eight miles away. Respect eight miles away. You develop what you're going to do."

Dean Smith got the best of Coach K, then he got the best from him (cont.)

By Andrew Carter, Raleigh News & Observer (March 4, 2022)

"And that was great advice," Krzyzewski said, though as a lot of good advice it was difficult to implement. How could Krzyzewski not look eight miles southwest, after all? In his early years, his frustration simmered, then erupted after a 78-73 defeat against UNC in Durham on Jan. 21, 1984.

The week before, the Duke student section received national criticism for its heckling of Herman Veal, a Maryland player who'd been accused of sexual assault. Then, during the UNC game, Krzyzewski became angered when Smith approached the scorer's table, twice, "to dispute developments," as a writer for the Durham Herald-Sun described it the next day.

"Both times he lingered and argued," the story went in the paper.

After a close loss, Krzyzewski chided reporters and called out Smith, which to many in North Carolina was something like sacrilege.

"When you come in here and start writing about Duke having no class, you better start getting your heads straight," Krzyzewski said then. "Because our students had class and our team had class."

He continued, taking a direct shot at Smith:

"There was not a person on our bench who was pointing at officials or banging on the scorers' table or having everybody running around on their bench. So let's get some things straight around here and quit the double standard that sometimes exists in this league. All right?"

Almost 40 years later, Krzyzewski recently considered those comments.

"Competitive bullshit," he said, but not without adding that "I needed to go through that," and "if you were me, you would feel the same way," and "there probably was" a double standard, and how now "they probably feel the same way with me" though Smith "probably had a better one than me," Krzyzewski said with a laugh.

"But no," he said. "It wasn't calculated. Spur of the moment. ... Then I got it. I got it.

"And that was really good. I'm so happy that I got it. Actually, we became friends."

The last time Krzyzewski and Smith coached against one another was exactly 25 years ago Wednesday. It was March 2, 1997. A match-up of top-10 teams in Chapel Hill. Ed Cota dribbled out the clock during the final seconds of the Tar Heels' 91-85 victory. Brent Musburger and Dick Vitale wrapped up their nationally televised broadcast on ABC.

Smith and Krzyzewski shook hands near midcourt. It was a brief exchange. Before it ended, their right hands still touching, Smith leaned in closer and placed his left hand on Krzyzewski's back, almost a half hug. Smith shared a quick word, moving in to speak into Krzyzewski's ear, and then the two men went their separate ways.

It was the last time, as head coaches, that their paths crossed on a basketball court. Nobody could have known then that it was Smith's final game inside the building named after him; that he'd lead the Tar Heels to one more Final Four before retiring about seven months later. And nobody could have known that Krzyzewski, then 50, had 25 more years of coaching in him.

Smith retired having won more games than anyone in the history of the sport. Krzyzewski will do the same whenever Duke's season ends. He has won five national championships. He has won 15 ACC tournament championships. He has won 1,196 games, more than enough for some of those victories to run together.

The losses are much fewer, and so they stand out more. And Krzyzewski lost against no coach more often than he lost against Dean Smith. Krzyzewski will retire with a winning record against UNC – he's 50-46, entering Saturday – but he was 14-24 against Smith, who often seemed so far ahead and out of reach during Krzyzewski's early years.

"When we went to Final Fours, and won, I knew him," Krzyzewski said. "I didn't know him until I did that. And he knew then that I knew him. And then I could appreciate his genius, just how damn good he was. And he recognized that, eventually, in me.

"And I love Dean Smith. And I respect the hell out of him."

In a way, Krzyzewski has become what Smith was, but "I don't want to say it that way," he said, "because nobody can be who he was." He understands the differences. Smith's legacy is clear beyond basketball, most notably as a Civil Rights advocate in the South when it was uncomfortable for a white man of prominence to take the stands that he did. They're different in personality and demeanor, and yet these dissimilar men, once fierce adversaries, eventually formed a bond.

"That's why his picture's up there," Krzyzewski said, and he shared a story he'd rarely shared before. It was the story the last time he spent time with Smith, when Smith was suffering from a dementia-like condition that robbed him of his mind and his memories.

"He only got so much," Krzyzewski said. "God bless him – you know, sad.

"But Linnea let us come over, and visit with him."

This was at the beach, on Figure Eight Island. Krzyzewski had rented a house there for his family, and by chance it so happened to be close to a house where the Smiths were staying.

"Serendipity," Linnea Smith, Dean's widow, said during a recent phone interview. She values her privacy and rarely speaks publicly, but she agreed to talk about this, about one final long meeting between two of the greatest coaches in American sports history, who did some of their most memorable work against one another.

Linnea could not remember the year, only that it was toward "the very end" of her husband's illness. Occasionally, she said, the family would take him to the beach. It was difficult, she said, because he was confined to a wheelchair and he had trouble eating and "he couldn't articulate much at all."

"You wondered how much he was processing of what was happening around him," she said. "But he would be in the wheelchair, and we'd take him out on the deck. And I think the beach and the surf was calming."

One day, after a chance encounter between the families, Krzyzewski asked Linnea if he and Mickie, his wife, could come over and spend time with Dean. At first, Linnea wasn't sure, she said, "Because I wasn't sure how helpful that would be." After some thought, Linnea, who'd long been friendly with Mickie and some of the other old coaches' wives, Pam Valvano included, agreed and invited the Krzyzewskis over.

She tried to prepare them for Dean's condition. Mike Krzyzewski wanted to visit him for a couple of reasons, but most of all to tell Dean Smith what Krzyzewski had known all along, even when they did not like each other very much. He wanted to tell him that, "I knew that there wouldn't be anybody ever like him."

"And I wanted to let him know that I knew."

Krzyzewski paused briefly, recounting the moment.

"I can't even put it into words, really," he said. "It's a hell of a thing."

And so the two men met out on the deck, overlooking a beach with the sound of the waves crashing in the distance. Krzyzewski could not be sure that Dean could understand him and Linnea did not know, either. Yet "even in the end stages," she said, she knew that "he could feel the caring."

"Up until the end he could sense that," she said. "And that gave him, I think, comfort, or some peace. So he sensed it. He sensed the caring, and that came across."

Linnea knew what that final meeting between two old rivals meant to her husband, even if he couldn't articulate it. Earlier this week she wondered what it might have meant to Krzyzewski, and she figured she had a good idea from the time he visited her husband that day at the beach, and her experience being by Dean's side through two national championships, hundreds of victories, retirement and then his long goodbye.

"Mike talks about the rivalry and the intensity and the fierceness of the rivalry," she said, "but I think seeing (Dean) so vulnerable would force you to (realize) – no matter how many games you win or what power you perceive you have or how successful you are, that life is finite. That life is fragile.

"Oftentimes we're in denial that you don't have as much time as you thought you did."

It wasn't too long ago, really, that Krzyzewski and Dean Smith were coaching against each other for the final time, or even the first. It wasn't so long ago that Krzyzewski was a young man, trying to prove himself against the old guard; trying, in his own way, to emulate Smith. Now that was all in the past. Krzyzewski, like Smith before him, had come to set a standard.

When Duke's season ends, it'll be the first time since 1960 without Smith or Krzyzewski as a head coach at two schools eight miles apart. For more than 60 years, one or the other remained constants. Back in his office last summer, Krzyzewski again wondered how all of this happened.

His career. The building he was standing in. The peace and friendship he found with Smith toward the end of his life. There was a significance that Krzyzewski's final home game would come against North Carolina, beyond the routine familiarity that every other regular season ends that way, with a home game against the Tar Heels.

"There's a level of security there," he said, "because you're in this penthouse of excellence. But you don't get all of it. You've got to fight like hell for some of it. And then you respect how the others have fought like hell for it."

It took him years of defeats to learn that. It took his earliest Final Fours to earn that kind of respect. Now after all these decades, all these games against UNC that taught him "to fight like hell," he'd reached an endpoint of his own.

The untold stories of Coach K: Wine trips, film sessions and uncommon empathy

By Brendan Marks, The Athletic (March 3, 2022)

Mike Krzyzewski: Winner of nearly 1,200 college basketball games, five national titles, and just as many Olympic gold medals. Arguably, the greatest basketball coach at any level of the sport.

Also Mike Krzyzewski: Wine-drinking fanatic, and lover of all things Napa Valley; meticulous planner who frequently pulls all-nighters; and doting friend, father, and son.

You know the first man.

But the second? Maybe not so much.

Time to change that. On the eve of Krzyzewski's last home game as Duke's head coach, The Athletic spoke to more than a dozen people – former players, assistant coaches, and longtime friends – to get a clearer picture of the man behind the Blue Devils dynasty.

Or rather, both men: Coach K, as the public knows him ... and Mike, as only his inner circle does.

Napa Valley Coach K

Mike Cragg, former Duke basketball senior administrator: When you said stories nobody knows, I immediately went to, "Well, what are some stories with wine?" Because I don't know if the characterization of how much he loves wine is out there.

Rob Lawson, winemaker and K Academy participant: He's definitely a wine lover.

Cragg: When we're in Napa (for the Jimmy V Foundation Wine Celebration every August), we have a day called "Guy's Day," where the spouses stay and spa or whatever, and the guys go out and do different wineries in more rapid succession.

Lawson: We hit six spots, seven spots.

Cragg: You just fill in the blank of how much you think we drank.

Ashok Varadhan, former Duke basketball manager: If you had told me, back when I was getting yelled at for screwing up the shot clock, that 25 years later, we'd be drinking wine together in Napa Valley? There's no odds I would have given you. (laughs) I would've given you a million-to-one odds.

Lawson: Coach certainly likes the, let's call it "the mainstays." The traditional sort of Napa brands: Silver Oak, Caymus, Opus One. Sort of the old school. But what I've been able to do is take him out of the old school and put him in front of smaller, artisanal programs.

Cragg: He's a red Cab guy.

Lawson: Oh, that's for sure ... One he liked is a brand called Buccella; that would be in his newer sphere.

Cragg: Obviously, we're not driving. There's a bus, and we're all – as you should be – stupid, funny, whatever you want to say.

Lawson: There's some singing on the bus.

Cragg: Smokey Robinson, Motown. He's just like anybody: When you drink a lot of wine, you have a lot of fun.

Lawson: This past year at the V Foundation, we are watching the gold medal game at the event. So I'm sitting next to Coach K, David Robinson, and Gary Steele, (ESPN anchor) Sage Steele's dad, who was a West Point guy with Coach. So we're watching the Olympic gold medal game with them – and here I am, the wine guy, watching with them. And Coach is, "Rob, look at this! Look at this!" And he's hitting me, and saying, "Hey, look at this," and we're all getting excited.

The point of the story is, for me to have that kind of experience, watching a basketball game at a wine event – with the best basketball coach ever and David Robinson – it was great.

Chris Spatola, son-in-law, former director of Duke basketball operations, and college basketball analyst: For a Thanksgiving dinner or a gathering, he'll start with a white. A couple of the daughters prefer white, so he'll break that out. He knows I prefer red, so he'll always break out a red, but he's very accommodating with it. They built that wine cellar (in their house), and I always make fun because you go down there, there's boxes of wine he has yet to even put on the shelves.

Sometimes he'll let one of the sons-in-law go down – we call it player's choice – and let one of us pick a bottle. So I'll go down and I'll come up with three of them, and one of them is obviously this extravagant \$500 bottle. So he'll look at the three that I pick, and depending on where we are in the evening, he can be more or less generous. Like, he'll look at the three and go, "Nope. We can have that. Let's wait a little bit on that one."

Grant Hill, former All-American Duke forward: My wife and I, we went out to Napa for the first time and had a great time; this might've been 2006, 2007. We got out there, really pleasant. That's the first time my wife had really been around Coach when he wasn't in coach mode. My wife's a recording artist, he's talking music, he's funny, engaging. You know, he's Coach K. He's everything.

(A few months) after that, we went to a game in Cameron. We're sitting behind the bench, and the team is up like 20, 25. Then the opposing team makes a run, and now we're up, like, 18 with four minutes left. Coach calls timeout, and he lights into the guys – and she's never seen that. So after the game, we win, and we go in the back to his little meeting area, his office off the locker room, and my wife goes up to him and says, "You know, Coach, I think I like the Napa Valley Coach K better than that Coach K."

And he says, "I like the Napa Valley Coach K better, too."

'You are the U.S.'

Nate McMillan, former Olympic assistant coach and NC State guard: The Olympic committee decided they needed to build a team, as opposed to selecting All-Stars or the "best" players every four years for the Olympics. Coach K had experience working with the Dream Team, he'd had a lot of success on his level and working with future pros, and they felt he was the best at that time to build a team.

Sean Ford, men's national team director: You've got to remember: This is coming off of the lockout year in '98, we don't win; 2000, where we barely win; '02 where we lose; and '04 where we lose. So we were getting back to the basics.

Spatola: The relationship between players and coaches needed to be rebuilt. They had these buses with a middle door. The coaches would sit in the front of the bus, and go through the front door; the players would go through the middle door to the back of the bus, and even getting on the bus, the players and coaches would never interact.

McMillan: It was his first time coaching NBA players and NBA stars, and he didn't go in there with that attitude that, "I'm Mike, I'm Coach K." He came in with the mindset of building a family, and he's gonna build trust.

Mike Gminski, former Duke All-American forward: Every single one of 'em is an alpha. And they could have said, "Oh, this guy's a college coach, what does he know?" But to a person, every one of them bought in.

I remember when Kobe Bryant was still playing and they came to Charlotte, I had a chance to talk with him, and as soon as I mentioned Mike, his face just lit up. It was so apparent the respect that he had for Mike, and he told me, "If I had gone to college, I would've gone to Duke." The fact that he was able to (build those bonds) not only at a college level, but go with that group of players and connect with them, that's pretty amazing.

Mike D'Antoni, former Olympics assistant coach and longtime NBA coach: He wanted each player, each superstar in their own right, to bring that ego into the team. He didn't want the Kobe, LeBron, whoever they were, version from USA Basketball; he wanted the version of them playing with their respective teams. He preached that a lot: Bring your ego, don't be submissive to anybody – and he would take that and mold it all together.

Alan Schwartz, Duke University trustee and longtime friend: He went into the locker room with his first USA team and said, look guys, you're not college players so I'm not gonna tell you the rules. Freshmen come into Duke, here's the rules. But we do need a set of rules, so you guys tell me. So he pulled out a whiteboard and said, "OK, who's got a rule?" And one of them, Jason Kidd, said, "I think it should be defense first." And Mike said, "Does everybody agree?" Because he said, "Let's agree on what the rules are. So, everybody agree? OK, defense first." And then he asked somebody else.

He's looking at LeBron, I think it was, and he says, "LeBron, you're not saying anything. Don't you have a rule?" And LeBron stood up and he says, "I say, no F-ing excuses!" And he looked at everybody and said, "Everybody agree with that?" Yes. So he (flipped) the whole board over, and then in big writing put NO F-ING EXCUSES. But he just realized that with a group of professional all-stars, they have to be the ones to say, "This is how we're going to manage ourselves."

Jim Boeheim, former Olympic assistant and current Syracuse head coach: He listens to what Mike D'Antoni or I would say about who to go to, or run this play. Sometimes a player, Kobe, will say, "I can get this guy here," so he listens and puts in that play. But he's really good at taking input. You know, when you have Kobe Bryant, LeBron James on your team, you listen to those guys. At Duke, he tells them what to do. He does not ask them for suggestions. (laughs)

Jason Kidd that first year, I remember Mike having him talk in one huddle, saying, "This will work, this will work." That's Mike's strength. He'll listen. Now, he's a very forceful opinion – a force of nature – and he's gonna do what he wants, but he'll listen and he'll change. We were having trouble in Rio and I said, "We gotta go to Kyrie (Irving)," even though Kyrie hadn't done much. And boom, he goes, "Yep, let's go." And Kyrie came down, hit a 3, hit a drive, and the game was over.

Ford: He thought it would be interesting to bring in the military, and maybe some wounded warriors, who could come in and talk to the players about selfless sacrifice, that type of stuff. One of the soldiers was Scott Smiley. Scott, he took shrapnel across the eyes that took both his eyes out, so he was blinded in battle. And everyone just assumed that he wanted to be honorably discharged – and he wanted to stay in. And (one of Krzyzewski's players at Army) Colonel Robert Brown said, "I get this call that Scott Smiley wants to stay in, and we'd never had someone who was blinded in battle want to stay in – but if he wants in, he's in." And Scott Smiley was there, and he spoke to the players.

Boeheim: It was earth-shattering.

D'Antoni: I mean, if you weren't moved by that, then you're not the right guy to be in that room, and I think Coach knew that.

The untold stories of Coach K: Wine trips, film sessions and empathy (cont.)

By Brendan Marks, The Athletic (March 3, 2022)

McMillan: Sometimes when we talk about battling, or say it's gonna be a war out there, that's BS. ... He never even used those phrases because he understood the difference.

Spatola: He said, "You are not playing for the U.S.; you are the U.S. Like, we are the United States of America, right here."

Every meeting we had, what was up on the screen when guys walked in was that gold medal. That was the goal.

Schwartz: He took them out to the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and he said, "Look guys, that's where my grandfather John Krzyzewski came to this country, and then moved to Chicago." So he said, "I'm telling you, when we win the gold medal – not if, but when we win the gold medal – I'm gonna be standing there thinking about my grandfather, John Krzyzewski, coming to this country." And then he turned. "Kobe, who are you gonna be thinking about when we win the gold medal? LeBron, who are you going to be thinking about?"

Boenheim: It was amazing how they came together, but he orchestrated it. That's what he did, and that's what he does. He's the best basketball coach since – you know, I don't ever go against John Wooden, but from 1970 to 2022, he's so far above everybody else it's not even funny. It's not close.

'Where was Mike? At the bedside'

Hill: I went in his office (last week), and I look to see all these letters on his desk. And I asked him about it, and he said, "These are letters from cancer patients, fans," and he reads 'em and responds. Him being supportive, that's real.

Cragg: Whether he's walking on the bus or he's going to the airport, he always has this notebook, and it's got his calendar, his practice plan – and then it's got a stack of notes. Some are his that he's written to keep, and some are letters that he's been sent, and some are notes from his assistant, Gerry, about his messages. And whenever he has a moment – and I've been on lots and lots of planes where it's just the two of us traveling – he always will be writing on these notecards, and then stick a sticky on it and make a stack. Every morning when he comes into work, he's got a stack of stuff for Gerry, his assistant, that he worked on the night before. And that's no exaggeration; every single day of his life.

Varadhan: My brother was in the World Trade Center and passed away on 9/11. He was on the 105th floor of the World Trade Center. ... I lived in downtown New York, maybe about a mile north of the World Trade Center. It was almost like a military scene, something out of "Apocalypse Now." I make it back that night to my apartment – and literally, like, the phone rings and it's Coach K. I'd say probably we hadn't spoken in about three years.

And that sort of started, over the last 20 years, more of an adult relationship between us. I'll still do anything he tells me to. (laughs) I'm still a little nervous around him. But it kind of catalyzed how I would engage with the program as an adult. So we did things, like in my brother's name, there's a manager scholarship. So if a manager has financial needs, he'll get the Gopal Varadhan scholarship, and every year for the manager of the year, they give them the Gopal Varadhan Manager of the Year award, or whatever it is. And I became motivated to do something for the program because Coach K himself endowed a scholarship in the name of his own older brother.

Schwartz: When his brother (passed), it just really hit him in the gut. But I would say it this way: Those are intense moments. To compete in sports, you have to be an intense competitor, but you can't carry forward losses. Right? Other than to say, next time I'm not going to do that, and go forward. But to lose one of the most important people in your life, that's not something you just move past.

Gminski: Bill was an all-encompassing figure in his life.

Dennis "Moe" Mlynski, childhood best friend: I don't know how he did it, but he gave the eulogy – and it was a battle for him to get through it. I remember that.

Spatola: In terms of a personal tragedy, that's the lowest I've seen him. He was crushed. And this is a guy who lost his dad when he was a senior at West Point, lost his mom years later – but it had been a period where Bill and Coach were the only guys in the family. So losing him, that was incredibly crushing.

We did end up going (for the funeral). We flew out to Chicago and were there, and you know what? It was an amazing time. First of all, it was during the season – and Coach doesn't do many outside-of-basketball things during a season. So, I think for him to grieve and go through that during that period was good for him. We went back to Chicago, and we were around a lot of his other family, plus Bill's wife, Pat. We ate at this Polish community center, like, pierogies and a traditional Polish meal, and he had a smile on his face for like the first time surrounding his brother's passing. I think there was a lot of reflection and recollection and nostalgia that hit him during that. So I think that was a cool part of it: going back and being around his former neighborhood, his people.

Schwartz: If you look at when Jim Valvano got sick, if you look what happened with others, where was Mike? He was at the bedside. So you have to understand that: not only in his personal life has he had suffering, but he understands others'.

Bobby Hurley, former Duke All-American guard: There aren't a lot of people in life that you know you can count on, like, if you need them. And for him, he proved that to me when I had my (life-threatening car) accident: when I was in the hospital, when I was in rough shape. He was in the middle of the season, and I was one year removed from the program. I woke up one morning in the hospital – and he was there.

Schwartz: When my son was 5 or just turned 6, he had leukemia, and it was pretty aggressive – he got through it, but we didn't know that at the time – but he'd never been to a game. But I took him to the Final Four in Denver. Long story short, at the last minute, the doctor said that I could go (and take him). Tom Butters and (his wife) Lynn were there to help us. We would stay in the same hotel as the team, but one of the rules was, leave the team alone. ... We got permission from the doctor to stay for the final. I get a note: Come by over here, where the team is, around noon – and bring your son.

Mike had every guy on the team take their picture with him, and autograph it. My son is 38 now. He got through it, had a lot of problems, but he got through it – and he still has the poster of his picture, standing between the legs of Alaa Abdelnaby.

Later, I pointed to that picture when speaking with Bob Hurley Sr., and I said to Bob, "Hey, nobody can tell me that Duke basketball had anything to do with my son fighting his leukemia, or curing his leukemia – but then again, nobody can tell me it didn't." And Mike did that.

Hill: I know for me, he was very helpful when I went through my ankle ordeal. I was septic, I had to get a free flap on my ankle. It was touch and go; if this doesn't work, then possibly amputation. Just all these things were going on. So I was at Duke for an extended period of time, and he would come and just check on me. Even in those moments when I was unsure if this was gonna work, he was always encouraging me. Giving me this vision, even then, that I was going to come back and play. And I remember a couple of times he said it, and when he left, I was like, "Man, what is he talking about? I don't wanna play no more. I'm done." But he was persistent, and he was in my ear just planting that seed.

When I was at my lowest of lows, and only a handful of people – my parents, my wife, maybe my agent – saw me at that point, he was there.

Schwartz: If you listen to Grant or any of (his former players), they'll call him Coach. When you call somebody "Coach" because you're playing on their team, that's a sign of what they do. When you refer to him as "Coach" for your entire life, that's because of the big role they played in your entire life. And every one of his players will walk in and say, "Hey, Coach."

Sicko Mode

Boenheim: The overwhelming thing people should know? How detailed this man is.

I watch a little tape, he watches maximum tape. I watch an hour; he watches six. And it doesn't matter who you were playing. It could be Nigeria, Angola, anybody. That's just what he does. He's the most prepared coach you'll ever see. We were up till 4 o'clock in the morning watching tape for Nigeria ... who we beat by 80 points. I'm falling asleep, completely exhausted in the back of the room. We'd been to the Great Wall of China that day, played a game, got back at midnight – and we're still watching tape till 4 in the morning.

D'Antoni: There was an audible groan about 4 a.m.

Spatola: I can remember Coach Boenheim one time after a blowout saying, "Nope, I'm not doing it. I'm going to my room. You call me when we're talking about the next team."

McMillan: I watch a lot of film, but nothing like Coach K. As soon as the game is over, win or lose, we would get back to our hotels, go up and change clothes, and you might as well kiss your wife – because the next time you see her, she's gonna be in bed knocked out. We would watch the game over, and then we would watch our next opponent. And this one night we did that, I walked into my room at 7 o'clock in the morning. We had watched film all night long. I walked into my room – like, the sun is coming up and we've got a 12 o'clock practice – and my wife looks at me and goes, "I know you have not been watching film all night long. You've been over at that village! You've been hanging out. No way you've been watching film all night." I said, "Yes we have." Because he looks at every single clip.

I do the same thing, but what Coach will do is he'll get his mixed nuts, something to drink – sometimes it's a diet Coke, sometimes it might be a glass of wine – and he sits there with his clicker and watches every clip. We're behind him. Sometimes he'd talk to us, sometimes he'd just write down his notes. But what I got from that is, he's thirsty for something. I don't know what it is. I don't know if it's winning more, or more championships, or the challenge, or building. It could be all of those things. But even though we were winning most of our games by 40, it was like he came in even more fired up the next day for the next game. He doesn't get complacent.

Cragg: And if we lost a game? I know he wasn't sleeping. No way. I mean, he was up watching tape, trying to figure it out. The ultimate "figure it out" kind of guy.

Chris Carrawell, former Duke All-American wing and current Duke associate head coach: It's ridiculous, dude. He's sick. It's sicko mode, for real.

Mlynski: I just remember how intense and focused he gets. I think it was 1990, and I hadn't been out to Duke for a long time to see a game. So I went out to see a game – it might've been North Carolina at Duke – and I got to stay with them, him and his wife, at their house. And his wife told me how he would wake up in the morning and play very soft music, and she said, "Don't talk to Mike, because he gets into a zone." The game is on his mind, basically.

But as the morning progresses, we're getting closer to heading to the stadium, the music in the house started being more intense. And I think by the time we left, they were playing "Rocky." (laughs)

The untold stories of Coach K: Wine trips, film sessions and empathy (cont.)

By Brendan Marks, The Athletic (March 3, 2022)

Hill: It was my sophomore year, and we'd had great success in '91, came back and were No. 1 to start the year, No. 1 all season, and at that point we were undefeated. We played Florida State at home, they were new to the conference, we beat 'em pretty easily at home, and then we were scheduled to go down and play there. When we had practice the day before we left – now, we'd never played down there before – he showed a video. The crowd was saying, "We want Duke, we want Duke."

When he turned it off, like, the look in his eye? Sometimes coaches will manufacture things to get you motivated, but he was so mad. He looked like an assassin in that moment. And he says, "They want Duke? They're gonna fucking get Duke." And the way he said it, it was like, "Oh, shit."

Carrawell: Anytime we're not playing to the level he thinks we can play at, he's gonna go in on you. The timeouts, the yelling, the getting his point across, letting guys know – he's still got that. That's what he's always had. If you're screwing around, he's on your ass – period.

Hurley: There was a game when we were going for the back-to-back and we were at Clemson, and we were awful to start off – and he took all five guys out. That was on a team that had already won a million games. He wasn't gonna give anybody a free pass.

Mlynski: He was an aggressive guy (even growing up). More serious. You know, whenever we played sports – we played a lot of Pinochle, too – his tendency was he wanted to win. He was more intense than most of us. Not that he's like that today, right? (laughs)

Hill: He's somebody you want on your side in a street fight, and I think that's ingrained in who he is. People have learned more about him through the years, but don't be fooled – and I'm joking when I say this – by the "GQ" suits he wore. He's a Chicago kid. He's an inner city kid ... He's a punch-you-in-the-face, metaphorically, type of guy in how he approaches things.

Mlynski: When we were growing up, we had a secret language. We thought we were cool. Maybe we were in high school or a little bit younger. We used to put an S in front of every word. So instead of, "Hey, do you wanna go to the store?" (It was) "Shey, sdo syou swanna sgo sto sthe store?" We'd kinda mumble our way through. And I told a couple of doctors and nurses (at a speaking event at Duke Hospital a few years ago) that Mike, to this day, uses that same language in communicating with his people.

I said, "The only thing is, instead of putting an S in front of every word, he puts an F in front of every word." (laughs) Because let's be honest, he shows his emotion out on that court a number of ways. He's broken quite a few clipboards.

Varadhan: He has no problem giving you honest feedback, even if that honest feedback isn't what you want to hear.

Hill: He's blunt, to the point, but there's a relationship and a trust that had been developed to where there's a comfort level on his part to share – and a comfort level in receiving. That doesn't always happen. If you don't have a relationship, if you don't have the trust, if you don't have a connection, then it's hard to do that. But he's taken the time to establish that, and there's almost a softer side that goes into nurturing a relationship. Then you balance that with a tough side that is demanding and has that fighter mentality.

Carrawell: What he's telling you, you just believe it. The passion, he's just got it. And the whole West Point thing adds to it.

One time when we were driving to Charlotte, to see Wendell Moore actually, I asked him, "If you didn't coach, what would you do?" And he's like, I was gonna be a coach. Basically put all his eggs in one basket. No other option. I'm coaching. He was born to coach, and it worked out. But he had no backup plan. Never another option. It's in his blood. Every win, every loss, it just permeates through his body, man. It's crazy how fully he feels it. Like, damn, you didn't even play! You're on the sidelines! But it's different. He's different.

The Final March of Coach K

By Wright Thompson, ESPN.com (March 2, 2022)

Mike Krzyzewski walked into his office last summer in a melancholy mood. His yellow lab, Blue, had died in his arms the month before. Approaching the start of his final season, he teared up as he told stories about Blue. The family has always had communal dogs, named Cameron and Defense, but Blue belonged to him, and would sit at his feet while he watched hours of game film. Coach K loved his dog and on this afternoon felt his absence acutely. There were a lot of feelings in the air. He had moved into the inevitable wilderness of loss and goodbyes, approaching his 75th birthday and the end of his life's work, which is not the natural habitat for a guy like him. He once wrote in an elementary school essay that he either wanted to become an accountant or a priest. Those urges still remain. He is forever keeping score.

"I try not to look in the future," he says. "and I definitely don't look in the past."

Krzyzewski's office is in the top of the tower Duke built in 1999 after he'd won two of his five national championships as its head basketball coach. He is on the sixth floor, and all the other coaches are a level below. Coach only needs to take a right out of his office, then another right down a back stairwell, to get to his assistants. For the past 42 seasons he's called the Duke campus home, bringing his wife and family into the operation -- his daughter Debbie Savarino keeps an office down the hall from his -- and that is all coming to an end. He's lived a life that would have seemed impossible to his parents in their working-class Polish neighborhood in Chicago. Not long ago, he flew back to his hometown in a private jet, and his best friend from childhood, Dennis "Moe" Mlynski, picked him up in his wife's minivan. The big jet landed as Moe watched from inside the private terminal. The pilot parked a few yards from the door and still a golf cart came to pick up Krzyzewski. Coach saw Moe gearing up to demolish him for being soft and rich as he took his first steps inside.

"Moe, don't say a word," he said.

Right now, as Coach K sits in his office and tries to dodge questions about nostalgia and imminent farewells, Moe arrives in Durham, North Carolina, to hang out for a few days. They're still best friends. Krzyzewski remains deeply connected with the world he knew as a child and no matter what he tells himself, or tells visitors to his sixth-floor castle keep, he has been most definitely looking into the past in recent days. Maybe it's more accurate to say that the past has been reaching out to him, demanding his attention.

It started last month when he found himself talking to butterflies.

There's nobody in his life who meant more to him than his mother, Emily Krzyzewski. She died in 1996 at age 84. When he'd go recruit in Chicago, instead of staying at some fancy hotel, he'd always crash in his mom's small three-room flat. She never moved, not even when her son got rich. They talked after every game.

"He can still repeat her number," Debbie says.

"1-312-276-8681," he says.

When their mother died, Mike's brother, Bill, sent him a box of possessions they'd found in her apartment. Mike started sifting through the things his mother had left behind. Finally he flipped open a worn steno pad to find thousands of notations, page after page, each line listing a date, an opponent and either a W or an L. He cried, realizing that, without him knowing, she had tracked every game he'd ever coached.

His former player and assistant, Steve Wojciechowski, says that during incredibly tense moments, big games when the noise came down from the bleachers like tumbling boulders, his boss would softly say a prayer to his mother. Coach K believes that his mother still watches over him, sometimes taking the form of butterflies. She loved them. His wife, Mickie Krzyzewski, planted bushes in their backyard that attract them. So around the time he announced his plans to retire from the game that had defined his life, a butterfly landed on his car. He stood and watched, and the thing refused to move. It just sat there, and so he waited too. Finally he needed to go. He leaned toward the butterfly.

"All right, Mom," he said, and it -- she -- finally flew away.

When this last season began, I met Krzyzewski in a hallway somewhere in the bowels of Madison Square Garden in New York, a few minutes after his Blue Devils had won their first game, against a talented Kentucky team. The Garden had prime-time energy. Bruce Springsteen sat at center court. Duke's star freshman, Paolo Banchemo, led the team and closed out a fierce opponent; a baptism, and his coach now smiled with pride.

"His first big game," Krzyzewski says, looking almost giddy. "I feel closer to this team than I have in the last decade, and I've been pretty close with teams."

He sees a familiar face waiting for him.

"Moel!" he yells with a huge smile.

The two old friends embrace. Coach K and Mickie invite Moe and his son to sit with them in the small office. Mickie, their children and grandchildren often hang around the team, working the doors at camps, babysitting for assistant coaches. It feels like one big, weird family up close, and all that is in its final year, too. "We are not going to be the first family of Duke basketball anymore," says Debbie Savarino, an assistant director of athletics who is still known to everyone as Debbie K. "What does that look like? What does that feel like?"

One of her sons, Michael, is actually on the team. The other nine grandchildren call Krzyzewski "Poppy," but Michael calls him "Coach." Inside the office, Krzyzewski talks about how important this win was, for this season, for his team, for himself. Few things in the world feel better than 1-0. Heavy bass rattles the locker room speakers as the team packs for the flight home and people gather and talk and laugh in the hall. Chatter filters out from a police radio. This is the sound of victory. The managers load blue duffel bags onto the Garden's famous freight elevator and shuttle them down to the loading dock. There's something beautiful about the efficiency and rhythm of these postgame hours, practiced, learned, internal, more like blood flowing in a vein than a schedule prepared and kept. A postgame arena, still buzzing, is a temple, a place where dreams live. Coach K is a creature of this underworld, and soon both these private spaces and his mastery of them will slip through his fingers.

"It's gonna be so weird next year ..." one of the managers says to another.

It's nearly 1 in the morning when Krzyzewski comes out of this office with both his wife and his best friend. We all take a left and step into the big freight elevator on the fifth floor of the Garden. A lot of big-time coaches love to reminisce about this elevator, which has the patina of history and a kind of gladiatorial spirit. This is Coach K's last ride on it.

On the way down, he and Moe talk about Father Francis Rog. He taught Mike geometry at Archbishop Weber High in Chicago and, for the past six decades, has served as his spiritual adviser. The father's been in the hospital, and everyone in their circle of friends is worried.

"He's one of THE great men," Krzyzewski says as the freight elevator doors close.

They're in a good mood -- you don't want to be near Krzyzewski after a loss, even now, after all the supposed perspective added by time and more than a thousand career victories -- and he and Moe and Mickie are enjoying tonight, telling stories about Father Rog.

"You know," Coach K continues, "he changed my life. He explained religion the right way."

They laugh hard as Krzyzewski plays the part of a tough old priest: What you did was a sin, what you are is a sin and what you will be is a sin. Basically, life is full of guilt and then we die.

"That is it," Coach K says with a grin. "Call it a day. I'll go to heaven less guilty."

He laughs.

"Maybe."

The elevator lets them off on the third floor, and Krzyzewski leads the way through the hidden parts of Madison Square Garden, a walk he's made so many times before. He and his team made this walk 10 years ago when he passed his mentor, Bob Knight, for the most wins in college basketball history. We round a corner and come down the loading dock toward Eighth Avenue. The cityscape of honking cabs and cheering Duke fans awaits. Coach and Moe say goodbye, and the Krzyzewskis climb aboard one of the team buses bound for the airport and, around 3 or 4 in the morning, home.

Moe picked me up at my Michigan Avenue hotel in Chicago, which happened to be in a building Mike's mother used to clean at night when she worked as a janitor. We drove over to the old neighborhood, back in time. For Moe and all their shared old Polish friends, who called themselves the Columbus after the name of their elementary school, Coach K's retirement comes as they are entering the last acts of their lives. Two recently died. Another lost his wife and can't be around the Columbus these days without crying.

"I'm gonna retire the day after he retires," says Larry Kusch, who goes by Mondo. "I will beat him!"

Moe takes me on the tour. He talked to Coach last night to find out what he wanted me to see. First we stop on Cortez Street, at the apartment where Mike grew up, surrounded by his first cousins. There were 17 of them in all, Coach the youngest, and only four are still alive.

"All the elders are gone," cousin Miriam Kross says.

Their parents wanted for them a respectable American life, and Krzyzewski's military education and officer's commission got him that. His parents pushed him hard to go to West Point. Krzyzewski remembers them sitting around the dining table talking feverishly in Polish, punctuated by the occasional "Mike" and "stupid" and the like. They couldn't believe their son would turn down a free education at a school that produced officers and even presidents. Finally he got the message and accepted the appointment. Moe says that a lot of his friend Mike's success in life flows from a desire to honor them. But that's just part of it. Mike inherited his father's ambition and paired that with his own need to shape those ambitions into a new, better life. From the beginning, Krzyzewski burned inside and still doesn't totally understand the origins of that fire. An alien, he calls himself. His friends all followed their parents' path and built those respectable lives while erasing any thoughts of personal fulfillment or passion ("It's a sore point with me," says Eddie Stanislawski, one of the Columbus, "I told my kids to follow their bliss.") but Krzyzewski decided to listen to the person inside him who wanted to coach. His ambition made him let go of a brass ring to reach for a gold one. Moe remembers exactly where he was standing when Mike told him he was going to quit the Army. After lunch, at a hot dog place where Coach K loves the Italian beef, he drives me to the spot.

Emily Krzyzewski's apartment remains in the family. Cousin Craig lives there now. He opens the door for us and takes us up the back steps. Krzyzewski's mom and aunt lived next door to each other and shared a landing for three decades. Often they'd sit out there in their chairs, hour after hour, and laugh and tell stories. This is where Coach K came to stay during all those recruiting trips. When he woke up, his mother would have ironed his clothes.

Moe points to the spot where her West Point rocking chair used to be, and the yellow plush recliner where she'd sit and watch the games with her steno pad at the ready. There was linoleum on the floor and a faux oyster dining table. She kept a Duke calendar on the fridge, and former Duke player and assistant coach Tommy Amaker talks about how moved he was to go inside with Mike once and see his own image hanging there. We take a left in the hall to the room she used for meals. Moe still calls Coach K "Mick," which is how the neighborhood kids knew him.

"Mick, Mickie, my wife and I were in this room," Moe says, "and he said, 'I think I'm gonna give up my military commission and go into coaching.' We were sitting in here, the four of us."

There's a feeling in the room, and not because the journey to five national championships started here, but because it was here that a guy like any of us felt a pull and listened to it, trusting himself with no way of knowing how it would turn out. Trace amounts of that energy remain, the half-life remnants of a young, ambitious man turning his back on the respectable American life his father wanted for him and stepping out into the world alone.

Moe points.

The Final March of Coach K (cont.)

By Wright Thompson, ESPN.com (March 2, 2022)

"In this room," he says.

Back outside, Moe explains that this neighborhood, now a trendy place called Ukrainian Village, was known then as St. Helen. Every neighborhood in the city was known by the name of the local parish. That's not how it is now. A map of Chicago, once as accepted and formal as the printed maps of the L trains you can pick up beneath the rumbling tracks, exists only in the memories of people Krzyzewski's age. The world that shaped them is vanishing as fast as its fragile citizens. This year, then, is a gift for all of them, in the way that it demands you stop and take stock -- to consider how they were all made. They grew up in a parochial world governed by unspoken but strict laws. All of them have stories. Once Moe and a friend were walking near home and came upon a real-life, in-progress medieval Ukrainian parish schism. A small majority voted to abandon the old world calendar and align their feast days with the Roman Catholic Church. The other parishioners were filled with rage. They formed a mob outside the rectory and dragged the priest from his home, still in his cassock, and beat him there on the lawn, Moe remembers. The crowd then organized, raised money and built another enormous cathedral a few blocks away. They once saw an unleashed pack of police dogs on Damen Avenue. Mike's own brother, a tough Chicago fireman who literally never missed a day of work, refused to drink with anyone who crossed the picket lines in 1980.

Coach K's basic understanding of loyalty is rooted in the ancient rules of the blocks around his boyhood home on Cortez. Take Mike's old high school. The diocese sold the building to the city, and now it houses a public middle school. The old chapel is now an office. They have cleaned it and painted the walls, coat after coat, but no matter what they do they can never get rid of the smell of incense. Something essential comes through, leaves a mark. There's a video online of Coach K screaming at his own Duke student section for what he mistakenly thought was a chant about one of his old assistants, Jeff Capel, who'd returned to Cameron Indoor Stadium as the head coach of Pitt. Read his lips. As he points to his chest, what he is saying over and over is, "He's one of us!"

We rode up and down the old Polish streets.

Coach K might be the most famous living Polish American, but his grandfather on his dad's side wasn't actually from Poland. John Krzyzewski (whose last name is spelled Krzyzowski in some documents) was ethnically Polish, certainly, but he moved to the United States from a small autonomous region named Galicia, which was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and ceased to exist in 1918, swallowed after the war by Poland. Mike's grandfather was living in Chicago when that happened. He died in his 40s, just a year later. Coach K, who built his own world out of a bouncing leather ball, comes from people who lost their old homeland before they fully grasped a new one.

His father was born William Krzyzewski. He changed his last name to Kross.

"I didn't know him that well," Moe says. "He was ..."

There's a long pause.

"I didn't know him that well," Moe says again.

Bill Kross ran an elevator in the Willoughby Tower downtown. He bought a bar called Kross Tap that Mike used to clean on Sundays. A lot of Chicago cops hung out there. "He had a tavern, but he very seldom ever took a drink," says LeRoy Lipske, who was married to Krzyzewski's cousin and tended bar for his dad. "He had coffee from morning to night."

They all remember that. Nonstop coffee, always with lots of cream, a cup he called "Boston": I need a coffee, Boston, please, an old-timey order that nobody says anymore.

Bill was a dreamer, his family says, but nothing he tried really worked. His bar didn't make money, and his restaurant didn't either. "Mick and I talked about it," Moe says. "His dad always wanted to be somebody. Life didn't always give him the opportunities."

Krzyzewski grew up with a silent, hardworking father grasping for something he could never quite hold, and a buoyant, wise mother, who gave him little pep talks and sayings that he still gives to his teams, all these years later. Every Duke basketball player has heard the story about how muggers tried to take her purse when she was an old woman and she fought them off. The Emily K Center in Durham, which mentors local kids from elementary school through college, is his pride and joy, because it carries her name, yes, but also because it continues to live out her spirit.

His parents spoke Polish to each other but demanded the boys never learn it. They didn't want them to carry the baggage of an accent. Krzyzewski grew up with a strange last name that his own father didn't use. Moe has been thinking about this a lot lately because going through his own father's things he found some old letters in which his dad had used the last name Miller. Moe felt sad, emotional, wondering what else his father kept inside, what pain and longing. The same is true for Coach K. Some of the family kept Krzyzewski, while others went by Kross. One of his uncles was militant about the original Polish spelling and would gruffly quiz his nieces and nephews whenever they walked through the door. Coach K clearly remembers being young, 5 or 6, and nervously trying to get everything straight with his mother as they walked up the steps to visit Uncle Joe.

"Mom, what's my name?" he'd ask.

Bill Kross died young during his son's senior year at West Point. Bob Knight came to the small family home, sitting across a table from LeRoy the bartender (who himself died Jan. 7, 2022). In those days of grief, Knight became arguably the most important male figure in young Mike's life, now that his father was gone. The family buried this silent man beneath a tombstone with his changed last name. Here lies William Kross, who never saw his son coach a single game.

"He was such a big sports guy," Krzyzewski says as we sit in his sixth-floor office one day, with huge windows overlooking Duke's gothic campus.

"He ..."

He gets lost for a moment.

"He would be in la-la land," he says finally.

He's quiet again.

"My dad would have been walking the lobby," he says. "That's my son out there. I know you didn't ask ..."

I ask him what name his dad would use to check into the Duke team hotel.

Coach K laughs and smiles. "It wouldn't be Kross," he says.

Decades passed as he adjusted to the absence of his father. Krzyzewski told me one afternoon that he wished his father could have seen this life he'd built. Emily K grew old and died, too, and only then did Mike and his brother quietly have their dad's old tombstone dug up and thrown away, replaced with one that said "Krzyzewski."

Eight hundred miles away from the gravestone, Coach K sat in his office, and he wanted to tell me a story. Before the pandemic, he was in Chicago to give a speech. He's been doing that for years, and he likes the extra money but mostly likes the chance to learn and meet people outside his bubble of fame. As he usually does, he made plans with Moe to eat at one of the classic Italian joints on Rush Street. The idea was for Moe to pick him up at the hotel, but the traffic got so bad, Moe called and said they should just meet at the restaurant. Coach K decided to walk. He hadn't strolled the streets of Chicago in a long time. As he headed down Michigan Avenue, he looked up to see Willoughby Tower, where his father once ran the elevator.

Krzyzewski walked inside. The security guard recognized him.

"My dad used to work here," he explained and then asked if he could go see the elevators. The guard nodded, and Coach K went over alone and just stood there. He knows how it sounds, but he felt his dad's presence. The next morning he got to his speech early, to listen to the person going before him. A crowd of 600 people faced the front of the room while Krzyzewski snuck into the back, finding a table with a continental breakfast and rolls. Coach K poured himself a coffee and loaded in the cream.

One of the hotel staff looked at him.

"So you like your coffee Boston?"

Krzyzewski wheeled around.

"I get chills thinking about it," he says. "Son of a bitch, is he saying hello through this guy?"

He asked the man to repeat himself.

"Boston," the waiter said, "like you put a lot of cream in it." Krzyzewski smiled.

"I do like it Boston," he said.

After all these years, he feels like his dad had reached out to let him know he'd done good. That he'd seen what his son had done with their strange last name and was proud. At the end of his career, the universe was speaking to him, or maybe he was just at peace enough to finally and truly listen. Either way, he felt grateful.

I think for a moment he might cry. He laughs instead.

"Motherf---er," he says. "It's unbelievable."

Moe and I spent a lot of time together and one afternoon in Chicago, he took me to a hospital on the outskirts of the city for one last stop. Coach wanted me to meet Father Rog. We parked and went inside.

The hospital allows only one visitor at a time, so Moe sneaks me past the guard and onto the elevator. We find the father in bed, wearing a yellow hospital gown, with an amputation scheduled for part of his foot in 30 minutes. He taught Mike in high school and helped him square his faith with his ambition, and later performed the funeral for Mike's mother and his beloved brother. Coach K's daughter thinks what Father Rog gave him most of all was "permission."

"Permission to practice his faith in the way that he does," Debbie K says. "Permission to be who you are, and it's OK to be this intense person who swears on the sidelines."

The old priest turns his television volume down and extends his hand.

"I'm Father Francis Rog," he says.

On his wrist is a 2015 Duke national championship watch. He smiles when I notice it. He's got piercing blue eyes. His thick glasses, familiar to generations of students, rest on his nightstand.

"I'm sorry I'm in this condition," he says.

He's 91 years old but sharp and funny. He tells stories about Krzyzewski in high school, calling him wholesome, and he recounts how they've kept in touch. Their conversations are private, between a man, his confessor and God. "I'm very important in his life," he says, "and as a result, he's very important in my life."

There's a question that has been running through my head since I heard that Krzyzewski has a spiritual adviser: Why the hell does he have a spiritual adviser? He seems so buttoned up.

I asked everyone what he's struggled with most in his life. His former coaches gave mostly basketball answers, most of them about the personal price of his demand for perfection, and how to balance his better

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By Wright Thompson, ESPN.com (March 2, 2022)

angels with the masochistic version of himself who was taught early on by his mentor that anger was not only an acceptable byproduct of the process but perhaps an essential part of it.

But his daughter Debbie had the best answer to the question. Her dad carries a lot of invisible burdens, wanting desperately to be all things for all people. "I think the thing he's struggled with most in his life is forgiveness of himself," she says.

Krzyzewski's best impulses are so well known that his worst impulses can seem somehow twice as shocking when seen up close. He can be petty and overly sensitive. One of his former players, when asked to talk about Krzyzewski's retirement, carefully parsed his words: "It's not even what I would say. It's just knowing him and how he could potentially interpret something I would say."

He has screamed at student reporters covering his team. Even now he struggles to apologize when he knows he's wrong. Like his college coach and first boss, Bob Knight, he's thrown chairs. He's broken clipboards. During a timeout, he once looked at his team in the huddle and told them, "Your f---ing faces suck." He has made young men cry under a verbal barrage. A favorite tactic is to kick the team out of the locker room and throw all their stuff into a pile on the floor. He is never not the man who was a captain in the United States Army. Natural cycles of overconfidence and failures of focus that can happen over the course of a Duke season tend to fill him with rage.

"He gets pissed at human nature," says Jon Scheyer, who will be the team's head coach next season.

The way his team plays is so wound together with the way he sees himself, in the opinion of one of his former assistants, that a string of losses can feel less like a professional failure and more like a personal one. Especially before his friend Jim Valvano told him on his deathbed not to miss out on his real life just to win games, Krzyzewski was capable of putting basketball above the other relationships in his life. One year, former assistant Mike Brey said they were preparing for a game at Madison Square Garden when Mickie came barreling into a meeting and dragged him away just to sing "Happy Birthday" to his daughter Lindy. Mickie has long been the officer in charge of Krzyzewski's better angels. There are many ways in which she has shaped Duke basketball but none more significant than that.

When assistants have left Duke, he can take it personally, both excited for them and yet wounded, because any defection is a potential crack in this complex work family he's built on a foundation of almost archaic loyalty. It's complicated up close. He is at his core a foxhole guy but is also always the architect and gatekeeper of the foxhole. A former assistant who coached against him put it this way: "I don't think he can allow himself to see you as a human being. I think that goes back to Knight."

"He is wired to eat his young," Brey says.

The most recent example came when ex-Duke guard Grayson Allen became public enemy No. 1 for his continued tripping. Krzyzewski and his family fixated on former Duke star and assistant coach Jay Bilas, now the voice of college basketball for ESPN, and blamed him for anything said on the network, whether or not he had anything to do with it. Once when Bilas came to do a game in Durham, he walked onto the court at Cameron and Krzyzewski literally turned his back on him. Bilas always saw Krzyzewski as a father figure. Dozens of Formers, as the ex-Duke players are known inside the program, thought the same thing about Coach K, so this rift shook a lot of people.

Bilas and Krzyzewski finally scheduled a meeting and aired out their issues and emerged with clean slates, a blip on a 40-year radar of warm feelings, and everyone in the insular family of Duke basketball could exhale. But for a brief moment, some of the people closest to Krzyzewski had to ask themselves how well they really knew him after all.

November unfolded in a dream.

Duke went out to Las Vegas at the end of the month and beat Gonzaga. Coach K saw hints of greatness, as a young team arrived in a big game, in a big venue, and instead of being scared of the stage, it grew to fit and claim it. This flickering vision of what these Blue Devils might be, were capable of becoming, flashed bright and then would fade through the teeth of winter.

Coach K told his players his own hoops doxology: Every season is a lifetime.

"You get one shot at this," he told his team.

Out in Vegas, Mike and Mickie saw their friend Elaine Wynn, the casino baron. They've known her since Duke beat her beloved UNLV in 1991 and she loved how respectful he was after the game, refusing to buy into the narrative that this was a battle of good versus bad. She's been a great friend and a regular visitor to Cameron. Elaine loves how basketball for the Krzyzewskis is a family sport. She tells stories about going to games in Durham and seeing the three daughters lugging babies and diaper bags and bottles into the tight confines of the arena's old wooden bleachers and wondered why in the world anyone would go to all this trouble to watch their dad and granddad work. Of course she gets it. "When you have a man that is so invested in a passion," she says, "you either get on the train or you're completely off the train and you won't have a lot."

Along with her ex-husband, Steve Wynn, she created some of the great Las Vegas properties, including the Bellagio. Once she ate there with the Krzyzewskis, after she no longer owned it, and little mistakes bothered her. She told Coach K that it took her a long time to understand it wasn't her casino any longer. Then she smiled and said one day he'd have to deal with the same thing as he handed his program to someone else.

She visited Krzyzewski before the Gonzaga game, because the team always stays at the Wynn, but just briefly to say hello. He was there on business, she says. After the game, she went by the Duke hospitality room at the hotel and congratulated him on the win and hugged him goodbye. They made plans to catch up once all the madness ended. Krzyzewski loves Las Vegas. He plays video poker and visits the spa. He'll sit in the sun. Then he and Mickie look at the shows in town, and research a great restaurant, and then make plans together. Since he doesn't fish or golf or pursue any other hobby, a trip out west remains about his only distraction, a time for him and Mickie to be alone.

"He absolutely adores her," Elaine says, "and she adores him. When they're here they're like teenagers. She'll be watching him with a little glint in her eye. He'll reach out and touch her arm."

After beating Gonzaga, the Blue Devils rose to No. 1. The top-ranked team in the country, they left on an early-evening flight from Raleigh into a cold Columbus, Ohio, on the next-to-last day of November. It was dark when they landed. The unranked Ohio State Buckeyes awaited. The Duke players were believing their hype, but the coaches weren't. They worried this was a classic trap game, and they were right. On Nov. 30, Duke lost for the first time this season. Coach K looked at his players and demanded they learn from this feeling.

He's lost 365 times in his career, each of them a small death, and there are four decades of his extreme reactions to them. You could pick any of them to get a sense of how his main coaching strategy seems to be setting himself on fire and hoping his team will be drawn to the light. Here's one. In February 2005, as his team prepared to play Georgia Tech, Krzyzewski hit peak intensity. The night before the game, he played the team a battle scene from "Braveheart," showing William Wallace lopping off heads and planting a sword in the ground. The following day, the team ran out for layups and then returned to the locker room. The Cameron crowd was booming. The assistants put on "Braveheart" again and as Wallace planted his sword, Krzyzewski came screaming into the room, waving his old Army saber. He planted his sword into a big planter of dirt an assistant had strategically placed.

"Let's go, motherf---ers!" Krzyzewski yelled.

Nine minutes into the first half, during a timeout, Coach K screamed at the officials that Daniel Ewing had been fouled. Then he just collapsed. Mickie ran to the bench. The trainers rushed to his side. It was incredibly tense. Then he got himself up, gave his stunned players more instructions and kept coaching the game.

Four days later the Blue Devils beat No. 2 North Carolina. Then came two straight losses, one at Maryland and the next a stunner at Virginia Tech. The spiraling team rode a bus back through the night toward Durham.

"I remember it being quiet," says Patrick Davidson, a walk-on guard for that 2004-05 team.

They got back late, or early actually, maybe 3 in the morning, and Krzyzewski called the team into the locker room for one of his infamous meetings. These would last, former Duke guard JJ Redick remembers, basically until one of the players started to cry. They finally went home around 5 a.m. When they got back for practice later that same day, they saw the board with the starters listed for the next game against Wake Forest at home, a team led by phenom guard Chris Paul. There were four names listed to start against Wake: two walk-ons and two former walk-ons.

"I don't know who the fifth starter is," Krzyzewski told them.

His plan, he said, was to go up in the stands and just watch like he didn't know a single thing about the team. The assistants trotted out every brutal drill they could imagine -- "nothing to do with basketball," Redick remembers -- like throwing a ball on the court and making two guys fight for it. They did boxout rebounding competitions. Five wind sprints, make a layup, then dive on the floor.

Redick won every drill. He always loved doing the gladiator thing. Coach told the team Redick and the four scrubs would start against Wake.

The next day the team roared onto the court. For the first three minutes, Davidson, who remains an object of cult obsession in the Duke world, pressed and mugged Paul, picking up two fouls and getting in the star's head. When Krzyzewski finally took Davidson out to replace him with Ewing, he wrapped his arms around the walk-on in a huge bear-hug. Duke won.

Five years ago, in January 2017, Coach K missed a series of games after midseason back surgery, a run of six procedures in 15 months. The person he seemed to punish most of all in his pursuit of excellence was himself, although all Duke players can tell you punishment runs downhill. The way Krzyzewski pushes himself has scarred him, to be certain, but it has also taken its toll on everyone who reached for greatness with him. While he recovered from his back operation, Jeff Capel ran the squad. The team lost at home against NC State. All the players got a mass text: Go to Coach K's house immediately. They walked in to find three rows of five chairs set up. He went down the line, player by player. He told star Jayson Tatum, who recently relayed this story on Redick's podcast, that all he cared about was the NBA and he should just quit officially, since he'd already quit in spirit. The players left and then got another text: Be in the locker room at 6 a.m. They walked in to find two trash bags by every locker. The assistants told them to take everything out of their lockers. Tatum carried his two trash bags to his car. When they returned for afternoon practice, the security code on the locker room had been changed. The players walked to the court to find a pile of white shirts and blue shorts. They hadn't earned Duke gear.

Redick shivered when Tatum finished his story, and then laughed.

"There's some PTSD there," he said. "This is bringing back all the memories."

The day before the Ohio State loss, Father Francis Rog died. He was 91. Coach K got the news and flew home a few days later for the funeral. Moe met him at the private airport and got concerned when his friend limped toward the terminal door.

"What's going on?" Moe asked.

"Ankle," Krzyzewski said.

He didn't look as energetic as he had beneath Madison Square Garden. Although he'd been saying something different in public, truth was, he had put a lot of pressure on himself, more than usual, to finish this last run the right way, to wring every moment from an experience he'd never have again.

The Final March of Coach K (cont.)

By Wright Thompson, ESPN.com (March 2, 2022)

"I want it to be so good," he says.

It was taking its toll on Coach K and his family.

"I think they're tired," Moe says.

Moe and Mike rode together to the service. They arrived long before it began. Krzyzewski greeted old friends and then walked to the open casket. A man saw him coming and moved to give him space and for 30 seconds Coach K stood there and didn't move. He walked away, and then walked back to the casket with his sister-in-law, Pat, who was married to his brother. Bill was enormous, 6-foot-5 and a barrel of a man, who retired a captain in the fire department and died only a few years later. He and Pat never got to realize all those plans they made about the life they would live once the last fire had been fought.

"My brother was my hero," Krzyzewski says.

He moved around the sanctuary and shook hands and gave hugs. His presence seemed to comfort people. Eventually the crowd took its seats beneath the beautiful white marble and stained glass dome of the Polish basilica. The service began with a solitary ringing bell. Krzyzewski sat on the left side and didn't speak. He said goodbye to his friend and counselor, the man who'd given him permission to become Coach K. Now in this winter of his career, all sorts of questions were following him wherever he went, about who he'd be when this ended, when he wasn't Coach K any longer but just a wealthy, famous, respected grandfather named Mike.

Father Rog had always bridged those two parts of him, and now he was gone.

Eight men escorted his body from the church while Krzyzewski watched in silence, standing with a dark overcoat folded over his arms.

By December it was clear those flashes of greatness against Kentucky and Gonzaga were, in fact, flashes. Coach K's last team would have to be shaped in real time, while playing real games, starting conference play just before Christmas. ACC games meant the arrival of what he calls "battle mode."

"He really believes battle mode is one of the reasons they win," Bilas says.

Battle mode is a way of looking at the world, of ordering it, stripping away everything that doesn't directly impact the next game. Visitors to town know not to be offended if all he can talk about is the team. There are lots of other signs. He'll stop sleeping. He'll skip meals. He'll start to look gray. He'll find fuel wherever he can.

"What amazes me is, despite all his success, his ability to keep a chip on his shoulder," says Northwestern head coach Chris Collins, a former Duke player and assistant. "It's amazing. The great ones have the ability to create their own adversity, their own enemies. We might have a mid-January game against Clemson. He's coached 1,500 games, but he finds a way in those two days to get angry about something."

Krzyzewski doesn't know what he'll do with this side of himself when the season ends. "I haven't thought about that, but it's interesting," he says. "Part of having that keeps you young. Keeps you relevant. Keeps you purposeful. And so it will be interesting where I channel that. Because it's got to be in something. If it goes, then you might as well say goodbye."

The greatest enemy of battle mode is memory mode, and he stubbornly refused this season to engage in nostalgia. The team never heard him talk about his last dance. The truth is, he loves this spartan way of living and when his career is over, it might be what he misses the most. Mike Krzyzewski becomes Coach K in this ritualized world. Krzyzewski settled into long-ago defined patterns. Pizza (usually from a local place) waiting on the bus after every road game, which he eats in his usual seat, second row on the right side. When he walks onto a team plane, he doesn't have to think: pass the players, who he has always put in first class, then to the left-side aisle seat in the first row of coach. It's in these little rituals that memory mode lurked, and he started to consider the scarcity of the feeling he got walking onto the court at Cameron.

Coach K worked all ACC season with a furious joy. He rode his stationary bike, working up a full sweat, and watched film at the same time. The coaches gathered after every game to break it down together. For a 6 p.m. game, they'd usually be done at midnight. Now these film meetings happen at Cameron. For years they happened at Coach K's house, where the assistants and Krzyzewski would order pizzas and watch tape all night. Several past assistants talk about throwing the morning paper on the porch as they left after sunrise. The pizzas were a vital part of the routine. Krzyzewski liked to put salt on his pizza and, before he had to monitor his health, there would always be a salt shaker on his seat in the bus after games, so he could doctor up those postgame pies. During this final season, two old Duke stalwarts, Quin Snyder and Wojciechowski, met up for lunch on the road. They both reached for the salt shaker at the same time and smiled.

For Christmas his family gave him a present to unwrap. Inside he saw they'd picked out a new Labrador; they made the deposit, and the puppy would be born at the end of March. Always loyal, he wanted to make sure his family knew he wouldn't ever forget Blue, or think he could simply be swapped out for another dog.

"I'm not replacing Blue," he said firmly.

They smiled and said they understood. This would be a beautiful new relationship, not an attempt to recreate an old one. Christmas is always a huge deal in the Krzyzewski family. Mike got Mickie a ton of pairs of pink Nike sneakers. Mickie always gets everyone matching pajamas, and this year they were black and white flannel pattern. There's a photo of all smiles in front of a towering tree. The children and grandchildren all spend the night at their house, a big lock-in. This year Coach K scheduled practice during the family-only time.

"You've ruined so many Christmases!" Mickie scolded him.

She runs a tight ship. They call her the Queen Mother. Coach laughed and reminded her that this would be the last Christmas he'd ever ruin.

On Jan. 16, in between a win versus NC State and a loss at Florida State, Coach K got the news that

another of his West Point classmates had died, the first to pass during his final season. Bob Hoffman was a decorated war hero and a grandfather. Mike was in Bob's wedding, one of the guys holding a saber -- the same kind of saber he'd later use to fire up his team. Those long, gray line days were distant indeed. Just after Bob died, his widow, Lorie, was walking through their neighborhood in Idaho when her phone rang. A call from Durham, North Carolina.

Krzyzewski told her how sorry he was, and they laughed and remembered the old, good times. Each of them bragged on their grandchildren and talked about their families.

"You can tell how much that phone call meant to my mom," Bob's daughter Carina Van Pelt tells me. "My mom heard from every single person in that class, either a call or a nice long letter. It was pretty amazing how close they are."

Even 53 years removed from graduation, West Point still matters to Krzyzewski, because of his friendships forged in the shadow of the daily Vietnam casualty reports, and because of the way his college coach and first coaching boss, Knight, shaped his life, in ways good and bad.

A young Mike Krzyzewski idolized Knight, even as part of him probably hated him, in that way that ambitious people sometimes can't tell the difference. The basketball press made the comparison all the time until Coach K bristled at that, both wanting his mentor's approval and wanting to be seen as his own man. As he started his climb in the sport, Knight loomed large in his mind, especially in the early 1980s. "You could almost see the wheels turning," Bilas says. "What would Knight do?"

Knight rooted for Krzyzewski, wearing a Duke button on his shirt at the 1986 Final Four. But when Coach K won his first national title in 1991 and then beat Indiana in the 1992 Final Four, the relationship changed. Coach Knight did a limp drive-by handshake after the game, and when Krzyzewski waited in a hall for a second chance after the Hoosiers' news conference, according to Ian O'Connor's new book, "Coach K," Knight blew him off completely.

Then the letter happened.

It's famous inside Duke basketball as a critical breaking point. After the game in '92, Knight had a mutual friend from West Point deliver a blistering letter that Knight had written, threatening Krzyzewski with an end of their relationship, just venom pouring off the page, turning a perceived slight into a paranoid, angry screed. Knight had been into Krzyzewski's family home for his father's wake and now this? This fracture would grow and shrink in the coming years until finally the coaches simply stopped speaking, or rather Coach K gave up trying to be the bigger man. "I think that's been a horrible chapter in his life," Bilas says. "Knight should have been proud of him. He's like a child whose father won't acknowledge his success."

After that 1992 win over Indiana, with a Michigan game looming in 48 hours for a second straight national championship, the Knight letter dominated the insular Duke ecosystem. Krzyzewski got back to his hotel suite in a fog, just totally devastated. Current Notre Dame head coach Brey, then an assistant, remembers how they were trying to work and Coach and his wife kept bringing up the letter, trying to make sense of their hurt. Finally Brey knew he needed to do something. He stood up and spoke simply.

"F--- Bob Knight," he said.

The game after Bob Hoffman died, Mike Krzyzewski took out one of his rosaries and said a prayer, dedicating that night's contest to his friend. He does that every game he coaches. It's his moment to be alone before the coming storm. On the road he'll sit in his hotel room and at home, he steps into a private room in Cameron, just off the big space where he does his postgame news conferences. Once he gets settled, he'll reach into his right pocket, where he keeps the rosary given to him by Father Rog, blessed by Pope John Paul II, and finds peace and perspective. In his other pocket he carries another rosary, the one that belonged to his mother. This season he dedicated several games to his mother and father and brother. Against Virginia, he dedicated it to Mickie's family, because she grew up near Charlottesville. On his desk in his spartan downstairs office by the locker room, he keeps photographs of young kids he met over the years in hospitals who died, and a prayer card from one of his first players at Army. He carries these people with him, inside him. They are him. He is always communicating across planes of existence. This spiritual life, this desire to walk with spirits, is one of his greatest gifts and, when swirled together with his Polish tribal roots and his West Point education, lies at the heart of his success. He is, most of all, a collection of everyone he's ever met. Every time you see him on television he's got a rosary in each pocket, twin portals, a way of communicating with the people who walked this road with him but didn't make it to the end. Who are being carried by him to the end.

January ended and Coach K looked terrible. He always does this time of year. "That's how you know it's February," Debbie K says with a laugh. "It's Groundhog Day, it's President's Day, Valentine's Day, Coach looks like s---. It entered his February."

Duke entered its toughest stretch of the season, four games in eight days, five in 12. Those became coded mantras -- 4-in-8, 5-in-12 -- and the whole program hunkered in battle mode, like a warship that sounds general quarters and turns on red lights. Duke won the first game against Carolina -- folks inside the program bristled that the Tar Heels didn't honor Krzyzewski during the game -- and then turned around and lost to Virginia, a well-coached team that gives Duke fits. That was the fourth loss of the season, the last three by a total of four points. Three days later, Duke star Wendell Moore Jr. streaked toward the basket, Clemson guard David Collins undercut him and Moore came crashing down. He writhed on the floor, and Coach K wheeled around to the Clemson bench and screamed, "What the f--- are you doing?"

He started moving toward the baseline. Debbie screamed in front of her television and realized her father, a 75-year-old man, was stalking off to fight a college kid on national television.

"My dad has very small lips," she says, laughing. "When there are no lips, he's seething. I haven't seen him that mad in a very, very long time."

Debbie is sitting in her dad's conference room talking about the play, and how Coach K got himself under control, and how the Clemson coach did a masterful job defusing, until everyone hugged and the game continued. His mentor might have detonated his career in a moment of rage, but Coach K isn't his mentor.

The Final March of Coach K (cont.)

By Wright Thompson, ESPN.com (March 2, 2022)

"You say this Bobby Knight thing ..." Debbie K says. "This is where ..."

Her voice fades, and she's quiet. Her dad carries the scars of a relationship soured by pettiness and anger. But he also didn't replicate Knight's mistakes. One of the most poignant parts of this season has been the constant stream of former players coming to meet Coach, bringing family members and children, wanting to be part of the end. He has spent his final season surrounded by the relationships he built over five decades, relationships that remain intact in no small part because he saw firsthand how not to treat someone. There have been rifts along the way, but the relationships always seemed to win out in the end. The people close to Krzyzewski understand that Knight's worst impulses live in Coach K but he has managed to control them.

When I ask him about Knight, he sighs and says, "It's complicated."

Then he talks immediately about working to be a better person.

"I don't know when but in the last decade, I said, I am not gonna have hate or resentment be part of what I do," he says. "My mom would say that all the time. She would say, 'Why let that in your heart?'"

He learned how to let go of hate and resentment. He learned by example. He learned by practice, by teaching. Knight once imagined he'd be carved in stone, on the mountaintop of his sport, and now he's the fifth-winningest coach who destroyed everything he built. His biggest contribution to basketball might be showing Mike Krzyzewski how not to treat people, which has allowed Coach K to emerge from this brutal grind of 47 seasons with his life and friendships and family intact.

Debbie K grins.

She knows she shouldn't say it, but ... what the hell.

"Karma," she blurts.

Every morning Mickie Krzyzewski sends out that day's basketball schedule. It starts on a family text chain called "Basketball Freaks" but gets forwarded around the Duke basketball world. (This thread is not to be confused with "Starting Five," the group chat of Coach K, Mickie and their three girls). In Basketball Freaks, she has carefully listed all the college games they might care about, along with the time and the channel, sorted by ACC, Ranked and Other.

JohnnyDawkins v Houston 9:00 209

Ore v BobbyHurley 9:00 206

ChrisCollins v Minn 4:00 610

This happens every day, tracking Amaker's Harvard or Nate James' Austin Peay or Jeff Capel's Pitt Panthers (aka The Fighting Capels), and folks look forward to their daily updates. The Duke basketball office is, and always has been, a blend of Coach K, his team and his family. When the three Krzyzewski girls were young, they had crushes on dad's players and now some of their own girls babysit for the assistant coaches. Snyder lounging around the house as a student watching college football has given way to Mark Williams and Jaylen Blakes learning how to play bocce ball in the backyard. The one time Debbie got busted drinking in high school, part of her punishment was her parents telling the team. She remembers Danny Ferry running into her and her mom and dad at a Duke football game and cracking, "Hey, Deb, wanna go get a few beers?" The lives of all these people are so intertwined that it's difficult to tell where family ends and the team begins.

"I view him as a second father," Collins says.

His players became part of his life. They hung out with his mom. They knew his brother. Amaker remembers a tour of West Point that Coach took him on when they were in New York recruiting. Brey remembers all those trips through Chicago, where they'd finish work and roll through the Polish neighborhood and find something to eat.

Every former player I called had stories about hearing from him when something went good or bad in their life. Collins tells me about a tough loss he suffered early in his time at Northwestern against Maryland. They'd been up 11 with four minutes to go and lost at the buzzer. The team got on a plane and flew to Chicago, and around 1:30 a.m., as he's driving home, his phone rings. It was Coach K, "just talking me off the ledge."

Arizona State coach Hurley says he struggles even now to treat Krzyzewski like a peer because he reveres him so much. Only two people in his phone have their numbers saved with just a single letter. His wife, Leslie, is programmed as L, and Coach is simply K. After Hurley was almost killed in a car wreck during his rookie season in the NBA, and he finally started to drift back into reality, around the second day, he found his parents and Coach K leaning over his bed. Same thing happened years later when Jay Williams almost died in a motorcycle crash. Krzyzewski was in the air in a private plane when he got the news. Moe says he made the pilots turn the plane toward Chicago. From the air, Krzyzewski called Moe and asked if he could pick him up at the airport. Moe drove them to the hospital and stayed in the car while the coach rushed inside. He got there in time to be one of the first faces Williams saw when he woke up. When Coach K got back in the car, he turned to his oldest friend with tears in his eyes and said, "Moe, it's pretty bad."

His greatest gift has always been not only his ability to create deep relationships, lifelong relationships, but his need for them. He loves and is loved back in return, existing at the center of a huge spinning wheel, of players, and coaches, at Duke and on the Olympic teams, his family both in Durham and Chicago. So it's important to know that this last season, although hard, has been a happy time, with Formers returning and bringing their children back with them. One Sunday, Krzyzewski came into his office, visited the guys in the training room and then went to watch film. Debbie texted and told him to look in the gym. They've got a closed-circuit camera in Cameron that he can always access. When he turned on the feed, he saw two of his assistant coaches with their kids, and two former players with their kids, everyone having a great time.

"It looks like a daycare center," he says beaming.

Coach K turned 75 during that brutal run of games, and he celebrated by going into the office on a Sunday. He's been sleeping four or five hours a night, battle mode forever. "He looks horrible," Bilas says. "He's burning the candle at both ends. He's overworking himself. He's watching film all night, doing stuff he did when he was 40."

The last game of 5-in-12 landed on the following Tuesday, at home against Wake Forest, the same day excerpts from O'Connor's long-anticipated biography dropped. O'Connor, a respected columnist for the New York Post, interviewed more than 275 people over two years, and news stories started circulating online. The juiciest one said Coach K had hijacked the search for his replacement and kept Amaker from getting the job, with the goal of maintaining control of the program.

Krzyzewski started to spiral.

"He didn't feel good all day because he was really upset," Debbie K says. "He talks things out. He thinks out loud."

She sat with him and talked about Amaker.

The situation is more nuanced than the headlines. Krzyzewski calls the claim "a cheap shot," and the belief around Coach K is that the source quoted in the book overstated the coach's desire for control once he's gone. Amaker and Duke declined to comment on this subject. An anonymous person told O'Connor that Krzyzewski could be "Don Corleone" when he felt it necessary, and a source close to both Coach K and Amaker described O'Connor's reporting to me as accurate. What's clear from this private dispute being made public is that the succession plan left some damaged feelings. On the day the story became public, Krzyzewski worried that he'd hurt a member of the tribe. "He 100 percent has that guilt," Debbie K says. "Did I do something that caused any harm that would bother Tommy? I love Tommy. He's one of my boys. I don't ever want anything to hurt my guys."

Sitting in his office, emotional and raw, he looked at his daughter.

"I just want to take care of everybody," he said.

"You have and you are, Dad," she told him.

She understood, too, the unspoken part of his emotional reaction, coming days after he turned 75, with just two games left to coach at Cameron.

"Even when you are not on the sideline," she told him, "you will still be taking care of these people. They're still your boys."

That night, Krzyzewski led his team onto the court to play the Demon Deacons. Debbie and Mickie watched from upstairs during the first half until Debbie saw her daughter frantically waving her cell phone at her, as if to say: Check your texts. Debbie saw a message: Poppy doesn't feel good.

Debbie slipped away from her mother, not wanting to worry her yet, and went down behind the bench to talk to the trainers. They told her they wanted to wait for the media timeout at under eight minutes to get him some Gatorade. Everyone agreed to meet in the locker room at halftime. Mickie Krzyzewski had seen all of this commotion and when Debbie returned upstairs, Mickie asked what was going on. Debbie explained that he felt lightheaded.

"I'm going," Mickie said.

At halftime Krzyzewski struggled to keep his eyes open. His blood pressure was elevated. Doctors gave him fluids through an IV. When he recovered enough to watch the game, he started yelling about the officials and his blood pressure rose again. His daughter Jamie scolded him. "Dad, are you kidding me?" she said, according to her sister. "Really? This is what we're doing? You're gonna stroke out in the middle of a f---ing basketball game?"

He raged at himself, too, at time, at being 75, at losing some essential part of his K-ness.

"I sound like I'm weak!" he barked.

"You don't sound weak," Debbie told him. "You sound human."

The team won, barely, and the beat reporters searched for news about Krzyzewski's health. He spoke to his players briefly and then went home without breaking down the film, a tiny concession. Later that night, Debbie texted with her mom.

"Where is he?" she asked.

"He's rewatching the game," Mickie replied, "but I convinced him to watch it from bed."

The next afternoon, Debbie met me in the conference room next to her dad's office. She told me he felt a lot better and that he and Amaker had talked, which helped. They are all feeling emotional. Krzyzewski remains in the moment, but these people who love him are wondering about the end of the season.

"We have to be strategic," Debbie K says. "When people retire they age very quickly. He's been so ageless for such a long time. We have to make sure he stays active, stays in it, because otherwise what are you gonna do? You're gonna be a really old, crotchety, grouchy person."

There are a few things on the calendar. This team will officially disband after the April 14 team banquet, and then the annual K Academy will happen in early June, which brings back a legion of Formers, so that will feel like a reunion. They have their annual family summer vacation planned, where all the kids and grandkids stay in a rented house. A chef comes every night to make dinner, and the whole family plays

The Final March of Coach K (cont.)

By Wright Thompson, ESPN.com (March 2, 2022)

marathon sessions of board games.

This year they'll be at a lake house in North Carolina that comes with a boat, a hot tub and, most critically, a bocce court. At the lake, Krzyzewski will team with a younger grandkid and take on all comers, winner stays. "He talks enormous amounts of trash on the bocce ball court," Debbie says laughing.

He likes Vegas. He likes really nice wine, mostly heavy Californian reds and a few nice Italians. All 10 of his grandkids live in Durham and three live within a mile of his home. The Krzyzewskis have a pool and games and love the energy of a house full of family.

"My wife has created a grandkids trap," Krzyzewski says with a smile.

Krzyzewski told his granddaughters he wants to take them to Chicago once this is all over, and show them all the places he once knew. They've never been with him. There is also a planned West Point trip to do the same thing, to slip warmly into the memory years.

He is keeping his office on the sixth floor, doing work as an ambassador for Duke, but the floor beneath him is being completely gutted and rebuilt. Part of the renovation includes literally bricking up the back stairwell leading from his office to the nerve center of Duke basketball.

Krzyzewski has said over and over to friends that he won't be like John Wooden, going to all the UCLA games and casting a long shadow on the man with the difficult job of replacing him. His daughter says that you can hear the Cameron crowd up on the sixth floor, so he can't be in the office for games, either. There will be corporate boards, and maybe a role with the NBA, and family trips and youth sporting events and fundraisers. But there won't ever be another team.

"What are you gonna do without the outlet?" his daughter asks.

His family insists he isn't saying goodbye to Duke, or to basketball, just to being the head coach of a team, but there are things he'll never have again. He is saying goodbye to battle mode. He is saying goodbye to the annual rebirth of new relationships. There are no more ambitious 18-year-olds coming to be baptized into the tribe. Mike Krzyzewski has a lot more to do in his life. Coach K will start to fade the moment this season ends. Maybe that's a good thing. He's earned peace. Redick says people ask him constantly how Krzyzewski will handle retiring. He always gives the same answer about the satisfaction of walking away justified and intact.

"I'm f---ing happy for him," he says. "He doesn't even know what's on the other side. It's so good. What he's about to experience is so good."

Two mornings after almost collapsing on his sideline, an embarrassed Coach K came into his office wearing a blue Duke pullover with every black hair perfectly in place.

"I'm doing better," he tells me, "but I'm not there yet. That s--- I got was f---ing exhaustion. It was a culmination of all that travel. We've had so many one-day turnarounds, and I still prepare the same way."

He sounds open and vulnerable.

"I'm 75," he says.

He pulls out a pair of socks and puts them on the table. Laughing, he says when he got into his office after the medical scare, he found a bag stuffed with Polish-themed wrapping paper with a gift inside: Duke-colored socks with Moe's face printed on them.

"Moe is as good a friend as anyone has ever had," Krzyzewski says.

He slips on a set of headphones and looks at the notes spread out on the table. It's time for his weekly SiriusXM radio show, which he has done for 17 years. He loves talking to people inside and outside of sports, and the show allows him to briefly show the world what people inside the program have always known: Coach K is actually hilarious. Today's guests are the CEO of McDonald's and Georgia football coach Kirby Smart. He sounds wistful talking to Smart, wishing he could experience the feeling of a first national championship again. Krzyzewski talks eloquently about how he loved watching Smart share the title with his players, coaches, fans and family. Coach K will miss that brotherhood. His daughter has loved to slip into the practice gym this season and just watch him coach, working with individual players or sitting down to talk to a recruit. He is not somebody who is limping to the finish, or who is cheating himself, or the game. Krzyzewski is going to coach his last team with all of himself until the last whistle blows. You can hear it in how he talks to Smart, picking his brain about coaching tricks to make hard practice tasks fun for the players. On the eve of his next-to-last home game at Duke, Coach K is still trying to get better.

"I wish we had a lot more time," Krzyzewski tells Smart.

Two nights later, with Cameron as loud and intimidating as ever, he walked slowly onto the court and allowed himself to take in the feeling, to let himself plug into the energy. He felt lucky and grateful. The bleachers behind his bench were filled with Moe and a huge group from the old neighborhood. A few hours before, Krzyzewski had reached into his right pocket, pulled out his rosary and dedicated the coming action to all the dead Columbus and to Father Rog. He said their names. They were with him.

Following the game, after a season of swatting away any question about nostalgia, he finally indulges the idea and admits what everyone already knows: It will be incredibly emotional when Carolina comes to town and he leads a team for the last time onto the court that bears his name. The past was everywhere around him now. The next morning, he and Moe and the old neighborhood friends went to early-morning mass. Usually Krzyzewski slips out after communion, but his friends didn't know the drill and returned to their seats, which meant he stayed around at the back of the sanctuary until the service ended. When the priest asked if there were any visitors, Moe stood up. Coach K shook his head as Moe announced he and these guys were from Chicago and then started speaking to the priest in Polish.

For a moment they were on Cortez Street again, and all of this was yet to unfold.

Mike Krzyzewski didn't walk into his office so much as he floated, carried along on waves of optimism and focus. It was about 9 a.m., less than a week ago, and he was operating on four hours' sleep; the team had arrived back at Cameron from a road win at Virginia around 1 a.m., and he'd watched film until 3:30 a.m. He couldn't wait to tell me that he'd finally seen it: that mythical it that all great coaches know, even when it exists in a place beyond language -- he had a team that was capable of going all the way.

He lounges in blue Duke sweats that say "brotherhood" on the pants and looks out his window at the sea of tents stretching out from Cameron, the students camping to see his last home game in person.

He tells me the story of the four days since I'd seen him last.

Two days after beating Florida State, with a well-coached, dangerous Virginia team on deck, Krzyzewski and his staff put his young team through a high-level preparation. And instead of flying over the players' heads, it stuck. He told the team it had been in the shallow end all season and it was time to jump into the deep water. During Tuesday practice, Krzyzewski couldn't believe what he saw. He felt things he hadn't felt in years.

"I get chills thinking about it," he says.

After that practice he gathered his team and staff and told them he'd seen something from them for the first time: They were ready for the coming battles of March ... and even April.

"You're an old Duke team right now," he told them. "You look like a machine."

Sitting in his office, he looks at me.

"They knew it," he says. "I could see it in their eyes."

He tells me about the trip. They all flew to Charlottesville. Mickie flew with him. He packed his rosaries. Managers sorted gear. They set up base camp like they'd done for nearly half a century, a Duke blue garrison, a world where he aged more each year while the faces he saw stayed young. Johnny Dawkins becomes Bobby Hurley becomes JJ Redick becomes Tyus Jones becomes Paolo Banchemo. So many years had gone rushing past but also no time at all. Life was simple and sharp. They were in town to win a basketball game. They were brothers in arms. He gathered the team that night at the hotel and looked out at them. They looked back at him.

"You're ready," he said.

A Coach for All

By Stephen Schramm, Duke Today (February 28, 2022)

Few people at Duke can appreciate the wisdom of Mike Krzyzewski quite like Jon Scheyer. For half of his life, Scheyer, associate head coach of the Duke men's basketball team, has leaned on the guidance of Krzyzewski, who has led the Blue Devils program for more than four decades.

As a high school basketball star, Scheyer talked with Krzyzewski about where his life could go. As a Blue Devils player, he saw first-hand how Krzyzewski's lessons about trust, communication and collective responsibility built championship teams.

Now, as a 34-year-old father of two with a third child on the way, and the person who will succeed Krzyzewski this spring, Scheyer still relishes opportunities to hear the Hall of Fame coach's insights on basketball and life.

"I'm trying to soak up every single day with him," said Scheyer, part of NCAA championship teams in 2010 as a player and 2015 as a coach. "I know when the time comes in April, we won't have as many of these moments. So, I cherish the times when we're traveling, or when we're in here early in the morning, and those natural organic conversations pop up and we just start talking about life. I'm thankful for those."

This spring, Krzyzewski, the winningest coach in college basketball history, will lead the Blue Devils for the final time, ending a tenure that began when Duke hired him as a 33-year-old in 1980. Krzyzewski, who turned 75 in February, leaves behind a program that he built into a global brand, and gold standard.

And at Duke, Coach K's legacy extends well beyond the court. His ability to build and motivate teams, stay nimble amid change, and never lose sight of the people who make success possible, set an example for the Duke community.

"It's so important to have leaders like Coach K who can model the values and behaviors that an organization aspires to in its culture," said Sanyin Siang, leadership expert, author and founding executive director of the Fuqua/Coach K Center on Leadership & Ethics (COLE) at Duke University. "The more visibility we have for leaders throughout the organization who embody those values, the more organizations can create enduring success."

From Duke's frontline caregivers to those at the heart of the university's educational mission, Krzyzewski - through leadership and example - leaves a legacy of inspiration among colleagues he worked alongside, and those he never met. Here are some of their stories.

STAY CURIOUS

Around four years ago, Erica Hill, now director of development for Trinity College of Arts & Sciences, was part of a group of consultants examining the feasibility and goals of a fundraising campaign for the Emily Krzyzewski Center in Durham.

Mike Krzyzewski created the non-profit center that builds the academic, career and leadership potential of students from populations often underrepresented in higher education, in honor of his mother. When it came time to present the report, Hill and her colleagues did so to Krzyzewski in a boardroom near his office.

While a bit starstruck at first, Hill, a 1998 Duke graduate, said that Krzyzewski led a fruitful conversation, digging into details to gain a deeper understanding of paths forward.

"He was a gracious listener and had so many good and thoughtful questions," Hill said. "You could tell that he's great because he knows a lot, but then he tries to keep learning."

When it wrapped up in 2020, the Emily Krzyzewski Center's Game Changer Campaign raised over \$18.5 million. And long after her work was done, Hill said that Krzyzewski's curious approach is something she brings into how she looks at the world.

"I think that's a great way to go through life," Hill said. "Just be curious and keep learning. Especially on a university campus, it fits in with what we do."

MEET PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE

When the "ECHO" program, an expansive research initiative examining factors shaping child health, kicked off in 2017, Todd Robbins took on a leadership role as part of a large team of people who collected and monitored data from around 100 research sites.

In the team's early days - and during the pandemic, when it adjusted to fully remote, and later hybrid, working situations - Robbins, a devout Duke hoops fan, leaned on lessons drawn from Mike Krzyzewski's books on leadership.

The most important cue he took from Krzyzewski was the value of being adaptable in how you lead individuals. Or, as Robbins put it, meeting people where they are.

"Almost every year, he has to start from scratch because he lost so many players to the NBA," said Robbins,

a lead clinical research associate with Duke Clinical Research Institute. "He has to go with the flow and adjust with his team. That's so important because, for example, my team comes from various backgrounds, and some of them have different strengths. So early on, we really had to learn about each other and establish our bond."

By shaping his team members' roles to suit strengths - such as having better communicators serve as contacts for sites or having detail-oriented people process documents - Robbins said his team weathered challenges.

"That's the key, you have to know people's strengths, and when to pass something off to somebody who can run with it," Robbins said. "It just goes back to meeting people where they are."

CHOOSE THE HARDER RIGHT

In the summer of 2020, following the murder of George Floyd, Mike Krzyzewski voiced his feelings in an online video.

"Black lives matter," Krzyzewski said looking directly into the camera. "Say it. Can't you say it?"

Over the next few minutes, an emotional Krzyzewski pleaded with viewers to acknowledge the role racism plays in society and aspire to do better.

As a Black woman and behavioral health case manager in Duke University Hospital's Emergency Department, Bonita McMorris has a keen understanding of the ills Krzyzewski referenced. In her work, she sees how the lack of access to health care, education and opportunity can leave Black citizens and families in crisis.

She saw Krzyzewski's video not long after it was released and was struck by his passionate, direct message.

"I was pleased to know that Coach K had the feelings he has," McMorris said. "He's exactly right."

In the video, Krzyzewski, a West Point graduate, recited a line from the school's cadet prayer.

"Lord, help me choose the harder right, instead of the easier wrong," Krzyzewski said.

Not only has McMorris turned that line into a personal mantra, that spirit led her to join a group of hospital colleagues that meets weekly to discuss race and forge a more inclusive future.

"I'll never forget," she said.

INSPIRE OTHERS

Since 2013, Ingrid Bianca Byerly, a faculty member in the Thompson Writing Program, has taught public speaking courses that have been useful for Duke men's basketball players destined for careers in the spotlight.

"It's wonderful having basketball players in the class, they contribute so much," said Byerly, whose classroom stories often feature names such as Quinn, Justise, Grayson and Jahliil.

She gets glimpses of the culture of the basketball program through her experience with the players, who bring a sense of confident calm to class and are usually quick to build camaraderie among classmates.

Through personal anecdotes about how they overcame obstacles, rebounded from disappointment, or faced fears, the players often share in their speeches how they built resilience and determination. And in many of the stories, lessons from Mike Krzyzewski are at the core.

"It's always really heartfelt and inspirational, I can just hear Coach K's voice in there," said Byerly, who draws her own inspiration from the speeches. "When I hear some of them talk, I think 'I cannot believe I have a job like this, where I can learn these wisdoms from people a fraction of my age.'"

WHAT WOULD COACH K SAY?

Growing up in Lynchburg, Virginia, Becca Murphy watched plenty of ACC basketball and developed a deep respect for how Mike Krzyzewski led his teams.

She admired how he took players from different backgrounds and built tight-knit teams with a unified sense of discipline and purpose. And when games got tense, and emotions ran high, Murphy appreciated how Krzyzewski's teams never seemed to shrink from the moment, usually staying focused and calm when opponents were rattled.

As a licensed practical nurse, Murphy often remembers the qualities Krzyzewski instills in his teams when facing her own trying times or important moments, such as caring for COVID-19 patients while working in a hospital in Idaho, or helping vulnerable patients in Duke's Adult Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinic, where

A Coach for All (cont.)

By Stephen Schramm, Duke Today (February 28, 2022)

she's worked since May of 2021.

A big part of Murphy's role in the clinic is caring for patients recovering from bone marrow transplants. Patients have depleted immune systems, so caring for them requires extreme discipline and attention to detail. It's at these times when she'll think of how Krzyzewski's teams execute.

"It doesn't do you any good to freak out, that's not going to help you think clearly," Murphy said. "So, I'll often think, 'If Coach K were here, what would he say about what I'm doing?'"

FIND A HIGHER PURPOSE

After successfully navigating the 2020-21 regular season with no players or coaches testing positive for COVID-19, the Duke men's basketball team headed to the ACC Tournament last March hoping to collect marquee victories and earn a spot in the NCAA Tournament field.

But during the ACC Tournament, a positive test result by a member of the program brought about conversations among coaches, school officials and infectious disease experts about what needed to happen next.

Duke Associate Professor of Medicine Dr. Cameron Wolfe, an infectious disease expert who serves as an advisor to Duke Athletics on COVID-19 matters, was part of the Zoom meetings and phone calls where these conversations unfolded. He recalled when Mike Krzyzewski opened the meeting with his insight, along with the health of Duke team members, Krzyzewski was equally concerned with Duke's opponents. No matter the decisions, he didn't want to jeopardize someone else's season.

Wolfe said that Krzyzewski's selfless statement set the tone for discussions that eventually led to the decision to withdraw from the ACC Tournament, ending the season for the Blue Devils, who ultimately had several members of the program test positive.

"I can't tell you how refreshing and how much easier it made my thought process to have the coach say that, straight from the outset," Wolfe said. "It's reassuring to know that there's a higher purpose here than just to win."

EVERYONE DESERVES RESPECT

Around 2008, Mike Krzyzewski spoke at an event in the airy lobby of North Pavilion. Several floors up, Jacqueline Tate and fellow housekeepers gathered by a railing and listened.

"Some of the girls I was working with were Duke fans, so they wanted to watch," Tate said.

In his remarks, Krzyzewski told the story of his mother, Emily, who cleaned office buildings at night when Krzyzewski was growing up in Chicago. He spoke of his deep affection and respect for her and how, regardless of her work, she led a life of dignity.

"He said no matter what position someone has, always treat them with respect," said Tate, who didn't know much about Krzyzewski prior to his talk. "That really spoke to me. I looked at him as a down-to-earth, wholesome person with integrity. Once you know someone's background and values, you look at them differently."

Over the next several years, Tate enrolled in Duke's Professional Development Academy and moved into Duke Radiology, first as a scheduling assistant and now working at the reception desk. All these years later, Krzyzewski's words about treating everyone with respect shape her interactions with patients and colleagues.

"I work with thousands of people doing different jobs and we all need to work together," Tate said. "So you've got to have respect for everyone, regardless of their story. Everybody's human."

Jeremy Roach is proving he deserves a seat at Duke's table

By Brendan Marks, The Athletic (February 24, 2022)

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. – It's a small thing. And in the long run, probably an inconsequential one. On this night, though, one simple sequence spoke volumes.

Because, after all, has Mike Krzyzewski ever carried your chair?

Nah. Didn't think so. Because this is not something Mike Krzyzewski, winner of more games than any other coach in college basketball history, does. Chairs are carried for him, to him – not by him. Now, there are exceptions, sure. Tops on that list is his wife, Mickie, and one figures Dad would probably treat his daughters the same way. (Even at 75, Krzyzewski hasn't outgrown chivalry.) But as for non-familial exceptions? Pssssh. It would take a lot – like, a lot a lot – to warrant it. Like, say, scoring a season high off the bench. Or locking down an opponent's best player, on possibly the hottest night of his four-year career. You know, the glorified (and gritty) things that translate into W's.

Or, in other words, all the things Jeremy Roach did Wednesday night against Virginia.

So, yes, in the aftermath of No. 7 Duke's 65-61 win, in came Krzyzewski and Roach to the postgame podium. One teensy-tiny issue, though: Two people, one chair. So Krzyzewski slid his folding chair a few inches to the right, grabbed another from off the ledger and unfurled it to the left of his. Then, he and Roach sat down for some questions. Again, a small thing. (Krzyzewski even joked, as he did it, that's what Polish people do.) Make no mistake, though: Folding out that chair – not to mention, you know, bringing Roach of all people to the podium – was a sign of respect. Of appreciation. Of thanks.

"I really thought the key guy for us in the game was Jeremy," Krzyzewski said. "Obviously, A.J. (Griffin) made big plays and we were able to do a couple things there, but I thought Jeremy's performance was the differentiator."

That's high praise, but not undeservedly so. Because consider: This season probably hasn't gone exactly the way Roach envisioned when he decided to run it back as a sophomore for the Blue Devils. After starting 18 games as a freshman and doing the same earlier this season, Roach has more recently come off the bench in conjunction with Griffin's emergence. His field goal percentage is basically the same as last season, and his 3-point percentage has dropped. His minutes are up, marginally, and his assist-to-turnover ratio is much better – 2.5 after Wednesday compared with 1.4 a year ago – but it has hardly been a star turn. Case in point: Roach scored 11 points against Elon on Dec. 18, then didn't hit double digits again until last Tuesday against Wake Forest. For a former five-star, score-first guard, that is not an easy transition. At all.

Then again, Roach didn't want easy. He's at Duke, for crying out loud. His other college finalists? North Carolina, Kentucky and Villanova. Not exactly "easy" places at which to play or prove yourself. But Roach, even off an ACL tear as a high school junior, leaned into that challenge and came anyway.

And a challenge it has been. Even this season, two full years removed from that devastating knee injury, Roach saw others surge ahead of him in Duke's backcourt. Wendell Moore Jr. made a massive leap in consistency, becoming a captain and one of the more clutch players. And Roach's former high school teammate Trevor Keels arrived this summer as an immediate starter because of his lockdown defense and aggression driving to the basket. Griffin's knee injury in October meant Roach kept his starting spot for the time being – as Krzyzewski reiterated Wednesday, starting isn't the be-all and end-all – but by January, Griffin was too good to come off the bench. Then Keels went down with an injury, necessitating Roach rejoining the starters temporarily until Keels got healthy enough to reclaim that spot. In, out, back in, then out again.

Maybe that's too much fuss about starting when it matters more who finishes games. (Seriously, starting is important but overrated.) But all that just goes to show the nonlinear, jumbled journey Roach has been on this season. Heck, even Wednesday, when he dropped a career-high (and team-best) 15 points in 32 minutes, he didn't get a spotlight; Griffin, who scored 10 of his 13 points in the final four minutes, also deserved a fair share of the credit for Duke outlasting the Cavaliers.

And that is totally fine with Roach.

Why? Because Duke still won.

"I'm always just here for my teammates," Roach said, "and doing whatever it takes to win."

If that quote sounds like it wasn't properly sifted through a "player-speak" filter, it's because it wasn't. And to some extent, yeah, that's a guy saying the right thing. But in Roach's case, it's also exactly what he has done all season, especially the past two months, and why he, as much as anyone else on Krzyzewski's final roster, is so critical to this team hitting its championship ceiling. Because unlike the gobs of other good scorers on this team, from Griffin to Keels to Moore to projected top-three NBA Draft pick Paolo Banchero, Roach doesn't necessarily need to get his.

"His" is Duke winning games.

So while, no, this team might not have one true point guard, considering all its various ballhandlers and their respective scoring responsibilities, Roach is probably the closest there is. That doesn't mean he's perfect; Moore has the best assist percentage on the team, and Keels has the fewest turnovers. But since that Florida State game when Keels injured his calf, Roach has averaged 4.3 assists per game, twice notching a career high with nine dimes. The advanced metrics back up the importance of that ball-sharing ability. Per Synergy, Roach averages just 0.81 points per possession (PPP), easily the lowest of Duke's top eight rotation players. But when you also factor assists into that equation, he skyrockets to 1.257 PPP, which is in the 86th percent nationally. Translation: More often than not, when Roach is the dude dishing to teammates, Duke scores.

As for Wednesday? Well, that's what's so fascinating. For just the third time all season, Roach didn't record a single assist. Not a one. (To be fair, Duke had only nine on 24 made shots, but that's a separate story.)

Instead, he was malleable, matching his game to what his team needed most from him, which, against Virginia's typically stingy pack-line defense, was scoring. So after Roach first checked in about five minutes into the game, it took him only three offensive possessions to chuck up a 3. It dropped. And perhaps he could've had a few more drops had Virginia guard Kihei Clark, the last holdover from UVA's 2019 national title team, not gone absolutely nuclear. Clark – a career 35.4 percent 3-point shooter who has never made more than four 3s in one game – all of a sudden went berserk, draining six triples before halftime. "He kept us in it," Virginia coach Tony Bennett said. "He shot a pull-up 3, and I told him, I said, 'If you do that, you better make it.'" Well, Clark did, then did again, and he just kept going. After the sixth 3, which put Virginia up five with 4:32 until halftime, the diminutive guard simply turned on his heels to the crowd with his arms wide open. Are you not entertained?

Well, I'll tell you one person who wasn't: Coach K. "We had to change our defense," Krzyzewski said of Clark's first-half shooting. That meant less switching and more singular focus on limiting Clark – more singular focus for Roach, that is.

And that's exactly what Duke's sophomore point guard did: shut Clark down, at least relatively speaking; after scoring 18 first-half points on 6-of-10 shooting, Virginia's senior floor general had just seven points in the second half on 3-of-5 shooting. "I take a lot of pride on the defensive end," Roach said. "That's definitely one of my strengths." Of course, other Cavaliers subsequently stepped up to keep things close until the final whistle – ECU transfer Jayden Gardner had 16 points, and Reece Beekman, who hit the game-winning 3 in the first meeting of these teams, also pitched in 11.

But what Roach did to Clark's offense in the second half, stymying it pretty solidly, was the opposite of his own scoring prowess after halftime. He led Duke at the break with seven points on 3-of-4 shooting, but he kept up the same pace in the second frame. (Given Roach's success handling Clark, it was somewhat surprising he didn't start the second half. But there we go getting worked up about starters again.) Punctuating that performance, in his return to his home state: two massive 3-pointers, the latter of which with just under seven minutes to play easily could've been the dagger.

Instead, credit to the Hoos. Bennett's ballclub kept grinding, especially defensively, and got things back to within one just over a minute later. At which point, here came Duke's second star of the night: Griffin. After a dismal 1-of-8 start to the game, Griffin somehow came alive in the waning minutes, making his final three shots to maintain the Blue Devils' one-possession margin. (That he did so late, after disappearing in the second half of several games recently, is another encouraging sign this team will gladly take away from Charlottesville.)

"He hung in there. Difference-maker," Krzyzewski said of Griffin. "But again, we wouldn't be there (in a position to win late) if Jeremy hadn't done what he (did)."

Where Duke goes from here? Back home for a recharge before two more trips – to Syracuse and Pitt, respectively – and then the biggie: Krzyzewski's final home game at Cameron Indoor.

But all that is known. It's scheduled. On the books. Beyond that? That's the fun part. Duke will go to Brooklyn for the ACC tournament likely as the No. 1 seed and potentially with its first outright regular-season title since 2006. That's a nice honor, sure. Just not the one Krzyzewski and his team will be satisfied with.

No, that honor comes much later, if at all – and not on a Wednesday in Virginia but on the first Monday night of April in New Orleans. Duke doesn't have many weaknesses, but one perceived problem is its lack of a point guard. The conventional answer, to now, is that it has many. And technically, it does.

What Roach showed against Virginia, though, is that he has the capacity and the inclination to assume that role. In some ways, he already has been. But if Duke is to get to the top of the mountain, it needs that malleable role player who doesn't particularly mind passing. Roach doesn't have to be Duke's best passer for the Blue Devils to go all the way, but he does have to be its most willing passer and the person who can unstick the offense when it gets a little dribble-happy.

If that same person is also capable of knocking down a few clutch 3s when called upon? Well, all the better.

That's the type of player who deserves a seat at Duke's table.

‘Loyalty is love’: The story behind Coach K’s final recruit, Theo John

By David Thompson, Fayetteville Observer (February 17, 2022)

DURHAM – Intimidation was never the goal for Theo John.

It’s simply the end result of a life he’s built through determination and loyalty; a relentless drive that took him from a lanky teenager in Champlin Park, Minnesota, to the Duke Blue Devils’ 6-foot-9, 242-pound enforcer on Mike Krzyzewski’s final team.

“When you’re someone of my size and you give off the persona that I do, I wouldn’t blame you for being intimidated by me,” John told the USA TODAY Network. “But that’s because you probably don’t know me, either.”

It’s true.

There’s one side of John he lets the world see: the icy stares aimed at opponents, his lionlike roars after a ferocious dunk or block – the infectious energy off the bench that has made the 23-year-old graduate transfer from Marquette a crowd favorite at Cameron Indoor, and the No. 1 player on opponents’ “do not mess with” list.

He’s also a loving grandson who sends his grandmother, Jeri, a Bible verse before bed every night. The oldest of four siblings who grew up surrounded by small children at his mom’s in-home daycare. The son holding back his parents with both arms to look for traffic before letting them cross the street. The basketball player who became Coach K’s final recruit because of his experience and an absolute willingness to fit a role Duke desperately needed.

“He’s always been a protector,” his mother, Kate John, told the USA TODAY Network. “He’s always wanted to be the one to keep people safe.”

It’s not the need to intimidate that brings out the fierceness in John – it’s loyalty: loyalty to the game of basketball, his community, his family and the teammates who have embraced him in his final season of college basketball.

“That’s why I play the way I do,” John said. “Because to me, loyalty is love.”

Loyalty and commitment to the game

John was already 6-8 when he entered his freshman year at Champlin Park High School.

He was the product of good genes; his mother is 6-0 and his father, Walter, who hails from Trinidad and Tobago, is 6-4. Both were athletes, and it was Walter who first spent hours in the driveway with his son teaching him post moves.

“He taught me damn near all my fundamentals,” John said. “I have a lot of good memories with that.”

Ironically, John’s biggest weakness was his physical strength as a freshman. That changed when he discovered the power of the weight room and spent his spare time, while not in the gym, watching documentaries on others who had transformed their bodies with lifting.

“When he started hitting the weights, you really saw him start to transform,” said Mark Tuchscherer, John’s high school coach. “He started to turn on this switch that I think you see all the time now – that guy that no one wanted to mess with.” He became obsessed with improvement: getting stronger, faster, bettering his defensive technique or offensive post moves. Basketball, and his future in it, became his primary goal.

He wasn’t interested in the normal high school activities. On the night of his junior prom, he went to the school’s basketball gym to work on fundamentals while his peers danced the night away on the other side of campus.

“One of the teachers tried to have a heart-to-heart with me and told me that I need to enjoy high school,” John said. “I told him, ‘What is any of this going to do to help me with my future?’ He looked at me and said, ‘You damn right’ and let me keep working.”

Community loyalty

John’s growth and the success of Champlin Park made him a bit of a local celebrity.

It’s a community that loves high school basketball over all other sports, and John, along with teammate McKinley Wright IV – now with the Minnesota Timberwolves – were two of the team’s biggest stars. In four years, the Rebels went to the state title game twice and John finished with 1,000 career points and left as the school’s leading shot blocker.

His younger brother, Alex, who plays college basketball at Missouri Western, was also on the team as a sophomore during Theo’s senior year.

“The support from the community for those teams was really amazing,” Kate said. “There’s a lot of pressure on those teenagers, but I think that really brought them together as a team and really endeared them to the community for how hard they worked and the pride they instilled in all of us.”

John’s favorite after-practice dinner was Chipotle, and rarely were his meals not interrupted by young fans. They would beg for autographs and pictures, and John would always oblige. He’d ask their names and if they wanted to play in the NBA when they grew up.

“Being around kids teaches you patience and teaches you to be vulnerable,” he said. “I learned very early on that giving a kid five seconds of your time can make his day, maybe even month.”

It was a tenderness he learned from his mom and the throng of daycare kids constantly at his home. He couldn’t walk from his bedroom to the front door without a couple of kids hanging on his legs and at least a dozen piggyback requests.

“What you see on the court and what Theo is off the court are two different things,” Tuchscherer said. “I think you’ll see the loyalty on the court, the loyalty to his coaches and to his teammates. But off the court, it’s kind of the same loyalty, but just much gentler.”

A lasting lesson

John’s final high school game is something he’ll never forget – and the backstory for the long braids he wears that hang down his neck.

Facing Apple Valley and former Duke standout Tre Jones in the 2017 state title game, John let his confidence get the better of him. Champlin Park was undefeated and had beaten Apple Valley earlier in the season.

“Before the game, one of my teammates asked me what would happen if we lost,” John said. “I said to him, ‘If we lose, I won’t cut my hair ‘til we win.’”

It was said in jest, but Apple Valley won 60-54. John has not cut his hair since.

“It’s fine, man, you can cut your hair, it’s no big deal,” his former teammates have told him on multiple occasions.

But for John, his hair represents the downfall of hubris.

“It’s a reminder, literally, on the back of my head to never get overconfident,” he said.

It’s not that he’s unwilling to cut his hair, it’s just that John only answers in a single five-word sentence if you ask him about it.

'Loyalty is love': The story behind Coach K's final recruit, Theo John (cont.)

By David Thompson, Fayetteville Observer (February 17, 2022)

What needs to happen to cut your hair?

"I need to win something."

What does that mean?

"I need to win something."

Like a national championship?

"I need to win something."

Coach K's final Duke recruit

John knew it was time for a change.

He had spent four years with Marquette and Steve Wojciechowski, the head coach who had recruited him since his sophomore year of high school. He played 124 games at Marquette and played through a left wrist injury as a junior that required surgery in the summer. Despite a nagging left knee injury, John averaged 8.2 points and 5.2 rebounds as a senior and finished with 191 career blocks, the second-most in program history.

"Coach Wojciechowski was one of the first people in our gym when it came to Theo, and I know what that meant to him and the way he latched on to Wojo," Tuchscherer said. "Theo was very loyal to him."

Coach K in Chapel Hill: Remembering Mike Krzyzewski's greatest moments in the Dean Dome

Wojciechowski, a former Duke point guard and longtime assistant coach under Krzyzewski, was fired in March of 2021 after seven years with the program and replaced with Shaka Smart.

"I'm good," John told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. "I'm ready to move on. I did my four years."

Jon Scheyer, Duke's 34-year-old coach in waiting, remembers the moment John entered the transfer portal.

"We found out we had a chance to get Theo, Coach (K) literally almost got out of his seat and he jumped at it," Scheyer said. "We all felt that way, it was unanimous."

John had met Krzyzewski the year before when Marquette practiced at Cameron Indoor Stadium after beating North Carolina in late February, but it was associate head coach Chris Carrawell who first reached out to him about playing his final season in Durham.

Carrawell, a member of the Blue Devils' 1999 Final Four team, had been an assistant at Marquette during John's freshman year before returning to his alma mater in 2018.

"When he originally first hit me up he was just reaching out to see how I was doing, where my head was at, and as soon as I entered the portal he hit me up again, like 'all right, let's talk for real now,'" John said earlier this season. "Just the relationship and how pure it was and how it was already set way back when...and when Coach K called, it's hard to say no."

John entered the transfer portal on April 14 and was officially a Blue Devil within the next 48 hours. Less than two months later, Coach K announced he would retire after the upcoming season.

It was during a subsequent visit to Duke's campus that John realized his place in history.

"We were sitting at dinner with Coach K and my sister mentioned that I was his last recruit, his last commit and it all just kind of sunk it," John said. "To be the last guy that coach recruited, the last piece to the puzzle, I mean, it's an honor. Now it's up to me to perform. I have to show that I'm worth it."

Loyal to his role

Coming off a 13-11 campaign and missing the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1995, Duke entered the 2021-22 season with an elite freshman class that included a trio of five-star talent in Paolo Banchemo, A.J. Griffin and Trevor Keels. But the Blue Devils needed depth in the frontcourt, someone with experience to play behind 7-foot sophomore center Mark Williams. A player with confidence and a little bit of an attitude. Someone who would push Williams but also make an impact when he's on the court.

"For Theo, especially when I'm in the game, he's always talking to me - about rebounding, about defending, he's always just keeping me in check, trying to see where my head's at, just sort of being that leader," Williams said. "He's been great for us. He's always pushing me to be the best player I can be."

John is the oldest player on a young roster with eight players under 21. His teammates jokingly nicknamed him "Uncle" and he's embraced that role and his place in the Duke basketball family.

"He doesn't really sit down much when he's on the sidelines," Scheyer said. "But he's always pushing them, telling them to keep going and to get better. The guys look up to him, you know, like a big brother."

But things haven't always been easy for Duke's big brother this season.

John's minutes dipped dramatically at the start of ACC play, averaging 5 minutes in the first four games. Even his coaches acknowledged that his confidence on the court had been shaken.

"I think one of the biggest things I've learned this season is to be at peace with where you are in your process," John said. "Being comfortable without being complacent."

He refound his confidence in a Jan. 15 win over N.C. State, hitting all four of his shots and finishing with a season-high 10 points, two rebounds and a block while getting to the foul line twice.

"He was looking to compete and it just came to him," Krzyzewski said after the 88-73 win. "He can be a key factor for us, there's really no question about that."

Since that game against the Wolfpack, John is averaging 13 minutes per game and scored in every contest except one - a 71-69 win on Jan. 25 over Clemson. He had a season-high three blocks in a 69-68 loss on Feb. 7 to Virginia, a game that threw into question Duke's legitimate chances of winning a national title this season.

It was also a reminder of the role John will have to play in the coming months.

"We are going to need Theo," Carrawell said. "These games are getting a lot more physical and as you get into March, these teams you're going to have to beat are going to have a high level of physicality and athleticism that Theo brings. He can help us. That's why we brought him here."

Mark Williams redeems himself in Duke's last-second win over Wake Forest

By Brendan Marks, The Athletic (February 16, 2022)

DURHAM, N.C. – Sorry, will.i.am, but Mark Williams will not relent.

He might want to, sure. Wouldn't you? But as the loudspeakers inside Cameron Indoor Stadium reverberate with electronic beats and pumping bass, then the rapper's lyrics – I wanna scream, and shout, and let it all out – Williams doesn't succumb. So, he doesn't scream. Doesn't shout. Nope. Just a smug, subtle grin that slowly turns into a (quite well-timed) head bob.

At present, there are 0.4 seconds left on the clock, and Williams is basically underneath Wake Forest's basket. That precise positioning should not be lost on anyone because it is, more or less, exactly where Williams stood at the end of Duke's last home game ... when he lost track of his man, who promptly buried a game-winning 3 to deliver Duke its fourth loss this season. Ouch. Williams took the blame for that mental miscue – disproportionately so, if we're being honest – and flat-out owned any postgame outrage.

Nice to be on the other side of that scenario, huh?

And though Duke's last-second 76-74 win over Wake Forest on Tuesday – emphasis on the "last-second" nature of it – certainly was a 180-degree shift from the Virginia debacle, it also represented more. Like, say, Williams' poetic page turn from scapegoat to GOATED and this team's ability to get hit in the face, bleed out a 15-2 opponent's run and then stitch up its lip before the shape is gone entirely. This was Duke, one week after arguably its sorriest moment of the season, flipping the script on what it takes to survive.

Or maybe, finally learning how to.

"We've been in a lot of situations where we haven't been successful in closing out close games, so I think tonight, even in the huddle, we knew we were gonna have to win," Williams said. "Then that last play, having the last shot, it's knowing time and score. Worst-case scenario it's OT, but best-case scenario we get two points – and the best-case scenario happened."

So, about those two points. The two points. After leading by as many as 19 early in the second half, Duke allowed Wake Forest to claw its way back into the contest. Some of that was Wake Forest's doing, like Dallas Walton's trio of 3s and Jake LaRavia's general scoring prowess, but it was also very much Duke dooming itself with poor decisions. In the final two minutes alone ...

- A.J. Griffin forced up a 3 unnecessarily early in the shot clock ... before turning it over.
- Trevor Keels rejected a call for timeout from the bench, split two defenders ... then turned it over with an errant pass.
- Wendell Moore, stalling for time, got pushed back against the midcourt line ... and committed an over-and-back turnover.
- And Williams, who had committed only one other personal foul all night, was called for a questionable foul with 20 seconds left ... that sent Wake Forest to the line for the tying free throws.

Not great. Like, at all.

"We got a little panicked down the stretch," associate head coach Jon Scheyer said, "just with making quick plays."

Uh, yeah. But with 17.5 seconds left, after Wake Forest's Alondes Williams made both foul shots to tie the score, Duke had a chance to undo all those unfortunate mishaps. To prove it can play older than its age suggests. (Per KenPom, Duke is still No. 336 nationally in experience, at 1.08 years on average of college basketball.)

That Duke was in this position at all absent coach Mike Krzyzewski only added to the wackiness of the situation. Duke's head coach, in his third-to-last game stalking the sideline inside Cameron Indoor, seemed off from the opening seconds Tuesday night and was attended to by team trainers several times in the first half. His halftime stroll back to the locker room was slow, even by his typical standard.

"We went back at halftime, and clearly Coach wasn't himself. He wasn't right," Scheyer said. "We just told the team he needs to focus on taking care of him, and we need to step up and come out in the second half and do what we need to do."

So when Duke came back out after intermission, Krzyzewski wasn't with his team. (His wife, Mickie, also disappeared from her customary seat in the stands.) Off went Scheyer, sliding over 15 inches and switching titles on the fly, from "coach-in-waiting" to "acting head coach." A temporary promotion, at least until it becomes permanent eight weeks from now.

But the point is, as Duke built its 19-point margin early in the second half, then watched it all disappear, it did so without its Hall of Fame coach on the bench. (It turns out Krzyzewski was still in the building, receiving treatment and watching from the bowels of the arena.) That also meant, with 17 seconds left, Scheyer got his first taste of a true high-stakes situation. One call, for all the marbles.

He went to his ace.

"The main thing was we wanted to get Paolo (Banchemo) attacking downhill," Scheyer said. "Paolo attacking downhill is always a good thing for us."

And after he scored 13 second-half points, despite zero in the first half, you can understand why. Credit to Scheyer going to the reliable thing, but also: What, you're not going to give it to your 6-foot-10, 250-pound projected top-three NBA Draft pick?

Pssssh. Yeah, OK.

So Banchemo got the ball and isolated near midcourt. After a brief exchange with Griffin, Banchemo got it back, and with only a few seconds left to play – thank you, Cameron Crazies, for that loud second-by-second countdown – put up a layup high off the glass. "It felt good off the hand," Banchemo later said. Good as it felt, though, and sure as it looked, nothing could be so simple on a night like this. Instead, the ball hit plum in the center of the front iron, taking a baby hop off the rim and into midair.

Under one second, loose ball, game tied. Everything, in that instant, was equal. Entirely quiet, save for the clank of the ball off the rim.

Until Williams flew into the frame, using every inch of his 7-foot-7 frame, hit the ball from his left hand to his right, then dunked it through the net.

"Big Fella came in and dunked it," Moore said, flashing a wide smile. "He brought us home, like he did all game."

The clock flashed 0.2 seconds as officials reviewed – then confirmed – the call. No basket interference, much to the chagrin of the Demon Deacons and head coach Steve Forbes. "That's your biggest fear," Forbes said. "A tip-in or an offensive rebound on a play like that." But as the referees replayed the situation at the scorer's table, assistant coach Nolan Smith stood a few feet away and emphatically flicked his pointer finger downward. Good basket, he was willing into existence. And it worked.

But after the clock was reset to 0.4 seconds – technically enough time to catch and release a full-court heave – there went Williams, strolling and strutting to beneath the basket. His job on the subsequent inbounds would be to prevent the long pass, although it never came. (Major props to Damari Monsanto, though, for the closest full-court, side-armed, whipped prayer of a shot this reporter has ever seen – not that it would have counted, due to time, but Monsanto's shot-put hit the rim and rolled out.)

Rewind to right before that last shot, though, before victory was officially decided but all but certain. Look at Williams, bopping his head, a toothy smile practically begging to explode into a full-blown celebration. But he doesn't. He listens to will.i.am and sees the happy student section, then refocuses on the final play. Then it ends, and his job is done – but only then, and not a second before.

Asked later about what he saw on the game-winning play, Williams described his positioning to crash the glass and potentially secure a rebound. It was technical. True. But then he also said this: "Right place, right time."

Telling on Tuesday, sure. But for Duke as a whole? That wisdom also feels particularly applicable. Because Duke wasn't perfect against Wake Forest. Far from it. But it won anyway, which is more than you can say about this team when facing similar scenarios in the past. And that Williams, who was on the wrong end of one of these moments just a week ago, could turn things around so quickly?

Well, it's the sort of small step you notice in the continuous climb to March.

Only time will tell if Duke's growth matches up with Williams' reaction to his game-winning shot: subtle or something worth screaming and shouting about.

Coach K, the Team Builder

By Michael Rosenberg, Sports Illustrated (February 15, 2022)

Chip Engelland has pulled off a rare basketball double: He has won with Gregg Popovich and lost with Mike Krzyzewski. Engelland has been a Spurs assistant under Pop for 17 years, winning two championships and establishing himself as one of the best shooting coaches in the world. But four decades ago he was a Duke forward during Krzyzewski's first three years at the school, when the Blue Devils finished twice with losing records and never made the NCAA tournament.

Nobody, including Engelland, knew then that Krzyzewski would become one of the best basketball coaches ever. But years of seeing Popovich's greatness firsthand in San Antonio and Coach K's from afar have helped him understand how he did.

"They're thinking about the team all the time," Engelland says. "They're just trying to figure out how everything's gonna work together. And that could be from the walk-on players at Duke or the Spurs' two-way players. Those are all important decisions. It's not just: How do we handle the star? They're thinking about the walk-on player who may not play a minute that season."

This sounds so basic as to be unremarkable. But Krzyzewski's success does not come from what he does with X's and O's. It is his ability to shape people into a team—to understand that the last man on the bench might be at the center of the social circle, that the guy playing the best might not be playing hardest, that one player who is struggling might need encouragement while another who is struggling needs to be chewed out. Every interaction matters.

There are many ways to illustrate Krzyzewski's achievements. Five national titles. Twelve Final Fours. Almost 1,200 wins, more than any coach in Division I history. But this might explain him best: In Krzyzewski's 41 years at Durham (not counting this season), the Blue Devils have missed just five NCAA tournaments. One was in 1994-95, when Krzyzewski took a leave of absence because of back surgery and the team, which started 9-3, fell apart. Another was last season, when COVID-19 kept players and coaches from interacting as closely as they usually do. And the other three were his first three seasons at Duke, when he was mostly coaching players he had inherited. Even with the bulk of a team that made the Elite Eight the year before, Krzyzewski went 17-13 his first season. He followed that with two losing seasons.

But give him the face time with players he wanted, and Krzyzewski has almost always been unstoppable.

Mike Tissaw, who was one of the holdovers in the early years, says when Krzyzewski's first big recruiting class showed up, "It just dawned on me: Hey, you know, he has just always needed the kinds of players that he wants. And we haven't been those players, for the most part."

Krzyzewski had a different connection with that 1982 recruiting class, which featured Johnny Dawkins, Mark Alarie and Jay Bilas. It wasn't favoritism. The bond was genuine: "We're probably, early on, not as comfortable with him," Engelland says. "He's getting to know us on the fly. When you've been in everybody's living room when they're in high school, there's a closeness there."

Krzyzewski's Final Four teams in the 1980s were often depicted as scrappy overachievers, a lazy portrayal stemming from the fact that some prominent Blue Devils were white. (The '90-'91 Duke team that stunned UNLV in the NCAA Final Four had more lottery picks, three, than the Runnin' Rebels.) His recent teams have had so many one-and-done NBA stars that critics have wondered how much coaching is really involved. But through the years, Krzyzewski's greatest skill has been constant: He is a master at getting everybody in his program to do what he thinks they need to do.

Krzyzewski announced his pending retirement last June, shortly after rival Roy Williams of North Carolina had retired, and there was immediate speculation that name, image and likeness rules were sending the old guard out. But Krzyzewski has supported the new rules. He has pushed college basketball to modernize for years. He bristled at any implication that he couldn't handle change, and rightfully so: No basketball coach in history weathered so much so well.

When Krzyzewski took the Duke job, in 1980, there was no shot clock. When he first led the Blue Devils to the Final Four, in '86, there was no three-point line. He thrived when the game was dominated by seniors and then when freshmen ruled; before cellphones and in the social media age.

Krzyzewski is demanding and can go f-bomb for f-bomb with any coach in America. But what separates him from his mentor, Bob Knight, is his adaptability. Tissaw remembers thinking Coach K was "brilliant" when it came to teaching man-to-man, his long-preferred defense. But in 2015, Krzyzewski realized star freshmen Tyus Jones, Justise Winslow and Jahliil Okafor wouldn't stick around long enough to allow Duke to develop into a great man-to-man team. He started sprinkling in some zone, and the team won the national title.

Knight proudly called himself "an anachronism. . . I'm 20 years behind the times"—and that was before he turned 40. Krzyzewski is 75, and his feet are planted firmly in 2022. He watches Duke film until he has peace of mind and watches his Chicago Bears on Sundays. His current team could seize his sixth national title—more than Knight and Dean Smith combined to win.

Coaching, especially on the collegiate level, requires a combination of manipulation and trust. The trust must come first. When he arrived at Duke, taking over after Bill Foster left for South Carolina, Krzyzewski went after some of the nation's top recruits and whiffed on all of them. He later blamed himself, saying, "We were recruiting too many people." He did not make that mistake again.

Even in the one-and-done era, with so much turnover on rosters, Coach K has arguably been the most selective recruiter in the country. Players know he does not throw scholarships around like candy. He makes an offer only when he really wants somebody. That faith builds the trust that serves as the foundation of his teams.

Krzyzewski is as competitive and feisty as the worst-behaved coaches, but self-aware enough not to be one of them. More than once he has sparred with the Duke student newspaper, *The Chronicle*, but he has apologized. He is relentlessly gracious in defeat, visiting the locker room of No. 14 seed Mercer to congratulate the Bears on beating his team in the 2014 tournament, and he can be charmingly self-deprecating and funny, too. A reporter once asked him whether he was a big karma guy, to which Krzyzewski responded: "A karma guy? I'm a Polish guy."

If the public persona was a recruiting tool, it was an effective one, and Krzyzewski has not let his image get in the way of his program. He timed his retirement announcement to give Duke time to form a succession plan—his former guard and current assistant, Jon Scheyer, will take over—but swore he would keep the focus on the season. For the 42nd straight year, he has done it.

Engelland knew his young coach ran exceptionally well-structured practices, and he remembers this, too: "He would stop it at the perfect time. The great coaches don't overtalk." Players did not have to step on the court before practice, but if they did, they had to work. The coach's favorite play, even then, was the charge, because it brought three levels of success: drawing a foul, forcing a turnover and making the opponent wary of driving to the basket again. Engelland does not remember a lot of "Knutie Rockne speeches." Once, before the Blue Devils played powerful Louisville in 1982, Krzyzewski turned out the locker room lights, entered with a candle and told his team they were not there to praise the Cardinals, they were there to beat them. They lost by 38.

As the defeats accumulated, Tissaw recalls, "A fairly influential faculty member, whom I liked a lot, actually said, 'I can guarantee that Coach K will not be here within the next year or two.'" Krzyzewski, who knew how precarious his standing was, has credited then AD Tom Butters for sticking with him. In January of Krzyzewski's fourth season—with Duke unranked, in the middle of a four-game losing streak and coming off a fifth straight loss to North Carolina—Butters gave him a five-year extension.

Dawkins's recruiting class saved Krzyzewski. It also gave him credibility with everyone who came after. In retrospect, what is remarkable about K's early years is that he was always himself, even when the whole campus seemed to want somebody else. The players on K's first teams did not reach the same heights as Christian Laettner or Shane Battier, but they got the same coaching.

"Pat Conroy, the writer, said, 'Losing teams don't have reunions,'" Engelland says. "And there's something wrong with that, but it is true."

In lieu of reunions, in many years players could go watch their coach and their alma mater in the Final Four and enjoy the reflected glory their successors provided. Duke talks about its "brotherhood," and cynics wince, but Engelland and his teammates are proof of it. Krzyzewski did not recruit them. They did not win much for him. And yet . . .

"They could be No. 1 in the country," Engelland says, "and if you wrote him a thank-you note, whether it was for tickets or just you know, Hey, Coach, just want to let you know, I'm playing here, and thanks, he would write you back. It was incredible."

The banners will remain long after Krzyzewski stops coaching. The letters will, too.

Duke makes sure Coach K enjoys his final game at Chapel Hill

By Brendan Marks, The Athletic (February 6, 2022)

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. – Champion bus No. 3,086 is, if nothing else, direct.

As it rounded its final turn Saturday afternoon – a left off Skipper Bowles Drive into the back parking lot of the Dean Smith Center – and rolled down the sloping hill that is UNC’s loading dock, Duke’s game-day transportation came to a sudden (yet somehow soft) stop. Heat was still permeating off those rows of rubber tires, the bus barely shifted into park, when the front door slid open and disembarking began.

First came Duke’s staffers and team managers, bounding down the bus steps and sprinting back to the underbelly to unpack: foam rollers, black duffel bags stuffed with jerseys, orange Gatorade coolers and more. Then came the players. Freshman Stanley Borden was the first to emerge, followed by A.J. Griffin, scout team guard Spencer Hubbard and the rest thereafter. Next were the assistant coaches: Jon Scheyer, Chris Carrawell, Nolan Smith. And lastly, for the 42nd and final time, Mike Krzyzewski. As he spun off the bus and into the bowels of the Smith Center, an overflowing black folder of notes firmly clenched in his left fist, it was 4:14 p.m.

Just in time, right? Almost two hours, to the minute, before tipoff of the greatest rivalry in college sports: North Carolina vs. Duke.

And though all these games are special, all of them lauded (and understandably so) for these two shades of blue-tinted laundry, this one still stood out. Will stand out. Was always going to stand out. Because since 1980, when Krzyzewski was first hired in Durham, he has made this annual 8-mile passage, bringing with him some of the best teams and players the sport has seen. Christian Laettner, Grant Hill, Jay Williams, JJ Redick – all have made this drive, sometimes even with the same chauffeur, just for the chance to compete under Krzyzewski in Chapel Hill. (The chance to silence UNC’s crowd – its student section chanted, “Fuck Coach K” when Krzyzewski first appeared – is a bonus.) There have been wins. There have been losses. But there has always been another game.

And there still will be, next spring ... just not with Krzyzewski on the sideline.

That fact, despite Coach K’s attempts at minimizing this season’s sentimentality, ensured Saturday’s game was always going to stand out just that little bit more. Someone, like Wendell Moore Jr. did two seasons ago, will always steal the spotlight – come on down, Mr. Griffin – but Krzyzewski’s shadow was going to be tied to Saturday night, regardless of the result. “I mean, obviously none of us went up and told him, ‘We’re gonna win this for you,’” Moore said, “but on the inside, we wanted to do this for Coach because he really deserves it.”

Consider it done and then some. Win the game for Krzyzewski? Pssh. How about “completely crush our archrivals” for Krzyzewski?

Because that is what happened. The final score – an 87-67 shellacking that ties for the second-largest road margin of victory over UNC in the Krzyzewski era – doesn’t even fully capture how dominant the Blue Devils were. Not since North Carolina’s infamous 8-20 season during the 2001-02 season have the Tar Heels been so properly thumped. But first-half leads of 13-2 and 31-8 (!!) do, indeed, indicate a thumping. A terrible lopsidedness, really. (To the two North Carolina fans smoking cigarettes just down the road after the game, outside the entrance to the Kenan-Flagler Business School: We get it. Drag away.)

“I thought we started out so well,” Krzyzewski said. “We really won the first 12 minutes of the first half.”

Again, that’s putting it lightly. If there was hope for North Carolina entering Saturday’s contest, considering the four- or five-to-zero imbalance of future first-round picks on each team’s roster, it was to feed All-ACC-caliber big man Armando Bacot early and often, then to surround him with several 3-point shooters. Well ... about that. Bacot, initially matched up with Paolo Banchemo defensively, drew two fouls in the first 3:05 of the game, sending him to the bench in short order. And other than Brady Manek, who drained six of his 10 3-point attempts, the rest of UNC’s roster combined to make just three of its other 12 deep attempts.

Strike one and strike two.

No strike three was needed because the Tar Heels were already out.

At the risk of oversimplifying this sort of blowout, things were mostly decided in the first 12 minutes. With Bacot parked on the bench, Duke drove to the rim at will. The Blue Devils’ first basket after Bacot exited? An emphatic dunk from Griffin, who was only just getting started. By the time Bacot returned later in the first half, the damage was done; Duke led by 19, a margin it mostly maintained the rest of the game.

Now, if there was one instance when Duke’s vice grip on victory was even slightly less strong, it was over the last eight minutes before halftime. After going up 31-8, Duke stumbled a bit by allowing UNC to rip off a 20-8 run of its own. But again, that North Carolina could end the first half on a plus-12 stretch and still be down 11 at the break sorta says it all, no?

“I just told them (at halftime) that we won the first 12 and they won the next eight. If they start out the first four like the last eight, they’re going to beat us,” Krzyzewski said of his halftime message. “But if we start out the first four like we did the first 12, then we’re going to win. In our really good games, we’ve come out well in the second half. Tonight, we came out great – because of A.J.”

“Great” doesn’t even seem gratuitous enough to describe what Griffin did next. Because “great” is when you take an 11-point lead into halftime, on the road, against your most hated rival. What Griffin did? Ordinary human beings just don’t – can’t – do those sorts of things.

As he is quickly proving, though, Griffin is anything but ordinary. In Duke’s road win a week ago over Louisville, Griffin’s five 3-pointers ended the Cardinals’ hopes of a comeback. Against Notre Dame on Monday, in a game in which Duke scored 57 points, Griffin had “only” 13, plus a season-high seven rebounds. Ho-hum. Yet for all of Griffin’s stupendous performances of late, it’s hard to argue any was more impressive or impactful than his first 2 minutes, 46 seconds after intermission. The game log reads as follows:

Made jumper by Griffin.
Made 3-point jumper by Griffin.
Made 3-point jumper by Griffin.
Made jumper by Griffin.

Not a typo. Just your casual, totally normal, 10-0 personal run to end whatever spark North Carolina thought it had. As Krzyzewski put it, “A.J. exploded.”

“Reading the defender and whatever he gives you, just let it fly or take it to the hole,” Griffin said when asked what he saw during that stretch. OK, then. Must’ve really liked what he saw.

And to some extent, he should’ve. North Carolina opened the game with Bacot defending Banchemo, but when early foul trouble flubbed up that plan, Hubert Davis shifted his strategy and put Leaky Black, UNC’s best individual defender, on Banchemo instead. And that worked decently well; Banchemo had five points in the first minute and a half of the game, then didn’t score again until midway through the second half. The problem, though, is that Black is just one person. Banchemo and Griffin make ... two.

You see North Carolina’s dilemma here?

“Unfortunately, we couldn’t divide Leaky into two players. We just didn’t have an answer for those two,” Davis said. “At the end of the day, Paolo and A.J. were better than anybody that we had tonight.”

Back to the moment, though, Griffin’s outburst pushed the lead back over 20, and any momentum UNC had built was quickly undone. From then on, the last 17 or so minutes of the game, it was only a question of how large a lead the Blue Devils could build. (The answer is 28, by the way, which came with 3:53 remaining. The Smith Center stands had cleared out long before then, as you might expect.)

In the end, Griffin set a career high in scoring with 27 points, cementing himself as the star of the night. But even if he weren’t as humble as he is, you already know where Griffin’s praise was going after the game: back to Krzyzewski. “I could tell everyone on the team, including Coach, really wants to do something special for him, especially his last game (here),” the star freshman said. “We’re just happy we got it done for him. For real.”

Take a longer look at Griffin’s last quote, though, and see if you spot the double meaning. Yes, of course Duke’s players understand the enormity of this rivalry in the larger college basketball landscape and in the context of their coach helping create it. Duke-UNC always delivers, but a large part of the reason is that Krzyzewski built a program capable of holding up one half of that bargain. Even considering the storied history between these schools, “something special” is not just one win, even if it is against that team from down the road. Rivalry wins matter, of course, and have throughout Krzyzewski’s tenure. This win will undoubtedly be a fond memory in hindsight.

Yet at Duke, “special” carries a certain standard, one that takes the form of the five blue-and-white banners hanging in the Cameron Indoor rafters.

So, yes, a special night. One that will be remembered, celebrated and rejoiced for years, even after Krzyzewski’s sixth-floor office ceases to be the center of Duke’s basketball universe. But Saturday night in Chapel Hill was more than that, too.

It was a night when Duke very much looked like a team capable of achieving that superior special, too. When, before the nation’s watchful eye, “Sights on Six” went from a catchphrase to an attainable aspiration.

For that reason, that longer-term focus – and, you know, the fact that it hosts Virginia on Monday – this won’t be a win Duke can relish for a long time. “Really,” Moore said, smiling, “the only time we have to enjoy this is from here back on the bus ride to Durham.” Fair enough, then. In that case, better hope champion bus No. 3,086 takes its time driving home.

Or, the next best thing, takes its time leaving. When Griffin finally finished his postgame interview in the Smith Center’s visiting locker room, the team bus was already on the proverbial tarmac, ready to depart. At 8:11 p.m., the sun having set long ago – the feel outside by then was damn close to Duke’s final margin of victory – the bus sat there idling and spitting out smoke into the chilly sky. A minute later, Griffin ran out of the loading-dock exit, shuffling speedily up the slope in his warmups and black sneakers. As he boarded, the sliding door closed right behind him, likely before he could even take a seat.

Then, in the reversal of its afternoon ritual, the bus began its slow ascent out of the loading dock and Chapel Hill at large. It hit the real road, a right turn onto Skipper Bowles, just as the clock was flipping to 8:14 p.m.

Talk about an ideal four-hour business trip.

Wendell Moore Jr.'s road from Dean Dome legend to leader of Duke men's basketball

By Jonathan Levitan, Duke Chronicle (February 3, 2022)

It only takes a moment for a legend to be born in the Tobacco Road rivalry. For Wendell Moore Jr., it took less than a second.

Thanks to a furious Duke comeback and a breathtaking end to regulation, college basketball's most storied rivalry was tied at 96 with 6.6 seconds on the clock in overtime. Naturally, the ball wound up in the hands of sophomore guard and eventual ACC Player of the Year Tre Jones, whose buzzer-beating jumper had just given the Blue Devils an extra five minutes of life in Chapel Hill.

With the clock winding down and defenders collapsing onto him, Jones hoisted the potential winning shot from midrange. In what already appeared an instant classic, it only made sense that Jones should provide the storybook conclusion.

But when Jones' jumper fell short, missing everything, a streaking Moore caught the errant shot under the hoop and put it back up and in. By the time the ball fell through the net and the freshman forward managed to turn back toward the court, the buzzer had already sounded, and Moore had already etched his name into history.

"It really just means everything to me," Moore said after the game. "[As] a kid growing up from Charlotte watching this game for 18 years of my life and getting a chance to be a part of it with a group of guys like this, and just the things we overcame this game meant everything to us. We knew this was a big game for us and this was a game that we had to win."

Initially, as he stood facing the court beneath the basket, Moore looked to be in disbelief, briefly pausing as if to make sure he wasn't dreaming. Then, under the bright lights of North Carolina's famed Dean Dome, Moore had his moment.

It took only that moment for Moore's story to begin, but years for it to grow. All this time later—almost two years to the date—Moore will step back into the Dean Dome once again. This time, though, he'll take the court as Duke's captain and cornerstone. This time, those lights are shining brighter than ever.

January 2021

For as grand as the start of Moore's story was, his next chapter drew far fewer eyes. Much of his sophomore season played out in front of empty stands and cardboard cutouts, a far cry from that moment in Chapel Hill.

Heading into the new season, expectations for Moore—a preseason All-ACC selection—were considerably higher. But it was fellow sophomore Matthew Hurt, followed closely by tantalizing freshman Jalen Johnson, who made the leap for a Duke team in need of a star. Moore ended up taking a backseat in a rather surprising turn.

"Wendell [Moore] is really struggling," said head coach Mike Krzyzewski after an early-season loss to Illinois. "God bless him. He's just really struggling."

After three rocky games, Moore ceded his starting spot and went scoreless in his first two games off the bench. His outlook seemed bleak until a January matchup with Boston College: with Duke down 16 early, the sophomore forward dumped a career-high 25 points on the Eagles to lift Duke to an 83-82 win, including an all-important baseline jumper with under a minute remaining.

In a season that, by and large, saw Moore struggle, his performance that night in a deafeningly quiet Cameron Indoor Stadium proved to be a beacon of light in an otherwise trying campaign.

"We're a different team [with Moore playing well]," said acting head coach Jon Scheyer after the game. "His versatility is something that we've missed."

Scheyer was right: Moore never truly got it going for a prolonged stretch in 2020-21, and neither did the Blue Devils, who ended up missing out on their first NCAA tournament in a quarter-century.

In a February matchup against the Tar Heels in Durham, Moore's solid play gave his team a chance to tie the game on the last possession. In stark contrast to his game-winner the year prior, Moore was called for a travel as he closed in on the hoop, and North Carolina walked out of Cameron Indoor Stadium with the win.

There was no signature moment this time. Heading into his junior season, the lights shone dimmer for Moore and the Blue Devils.

November 2021

Something changed for Moore between the end of his sophomore season and the beginning of his junior year. As he took the court against Kentucky for a top-10 matchup in Madison Square Garden to open the season, the same player who had failed to seize the spotlight a year earlier looked incredibly well-prepared to handle the bright lights.

Duke won that night and Moore impressed, even if his 12 points played second fiddle to breakout debuts from freshmen Trevor Keels and Paolo Banchero. Still, the difference in Moore's on-court presence was hard to miss.

In one fell swoop, both Duke and Moore seemed to announce, "I'm back." But for the junior captain, this had been months in the making.

"I think for me, that confidence really started in the offseason," Moore said later in the season. "Basically, once our season ended last year, it wasn't really down time for me. I was right back on campus with Coach Will [Stephens], our strength coach, just doing as much work as we can to prepare for this season. That's really where the confidence comes from."

The redefinition of Moore's game mainly happened behind closed doors, far from the grandeur of Madison Square Garden. The hints were there throughout the preseason: heaps of praise from the coaching staff, his appointment as captain, rumblings of a dominant performance in a not-so-secret scrimmage against Villanova. All signs pointed towards a remarkably confident player.

The rumors were true, and it didn't take Duke fans long to put their faith in Moore once again. Just days later, with Duke going up against Army in a game rife with other storylines and noise, he stole the show by posting the fifth triple-double in school history.

By the time Duke toppled top-ranked Gonzaga in Las Vegas—Moore posted 20 points, six rebounds and six assists—he had established himself as arguably the most important player on one of the best teams in the country.

"He spent seven weeks this April and May changing how he ran, how he walked," said Krzyzewski after the win. "He busted his butt with our medical people. He's an inch taller, he's a better athlete, his force and how he runs has changed and he took a look at himself and said, 'These are the things [I need to improve on], how I walk, how I run,' and it's worked out. But you have to be open to that, and then you have to work."

"He's worked really hard," Krzyzewski added. "That kid is really having a hell of a year. He's my captain."

February 2022

After a fairytale start to the season, things got tougher for Moore and Duke in 2022 as conference play picked up. The Blue Devils fell twice in four games, dropping a pair of ACC matchups against Miami and Florida State by one possession each.

"I really think that all starts with me," Moore said after the loss to Miami. "Tonight, I didn't lead the guys the way I'm supposed to. Up three with 30 seconds left, I feel like, as a leader, I can't let our team lose that game. So really I kind of put this one on me as a leader."

If it wasn't already clear, those losses showed once and for all that this Duke team goes as its junior captain goes. Moore couldn't convert on the final possession of overtime against Florida State nor could he sink the go-ahead shot against the Hurricanes, but there is a reason that the ball wound up in his hands on both occasions.

And so, as his junior-year honeymoon ends and Duke's late-season challenges begin to present themselves, Moore comes back to where it all began, the spot of his moment frozen in time.

When asked at September's ACC Tipoff to name his favorite stadium excluding Cameron Indoor, Moore didn't hesitate: "Non-Cameron? Dean Dome."

Things likely won't go down the same way they did in 2020, but then again, Moore is no longer the player he was then. This time, he won't find the spotlight on him suddenly.

The lights are already shining.

Another step forward for AJ Griffin, Duke's best shooter with much more to offer

By Luke DeCock, Raleigh News & Observer (January 23, 2022)

DURHAM -- It's crazy to realize that AJ Griffin may just be growing into the full spectrum of his talent and ability. It's not crazy to think that if he can stay healthy – he missed almost all of the last two seasons, and the start of his freshman year at Duke – his NBA ceiling may be as high, or perhaps even higher, than that of his more heralded teammate, Paolo Banchero.

It'll take years to figure that out, and Banchero will certainly and justifiably have the advantage in this spring's draft, but this much is clear now: Duke's ceiling, already high, is going to be as high as Griffin can take it. As the right knee injury he suffered in October is increasingly behind him, as Griffin continues to build confidence, it's obvious that he still has so much more to offer: As a shooter, as a slasher, as a long, athletic defender.

Griffin has had some impressive games lately – Duke doesn't go on that 22-1 run at Wake Forest without him earlier this month, in Griffin's first game as a starter – but Griffin on Saturday almost single-handedly dismantled the Syracuse zone in the first half, helping fill the void left by the injured Trevor Keels and then some in a 79-59 win.

"He was the guy we wanted to play and we didn't guard him," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said. "He got two open looks to open the game. That's inexcusable."

Much has been made of Banchero's ability to maneuver at his size and shooting touch, and for good reason, but Griffin is stouter and quicker without giving that much height away – and also Duke's best long-range shooter and most efficient offensive player. He's shown flashes of all the components of his game at various times, and increasingly Griffin is putting the entire package together.

Griffin outshot Syracuse from long range in the first half – 4-for-6 as the Orange went 2-for-16 – and finished with a season-high five 3-pointers, but it wasn't just the unhesitant shooting Saturday. There was also a deft flip of the ball over his head of Banchero when he found himself falling out of bounds under the basket after an offensive rebound, the sign of a player exploring the space around him on the court.

"I'd really like for him to be even more aggressive," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "A.J. keeps it very simple. He's a very easy guy to play with because he keeps spacing, he plays defense, he makes simple passes. Today, he did a really good job on (Cole) Swider. That's a tough – that perimeter's a very difficult guard. And he's a threat."

That simplicity in Griffin's game is in many ways a sign of his basketball IQ, understanding where to be and where to go without wasted effort. The question for Griffin will be whether his body, after major knee and ankle injuries, can live up to its end of things. With each passing game at Duke, the answer increasingly looks to be yes.

Griffin didn't do as much in the second half, but Duke didn't need him, either. Syracuse was woefully overmatched, the two Boeheim boys combining to miss 20 shots. The Blue Devils pulled away and never looked back.

That's kind of how things are going for Griffin as well.

After playing only 12 games in his final two years of high school, this was, and is, always going to be a process. Griffin's athletic ability and basketball IQ are obvious and unquestioned. What he needs is time. Duke, with its array of weapons, from Banchero to Mark Williams to Wendell Moore Jr., and even with Keels in street clothes Saturday, has the luxury to give Griffin as much time as he needs.

There will come a moment, of course, where Griffin will have to unlock his full potential for Duke to reach its full potential, and that moment is not far off. The first game against North Carolina is a mere two weeks away, and if not then, then in March and possibly April. Either way, his time is coming.

How a team meeting after loss to Miami helped Duke basketball get back on track

By Steve Wiseman, Raleigh News & Observer (January 17, 2022)

DURHAM -- It's possible Jan. 10 could go down as one of the most important days in what will be Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski's final season as the Blue Devils coach.

"We did all of our changes," Krzyzewski said.

At 7 a.m. that day, the coaches and players met for around an hour and 15 minutes of serious, frank discussion. A practice followed in the afternoon.

That night, the players had their own conversation, with team co-captain Wendell Moore speaking up.

"Wendell talked to us," Duke freshman guard Trevor Keels said. "We all said what we had to say. Let's play team basketball from there."

In the midst of all that, the first starting lineup change of the season was decided upon.

And, that night, a non-COVID virus began impacting Krzyzewski so harshly he didn't run the team's practice the following day or coach the team in a win at Wake Forest the next night.

That's a lot of turmoil for a team that had experienced enough success to be considered a Final Four contender.

But Duke had lost 76-74 at home to unranked Miami on Jan. 8. Rare as they are, losses at Cameron Indoor Stadium usually spur the type of discussions and moves that occurred last week.

"We're changing a little bit of the identity," Krzyzewski said, "while we're getting better."

Through all that, Duke posted a 76-64 win at Wake Forest on Wednesday, with associate head coach Jon Scheyer leading the team in Krzyzewski's absence, followed by an 88-73 victory over N.C. State at Cameron on Saturday with Krzyzewski back on the bench.

Changes for the better, for sure.

As No. 6 Duke prepares to play at Florida State on Tuesday night, consider Seminoles coach Leonard Hamilton impressed with the Blue Devils' cohesiveness while changing on the fly.

"This team, in my opinion, is one of the most connected teams I've seen Duke have," Hamilton said Monday. "I've never seen them any better in terms of the execution, the effort and how committed they are."

That commitment faced a true test coming off the loss to Miami. Because of final exam schedules that all teams face in early December, the Blue Devils experienced shorter practices early in the month. A COVID-19 outbreak on the team and staff kept them away from each other after the Christmas holiday and into the first days of the new year.

The strong team bonds built through the offseason began to atrophy from simply being apart.

Duke had its worst shooting night (37.3%) while beating Georgia Tech, 69-57, in its first game of 2022 on Jan. 4. The loss to Miami, where the Blue Devils had but squandered a three-point lead in the final 30 seconds, followed.

The NCAA mandates athletes get one full day off from any team activities per week, so that occurred on Jan. 9.

By early the next morning, the Blue Devils began shoring up any issues that had begun to take hold during a one hour, 15 minute meeting with the coaches.

"A kind of come to Jesus type of thing on how we were going to change and all that," Krzyzewski said. "And then, we had a really good practice that afternoon."

But that wasn't enough. The players, sensing the importance of the moment, had their own discussion to get things out in the open.

The combination of all those talks put Duke back on track for the next two games.

"It definitely helped the team," Banchemo said. "Those were conversations that needed to be had. Us not playing hard. Us not communicating well as a team. All stuff we had to fix. So the meeting really helped because it brought our problems to light and gave us a real opportunity to fix them."

Freshman AJ Griffin replaced sophomore guard Jeremy Roach in the starting lineup at Wake Forest and scored a season-best 22 points. Roach, coming off the bench against Wake and N.C. State, played a combined 42 minutes without turning the ball over once.

Even when Griffin had a tough shooting day, hitting just 1 of 6 shots to score three points against N.C. State, the Blue Devils won handily because sophomore center Mark Williams produced a season-high 19 points while grabbing 11 rebounds and blocking a career-best eight shots.

Steady as a rock, Banchemo scored 24 points against Wake and 21 more against N.C. State.

Krzyzewski said Monday he's happy Moore, a team captain along with senior reserve Joey Baker, regained his voice on the court to keep the communication strong.

Well-connected on offense, Duke produced 23 assists on its 35 made field goals against the Wolfpack.

Defensively, the Blue Devils limited N.C. State to 41.3% shooting, including 5 of 19 (26.2%) on 3-pointers.

A Duke team that relied more on a superior transition game while beating Kentucky and Gonzaga in November is now becoming the all-around team Krzyzewski seeks.

"Before we were really running and we will still run," Krzyzewski said. "But I think we can be a better half court offensive team, and a better half court defensive team."

It's the kind of team Duke will have to be to reach the Final Four and deliver one last NCAA championship before Krzyzewski retires at season's end.

It's just what all the changes and conversations on Jan. 10 were all about.

"We're definitely trending in the right direction as a team," Banchemo said. "We're playing a lot more together, we're communicating better on offense and defense, and we're holding each other accountable, just as a team, and everybody listens to each other. Nobody's stubborn. Nobody doesn't listen. Everyone takes what someone has to say and puts it to use, so we're definitely taking good steps."

Mark Williams' 'tremendous' performance proves he'll deliver when Duke needs him

By Brendan Marks, The Athletic (January 15, 2022)

DURHAM, N.C. – It's some 38 minutes before tipoff, and Mark Williams is rocking. Literally.

Perhaps it's Lil Tecca and Gunna's "Repeat It," blaring over the Cameron Indoor intercom system, that has him in such a good mood. (The song does, as the kids say, slap.) Perhaps it's Duke's impending matchup against NC State, a game in which Williams knows he'll be heavily showcased. But whatever the reason, here Williams is – on the baseline, directly underneath the net nearest the visiting bench – shifting from the balls of his feet to his heels and back again. If all that didn't already say as much, the way he's bobbing his head to the beat confirms it: Yes, the vibes here are very good.

And shouldn't they be? After thoroughly undressing Wake Forest on Wednesday – on the road, without Coach K, no less – Duke suddenly looks like the Death Star version of itself from back in November, when it beat Kentucky and Gonzaga on its way to the nation's No. 1 ranking. If anything, the Blue Devils are even better off now, given the sudden emergence of former five-star recruit A.J. Griffin. But as the program is getting back to its winning ways, much of the fascination has centered on ... well, anyone but its starting center.

Some of that makes sense, considering Duke's other four starters are all projected first-round NBA draft picks in their own right. Here's the thing, though: So is Williams, and for good reason. (For those counting at home, John Calipari's 2010 Kentucky team remains the only one in college basketball history to produce five first-rounders in the same draft ... for now.) Though Williams had scored in single figures in five of Duke's previous eight games, when the Blue Devils have needed him most this season – see: limiting national player of the year candidates Oscar Tshiebwe and Drew Timme – Big Fella always comes through.

It was no different Saturday, as Williams exploited the Manny Bates-sized hole in NC State's starting lineup. (Bates has missed basically the entire season because of a shoulder injury that required surgery.) To steal a line from longtime ACC scribe Brett Friedlander, the Wolfpack are a donut right now, with a giant hole smack dab in the middle. There is a reason, after all, that Kevin Keatts' club cedes 37.5 points in the paint per game and nine times has allowed more than 40 such points. Everyone in the ACC knows this, including Williams and Duke's coaching staff, and attacks it accordingly. Duke was no different, using its season-high 58 points in the paint to roll to an 88-73 win.

That pregame scene with Williams, though, almost proved prescient. The chorus to "Repeat It," Williams' pregame jam? Stayin' up, I get no rest, rest, rest, rest. And though, yes, the musical stylings of Lil Tecca and Gunna likely meant those lyrics in a different sense, they were absolutely applicable to Williams' play against the Wolfpack. The 7-foot-1 center frequently stayed up in the air, blocking NC State's layup attempts, and no, having played nearly 26 minutes, he did not receive much rest. Then again, he didn't need it – not when you're enjoying the success Williams did Saturday. His final stat line: 19 points, a season high; 11 rebounds, more of them offensive (six) than defensive; and eight blocks, a career high and the third most ever by a Blue Devil. In Duke shot-blocking lore, you know you've had a night when "The Landlord" himself tweets: "Love it!!!!" (That Williams had twice as many blocks as Shelden Williams used exclamation points – and that's a lot of exclamation points – is one hell of a cosmic coincidence.)

"He was tremendous," Keatts said of Williams. "I thought he was the difference in the game."

It was evident early – like, second-offensive-possession-of-the-game early – that Williams was, indeed, going to be quite active. He scored Duke's first points, a putback dunk off a missed Paolo Banchemo layup, and set the tone for the rest of the afternoon. If it wasn't clear then that Duke would be playing through its big man, it was minutes later. About 3 1/2 minutes into the game, Trevor Keels made an alley-oop pass to Williams that somehow was slightly overthrown. But Williams tracked it, caught it before it went out and – near the same baseline spot where he danced during warmups – threw a backward bounce pass to a streaking Banchemo behind him. The dunk that followed was nice, but the dime? Sheesh.

"Mark's actually pretty skilled. He's got a good feel for the game. So it wasn't like he just kind of did it randomly – he knew what he was doing," Banchemo said of that play, smirking as he described it. "I knew Mark was gonna save it, and he made a perfect bounce pass right to me. Made it easy on me. Set me right up going to the rim."

Williams had several of his own rim-rattling dunks on the day, including a number of and-1s, but that assist was as impressive as anything he did offensively. Williams knew so, too. When a reporter insinuated after the game that he might have made that bounce blindly, hoping for the best, Williams was quick to correct him. "No, I saw Paolo," he protested, with a gregarious grin. "I didn't want to put too much heat on it where he wouldn't catch it. I mean, I knew he was there. I dropped it off, and he finished it."

Though that might have been Williams' best offensive highlight, frankly, it paled in comparison with his defensive ones. Per KenPom, Williams has the nation's No. 4 individual block percentage, but it's hard to imagine there are three other players in the country doing the sorts of defensive things he is. Williams' program-record 7-foot-7 wingspan makes that possible, but it's his timing that makes it happen. Take his second-half block on Casey Morsell, for example, about 5 1/2 minutes after the break. Duke had already opened the game up by then, leading by 15 at the time, but when Williams slammed Morsell's layup attempt into the floor – like a volleyball spike, but with the "kill" going to NC State's comeback hopes – he all but put a capper on the contest. The Wolfpack rallied multiple times late in the second half to cut the margin to nine, but each of the three times they did so, Duke immediately scored on the subsequent possession to make it a double-digit deficit again.

So, why are those blocks so valuable?

Well, for multiple reasons. The first is, obviously, they prevent an opponent from scoring. Duh. But even more than that, they set a precedent. The next time NC State's players came down the court, do you think they were gleefully driving inside? Heck no. Every time Williams swatted a shot into the stands, it was the physical embodiment of a "Do Not Enter" sign. "Obviously, today it was blocked shots, but other games it might not just be blocked shots," Williams said. "It might be altering a shot, or maybe they don't take it up at all. That sort of thing."

This isn't a high-quality analysis, but keeping points off the scoreboard is good. So, too, is being a disincentive for opposing drives. (It's a bonus when, as Banchemo says, Williams blocks a shot inbounds so Duke can get the rebound and run immediately in transition.) But there's another bonus to those vicious swats, something that can wreck an offensive game plan as well as anything:

They're fun as hell. And the Cameron Crazyes ... well, they like to celebrate such fun. Say, by busting your eardrums with their collective chanting. It's not too much fun to run offense when you can't hear your coach – or your own thoughts.

"Every block gets the crowd into it," Banchemo said. "His is always, like, so emphatic. He cocks back. It's a violent block every single time."

(An aside: After the game, a local columnist suggested that Williams' block on Morsell "had some violence to it," to which Williams replied, "Oh, yeah, for sure." So, he's aware.)

The point is there is no singular benefit to Williams' presence; rather, it's the accumulation of all these different bonuses. Banchemo and Keels even said they change the way they play defense when they know Williams is behind them on the floor. "I put more pressure on the ball," Keels said, "just because I know I've got somebody in the back who's gonna block the shot or clean things up." So when you consider the importance of Duke's defense – which is No. 18 in the nation, per KenPom, in adjusted efficiency – to its lofty season-long goals, Williams' contributions to that defense become magnified. As they well should.

The beauty of Duke's roster, at its best, is still its versatility: that Griffin can play as a camped-out-in-the-corner shooting guard or a small-ball power forward; that Banchemo can play center in spots while also being a primary ballhandler; that Wendell Moore Jr. can defend any position, one through four. And some games, such as against Virginia Tech, playing someone of Williams' size is a disadvantage because of smaller, quicker opponents. But to win six games in March, Duke almost definitely will have to play big at times, too – and, more specifically, need its bigs to come up big. Williams did so against Timme and the Zags, and Saturday against NC State was another example.

It's not an every-night thing because it doesn't need to be.

But the next time Williams plays a team with a big-time center or a team lacking one entirely? Well, in the wise words of Lil Tecca and Gunna: Repeat it.

How Jon Scheyer, Duke basketball's staff persevered without Coach K at Wake

By Steve Wiseman, Raleigh News & Observer (January 14, 2022)

WINSTON-SALEM - The future, for one night anyway, arrived sooner than Mike Krzyzewski, Jon Scheyer or anyone with Duke basketball wanted.

With only about 30 hours notice, Scheyer went from head coach-in-waiting to head coach on the job for Wednesday night's important ACC road game at Wake Forest.

Suffering from a non-COVID virus, Krzyzewski fell ill and didn't lead the team through practice on Tuesday afternoon, leaving his availability for the Wake Forest game in doubt. Many, Scheyer included, held out hope Duke's Hall of Fame coach would make the trip to Winston-Salem on Wednesday.

At the same time, Scheyer prepared as if Krzyzewski wouldn't be there by leading the team through practice. Since Scheyer had been in charge of scouting Wake Forest, he had assistant coach Nolan Smith also get up to speed quickly on the Demon Deacons so he could properly instruct the players during the game.

"Nolan Smith stepped up and crammed basically for, you know, several hours there," Scheyer said, "just to know Wake more and their specials. You could see him yelling out their plays."

All of this happened with Duke coming off a 76-74 loss at home to Miami on Saturday night. The Blue Devils were preparing for their first ACC road game, having squandered a 15-point, second-half lead to lose 71-66 at Ohio State in their only other true road contest this season.

Oh and the players were working their way back into shape after a late December COVID-19 outbreak postponed two games and kept them from practicing for 10 days.

For mid-January, this game at Wake Forest checked plenty of boxes that made it pivotal for the No. 8 Blue Devils.

That Duke emerged with a 76-64 win, allowing a celebratory FaceTime call with Krzyzewski in the Joel Coliseum's visiting locker room, showed the staff cohesion Krzyzewski built that has a good chance to continuing next season when he's retired and Scheyer is the full-time head coach.

"They all came through huge," Duke junior and team co-captain Wendell Moore said. "They had 24 hours to kind of put together this scout. I mean, they did it perfectly. They really gave us all the information we needed on this team."

The 74-year-old Krzyzewski decided last spring that this season would be his last. He made the decision public in early June and Duke chose the 33-year-old Scheyer, already the team's associate head coach, as his successor.

That put Scheyer in a different position this season. Krzyzewski said he's already had Scheyer more involved in duties normally reserved for the head coach as part of the transition.

On Tuesday, the players went through an entire practice without Krzyzewski as he stayed home convalescing from his illness. Smith, associate head coach Chris Carrawell and director of player development Amile Jefferson pulled it together.

"Coach Scheyer and the rest of the staff, they did the work," Banchemo said. "They weren't really worried or really too flustered. They were pretty comfortable."

Then Banchemo, whose talents dictate that he'll be in the NBA and not still at Duke next season when Scheyer is fully in charge, said the words that should ease Blue Devil fans' worries about the future.

"They had it down," Banchemo said. "It felt like a regular practice, honestly. So it was good."

The Blue Devils played far from a perfect game. But the first lineup adjustment of the season paid off big time as AJ Griffin, starting for the first time this season, scored a season-best 22 points.

He and Banchemo (24 points) were unstoppable, at times, in half-court sets that carved up Wake Forest. Duke unleashed a 22-1 run over the final minute of the first half and the first four minutes of the second half to take control.

"Duke did an unbelievable job imposing their will on us at the end of the first half and the beginning of the second half," Wake Forest coach Steve Forbes said. "I thought they were the tougher team when the game was on the line."

The coaching staff, and by extension the team, found itself in a tough situation without its head coach on Tuesday. That Duke persevered bodes well for the rest of this season – and beyond.

A.J. Griffin makes the difference against Virginia Tech, and possibly going forward

By Brendan Marks, The Athletic (December 23, 2021)

DURHAM, N.C. – A high-five? We're getting worked up about ... a high-five?

Damn right we are.

Because, as A.J. Griffin knows well, this high-five was never guaranteed. From your teammates, or your friends, or even your coach, sure, whatever. It's the physical version of, "Nice job." But from a complete stranger, screaming in your face, in a scene and a situation you came oh-so-close to never seeing? Well, yeah, in that case, go buck wild.

And so Griffin did, gratuitously, because he could. With 10 minutes left in No. 2 Duke's eventual 76-65 win over Virginia Tech on Wednesday, Griffin cut right across the paint with the ball and drew contact with Hokies forward Justyn Mutts. As the whistle blew, with Griffin still drifting to his right, he tossed up a falling-away runner – which careened off the glass and deftly down through the net. All hell broke loose ... only to Griffin, it probably sounded more like heaven. It was not a collection of screams, so much, but rather one ridiculous roar, a sonic shockwave screaming throughout Cameron Indoor Stadium.

And Griffin was right at the epicenter. Even better: He was the source.

So he kept drifting – swept up by his own momentum, but also the crowd's – to the far corner of the court, where he flung out his finger and pointed it straight down. Count it! Then, for no reason except cosmic chance, Griffin locked eyes with one young Crazie in particular: a blonde-haired, blue-eyed, bewildered boy absolutely in awe of the man in front of him. Without hesitation, he extended his hand to meet the boy's. High-five. Or, if we're still in the business of translating physical acts into words: hell yeah.

"You know, that's Cameron right there," Griffin said with a grin. "I love the fans. Just a great moment with them."

"Great" is one word for it. But given Griffin's backstory, there are dozens, maybe hundreds of others. This is someone who, before this season, last played a competitive basketball game as a high school junior: in late February of 2020, before the full onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. First, he suffered a dislocated knee during his junior year of high school, and then an ankle injury in what would have been his senior season. Only, because of said second injury, Griffin didn't get a senior season. Instead, he spent the year rehabbing in Tampa with his father, Adrian, an assistant coach for the Toronto Raptors (who last season relocated their operations to Florida in the wake of the pandemic).

Accordingly, Griffin enrolled early at Duke this summer to rehab and recover, to round out his game after a nearly 18-month hiatus. All of which was well and fine until a mid-October practice, in front of plenty of NBA personnel, where he made inadvertent contact with a teammate and fell to the court. He grasped at his knee. Onlookers went silent. Griffin, quickly, started crying. "It was a rough moment," recalled fellow freshman Paolo Banchemo, "for the team as a whole." Less than a month away from Duke's season-opener against Kentucky – in Madison Square Garden, no less, a short train ride from Griffin's hometown of Ossining, N.Y. – Griffin suddenly saw the game he loves pulled out from under him again.

"I never doubted (I would come back)," Griffin said, "but ... you know. You have those thoughts."

Slowly, over the course of the next few weeks, Griffin had to relearn to trust not just his body, but also the things it enables him to do. Those hurdles were as much mental as physical. Jumping is easy, right? But trusting that you're going to land, successfully, and not buckle over again? Much, much, much tougher.

And over time, Griffin did it, although his progress never tracked with public expectations. As a former five-star recruit and projected lottery pick, the consensus was that Griffin should automatically start every game, play 30 minutes, and look like a professional-in-training from Day 1. But that was never feasible, nor fair, given Griffin's unique circumstances. (Plus, considering the talent on this roster, it's not a given he would have started even if he were fully healthy.)

Of late, though, these last few games, Griffin has steadily started assuming his pre-injury form – and we're not talking pre-October setback, but pre-any-injury altogether. Like, back when the son of a former Seton Hall track star (his mother, Audrey) and a 12-year NBA professional (Adrian) could slither like a snake on the court, sprint like a speeding bullet, and jump damn near out of the gym. Griffin had yet to unveil that entire arsenal, but rather flashes: a 3-pointer here, a defensive chase-down there and so on. Almost like a still-in-the-works piece of pottery, where the general shape is there but still needs some cooling time in the kiln.

On Wednesday, though, Mike Krzyzewski cracked open that kiln. And what he found? Not just what the Blue Devils needed to beat the Hokies in their ACC opener, but what this team ultimately will need to accomplish its loftier, longer-term goals.

Because quite frankly, in the first half against Virginia Tech, Duke looked decidedly un-Duke-like. Banchemo, one of the favorites to be the No. 1 overall pick in next year's NBA Draft, had as many points (six) as he did missed shots, with three turnovers to boot. The Blue Devils, after scoring 13 points on their first six possessions, simply stalled offensively, settling for contested jumpers and 3s instead of cutting inside. Yet Krzyzewski entered the locker room less peeved than in problem-solving mode.

"He told us we were gonna have to grow up in the second half," Banchemo said. "We weren't gonna be able to wait until after the game and say, we could've done this. We just had to do it, like, now."

Krzyzewski's message, though, did not appear received in the first three minutes after intermission. Rather than recalibrating, Duke got knocked back even further; Mike Young's Hokies backdoor-cut the Blue Devils to death, building an eight-point lead in the process. "It wasn't working," Krzyzewski said postgame of his conventional lineup, which features 7-footer Mark Williams at center. With Virginia Tech forward Keve Aluma drifting comfortably around the fringes of the floor, Williams was forced farther and farther away from the basket – and his comfort zone. Quickly, Krzyzewski made a change, subbing Griffin in for Williams, building, basically, the Blue Devils' version of a small-ball lineup. (No, playing your 6-11 point forward at

center alongside a 6-6 wing with a 7-foot wingspan does not usually constitute small, but ... roll with it.) "A good ballhandling lineup," Krzyzewski called it, but that belies the full effectiveness of that fivesome. Because from that substitution on, the game was over.

Once Griffin subbed in, Duke went on a 27-7 run, punctuated by Griffin's falling-away runner. The free throw he subsequently drained put Duke up by eight, and Virginia Tech never got it closer than seven the rest of the way. "He may've been the difference in the game," Young said. And from a courtside seat, it certainly appeared so.

Now, it wasn't that Griffin suddenly went Klay Thompson-level nuclear hot, making every shot in sight, or even that he turned into mini-Giannis, physically dominating everyone else on the floor. Neither was the case. Rather, Griffin fit perfectly what Duke needed to beat these smaller, switchable Hokies. He cut to the basket, using his size and strength to finish at the rim; initiated the break off his four rebounds, gobbling up the court in giant gallops as he turned on the transition jets; and he kept everyone in front of him, from the physical mutts to the quicker Hunter Cattoor to even Aluma, Tech's 6-9 offensive centerpiece. Simply, he played within the system, got to his spots, and was judicious with his attempts. His final line – 13 points on 5-of-7 shooting, with four boards, one assist, one steal and one block – reflects that as well as anything.

Young said Virginia Tech assistant Mike Jones, who previously coached Griffin during his stint with USA Basketball, repeatedly warned the Hokies staff about his former player's potential for wrecking a game. And then, well, Griffin did it anyway. "A.J. Griffin didn't sneak up on us, put it that way," Young said. "We knew exactly who he was." Only, as Duke's perimeter-oriented lineup proved in the second half, forewarning did not necessarily foretell success.

It is probably (definitely) worth mentioning at this point that, while Griffin's runner was his most consequential play, it was not his most emphatic. The most skilled, maybe, and the one that put the game away, but if we're being honest, most likely not the sort of thing Griffin grew up dreaming about in his Duke-themed bedroom. No, that would've been what came roughly three minutes earlier, after a series of back-and-forth possessions ended with no baskets. But at the 12:58 mark, with the Blue Devils up just three, the ball found Griffin's hands with a head of steam toward the hoop. You can guess what happened next.

Elevation.

Gravity-defying dunk.

Virginia Tech timeout.

Broken eardrums for all.

That, it turns out – since Griffin is still a college freshman, and not a future-teller – was the play where it all hit Griffin. The injuries. The hours of work. The lifelong visions of a moment he, quite honestly, had started to question would ever happen. As the Hokies took a timeout, and pure adrenaline pumped through his veins, Griffin couldn't help but be overcome by emotion.

"You know, you're waiting for that moment where it's a breakthrough, and sometimes it gets hard. Sometimes you may not see it," Griffin said postgame. "I'm thankful for this whole team. Because that was emotional – an emotional night, really, just because they have helped me during this journey. It wasn't easy."

Griffin had shown flashes against Lafayette, South Carolina State, teams of that nature – noticeably, not Kentucky or Gonzaga or Ohio State – but it never looked effortless. It looked laborious, actually, in an almost robotic way. And then, on the night his team needed him most – against one of the ACC's few good, veteran teams – he made everything look the opposite. It was easy ... even knowing that getting back to this point was anything but.

Griffin briefly subbed out late in the game, but when Virginia Tech responded with a run right away, his break became more of a breather. In total, Griffin played a season-high 24 minutes Wednesday night, with two-thirds of those coming in the second half. "I was talking to Jon (Scheeyer) and Chris (Carrawell) on the bench, and I was saying, 'I wonder how long he can play.' And then, 'I wonder how long he can play' – and he kept playing," Krzyzewski said. "So he showed not just me, but himself, something tonight: that he can do that. And if he doesn't play like that, we don't win."

Griffin did play, finally, like the version of himself Duke's coaches thought they were getting when he committed in the fall of 2019. Two full years later, Griffin has lived a lifetime's worth of athletic adversity. And yet here he is, strong, tall, still standing – and landing – on the other side. "I didn't look at those setbacks as something negative," he said, "but something that was building me up."

All in one night, the old A.J. Griffin appeared. So did Duke's small-ball lineup, employed earlier this season against Campbell, but with significantly less success. (Adding a fifth lanky, skilled ballhandler, it turns out, sort of makes for an unstoppable transition offense.) And those two things together mean a third thing naturally manifests: a much scarier Duke team than the one that walked onto the floor before Wednesday night. As if the No. 2 team in the country wasn't already challenging enough to beat.

Back home in New York, Griffin's mother, Audrey, watched her son's breakout on television. He flies home Thursday, for a quick three-day holiday reprieve before the rest of what, likely, will be his only season playing college basketball. They will celebrate his performance, and Christmas, and how maybe this get-right game was just the present Griffin needed. Maybe they'll even high-five, too. If not, a text she wrote to The Athletic – accompanied by two flexed arm emojis and three "100s" – says more than any physical act ever could:

"Yes, that was A.J."

What's behind Duke's improved 3-point shooting? Better ball movement, for starters

By Brendan Marks, The Athletic (December 20, 2021)

DURHAM, N.C. – Simple play, simple result.

As a normal pick-and-roll should be, right? So it wasn't strange when, midway through No. 2 Duke's 87-56 win over Elon on Saturday, Trevor Keels initiated the standard set. With the ball in his hands just outside the top of the key, Keels made the universal "come here" sign with his cupped hand, calling for Theo John to jog out of the post. John obliged, and the P&R played out as it so often does: Keels going around the screen, then a hedging defender, and side-passing the ball back inside to a cutting John. Everything according to plan.

Only, then the plan differed. John didn't put the ball straight up for an easy layup, didn't even stop to scan the floor and plan his next step. Instead, the second the rock touched his hands, it became a hot potato, with John immediately re-directing the pass to the far corner and to a wide open Jeremy Roach, who promptly drilled a 3.

Simple play, simple result.

But something sustainable?

Increasingly for these Blue Devils, yes. Sequences of that sort are slowly becoming the norm for Duke, at least if last week's three games are any indication. Now, it's fair (and somewhat necessary) to consider the caliber of opponent before drawing any grand conclusions – at No. 175 overall in KenPom's ratings, Appalachian State was the "best" of the three December opponents thus far – but don't dismiss the results flatly. Because it's clear that since bricking 28.6 percent from 3 in their lone loss this season, to Ohio State, Duke's shooting has just gotten straight-up better.

Sounds easy, right? "Just make more shots!"

Oh, if only.

That's one element of the shooting equation, sure ... just, the most unpredictable one. But there are many others, though, that Mike Krzyzewski's team has harped on during its two off weeks for finals following that Ohio State loss. Namely? Better set-up before the ball even leaves a shooter's hands – even if that's as simple as making the extra pass whenever possible.

"Really, I think we were doing that except for Ohio State," Krzyzewski said postgame. "But that's gonna be the nature of our team, and especially if you can push. And our guys like it. To me, it's the most beautiful part of the game. The most beautiful part of our game is passing, and there's connecting baskets (as a result)."

Some context: Entering last week, Duke was only making 32.8 percent of its 3s, No. 182 nationally. For a team with clear national championship aspirations, shooting looked like the swing skill upon which this team's hopes would sink or swim. And through the first eight games of the year, frankly, Duke's perimeter prowess was closer to "needs pool floaties" than Michael Phelps; in just two of those first eight contests (versus Gardner-Webb and Lafayette) did Duke shoot at or better than 40 percent from 3. The season opener against Kentucky produced a 1-of-12 effort on 3s. In the second half against Ohio State, the Blue Devils went 1-of-8 from 3 and, accordingly, let the Buckeyes chip their way back from a double-digit deficit.

Duke's focus entering its finals break was on finding, and taking, better shots, especially in the halfcourt. Assistant coach Nolan Smith said after re-watching the Ohio State tape, and seeing how many missed kick-out opportunities Duke had, shot selection stood out as something in need of sharpening.

"Obviously a lot of teams going into each game are gonna say, 'We have to make Duke make shots.' But if we make the right kicks and our shots are wide open, we know we have guys who should be shooting close to 40 percent from 3," Smith said via Zoom. "But it has to be connected shots, where it's a team shot, not individually."

And then ... this week happened. Against South Carolina State, en route to scoring a season-high 103 points, Duke drained 15 of its 27 3-point attempts. Against Appalachian State two nights later, 15 made triples. (This was just the second time in program history that Duke made 15 3s in consecutive contests.) Saturday's win over Elon wasn't quite as predicated on 3-pointers – Duke's substantial size advantage over the Phoenix meant plentiful post touches, not to mention heavy minutes for the team's reserves – but the Blue Devils still made eight deep attempts.

In late November, that would've been considered a solid outing. Now, in a week's time, it seems subpar.

That says something about how Duke's offense has shifted, noticeably, in such a short period of time. The statistics back that up, too; on the season, Duke has now made 37 percent of its 3s, good for a top-50 national ranking. But how?

First, as Smith said, taking better shots. "Taking tough 2s, or taking a wide-open 3: which one is the better shot?" Smith said. "We feel like all of our guards can get their own shot, but is that the best shot?" As it turns out, usually not. Now, that's not to say Duke's individual talents cannot make tough 2s – there are likely four, if not five, first-round NBA draft picks on this roster – because they clearly can. And they did so with ease against Elon, scoring 44 points off layups (!) against a vastly undersized opponent. "We just got in the lane more today and got more layups," Keels said postgame. "So the 3-ball, we didn't really need it as much." That, though, won't be the case as early as next week, when Duke is scheduled to open conference play against Virginia Tech.

Against ACC opponents – even this year, given the sordid state of the league – Duke is going to need the 3-ball to drop. And while it would be unwise to expect this team (or any) to suddenly start draining 15 treys every night – the current Division I leader is Eastern Kentucky, which averages 13.2 made 3-pointers per game – that element of Duke's offense is critical to the rest of it functioning at full capacity. For as good as Duke's drivers are, no college player can reasonably be expected to finish against five defenders in the paint. And as Keels says, "a lot of teams are gonna pack in on us. I mean, when you've got a (guy who is) 6-10 and a 7-1, they're gonna." The 3-pointer, then, becomes the great equalizer offensively, the looming threat that forces opponents to play Duke normally on defense instead of with some gimmick.

"If you've gotta respect them from 3 all the time," said Elon coach and former Duke staffer Mike Schrage, "it's gonna be really tough."

This is not to say that suddenly Duke is suddenly going to become 3-point thirsty. Per KenPom, only 37.3 percent of the team's field-goal attempts come from behind the arc, which is just about in the middle (No. 190 nationally) of all Division I teams. So the strategy is more about making those looks as efficient as possible, and making sure they're coming from the right people.

Making the extra pass is one way to increase the odds of those deep shots dropping; that message from the finals break has seemingly gotten through, given Duke assists on 58.2 percent of its made shots, which ranks top 50 nationally per KenPom. "We could have some hockey assists in how we play," Krzyzewski adds, "and I like that." Another such way is taking those 3s when the defense isn't set to stop them – aka, in transition. Considering Duke averages 1.209 points per possession (PPP) in transition, one of its most efficient offensive settings, that idea tracks.

As Krzyzewski said after the Appalachian State win, "because we have four ball-handlers in the game and we can advance the ball very quickly and space the court, the defensive rebound can naturally lead to the open 3, if we do it the right way."

And it absolutely can, especially on cross-court passes against a scrambling, retreating opponent. Whether it be Keels, or Roach, or Wendell Moore Jr., or even Paolo Banchemo, all have been the beneficiary at times this season of missed switches or slow runbacks. Then there's the matter of who is actually taking those 3s ... and here is where we mention that, of all those listed beneficiaries, another new one is steadily inserting his way into the conversation.

That would be A.J. Griffin, Duke's second-highest ranked recruit entering this season, but someone who also hadn't played competitive basketball the last two years due to a variety of injuries; prior to this season, Griffin's last organized game came in late February of his junior year of high school. So, yeah, it has taken him some time to ramp back up to full-speed, if one could even say he's there yet. (An October knee injury set Griffin back a few extra weeks.) This week, though, Griffin has looked as much like his old self as he has thus far in college – and he very quietly is making a claim to being Duke's best 3-point shooter. It's a small sample size, yes, but Griffin has made 46.2 percent of his 3s this season, easily the best percentage on the team. That none of his makes came against Kentucky, Gonzaga, or Ohio State is important context, but also some that should be taken with a grain of salt, considering his improving health and physical fitness. But the point is, a one-time projected top-five pick is finally getting back to his old self ... and well, well, well, what do you know? The dude can still play a little.

Even beyond Griffin, Duke now has four rotation guys hitting above or around 35 percent from 3: Joey Baker (40.5 percent), Moore (38.6), Roach (36.8), and Banchemo (34.4). Those look like sustainable figures, both individually and collectively.

Getting to this point, though, did require a serious uptick in efficiency this week. And that's where those two weeks off were so valuable. Smith said he tries not to discuss he and coach-in-waiting Jon Scheyer's 2010 title team often with Duke's current players, but in this situation, he did.

"I actually mentioned that to them. I was like, in 2010, Scheyer, (Kyle) Singler, and myself, we scored together, all three of us," Smith said. "You know, one dribble-penetration, kick. We have a good core of guards that can be exactly like that, but they have to see that. They have to know that they need each other."

Duke's Paolo Banchero Is A Modern Big Man With An Old-School Shot Profile

By Josh Planos, FiveThirtyEight (December 6, 2021)

There was no shortage of polish in the first college basketball game of Paolo Banchero's career. The 19-year-old Duke forward picked apart a top-10 opponent with an array of skills seldom packaged in a 6-foot-10, 225-plus-pound frame: off-the-bounce jumpers, two-handed explosive dunks, patience and persistence, size and strength. There was a certain quietness to the performance, too: Banchero didn't lead the Blue Devils in scoring, shot attempts or minutes played, but he was undoubtedly the most instrumental player on the court.

Among freshmen at Division I schools, Banchero ranks fifth in points (17.8), 15th in total rebounds (7.3) and tied for ninth in win shares (1.4). He's shooting 33.3 percent from beyond the arc and 83.8 percent from the stripe. Two of Banchero's three biggest scoring outbursts of the season have come at major venues in top-10 showdowns: against Kentucky at Madison Square Garden in the Champions Classic and against Gonzaga at T-Mobile Arena in the Continental Tire Challenge. Banchero put up 20-plus points in each win – against the Bulldogs, Banchero outplayed Chet Holmgren, the top-rated player in their recruiting class and Banchero's main competition for the No. 1 overall pick in next year's NBA draft.

At a time when bigs in the NBA are more skilled than ever before, there's a lot to like about Banchero's ready-made toolkit and how it might translate to the next level. In eight games, he's displayed practically everything a general manager would desire: defensive versatility, low-post strength, perimeter range and off-the-dribble capability. A quick release and a tight handle are rarities for a player who for decades would simply have been asked to stand near the rim and raise his arms, but Banchero has showcased both and done so against the toughest slate of any ACC team thus far.

As Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski put it earlier this season, "He's the real deal."

It's likely that Banchero has but a few months left on campus in Durham. But while he appears to fit the ever-shifting mold for players of his size, Banchero's shot selection is unique compared to recent high-capital draft picks. There were nine players taken in the first round of the past three drafts who stood at least 6-foot-10.2. None had a shot profile in their final college season quite like Banchero's.

Banchero takes a lower combined share of field-goal attempts in the paint and at the rim than any of those nine players, according to CBB Analytics. He ranks sixth on his own team in percentage of shots taken in the paint, trailing even Trevor Keels, who is 5 inches shorter than Banchero.

Conversely, nearly a quarter of Banchero's shot profile is painted from the midrange; Kentucky's Isaiah Jackson is the only player among Banchero's comps who took more than 16 percent of his attempts from the area. No other player on Duke's roster accounts for more than 17 percent of shot attempts in the midrange.

Most surprising is that 23.5 percent of Banchero's shots have come above the break, a rarity from a big that was exceeded among our first-rounders only by Loyola's Santi Aldama, a stretch forward who lacked size on the interior and was largely deployed as a perimeter shooter.

Put together, Banchero's shot profile looks more comparable to midrange marksman DeMar DeRozan than it does to stretch big Bam Adebayo.

Much of Banchero's unorthodox abilities are the byproduct of multiple growth spurts, not unlike Anthony Davis, who learned the sport before he grew 8 inches in 18 months. Banchero grew up as a guard with ball-handling responsibilities, then he grew almost 6 inches before high school and another few inches as a freshman. There are reports that he's grown to 6-foot-11 since his arrival in Durham. The tallest player on the court is seldom able to or asked to bring the ball up the court, but in non-dead ball scenarios Banchero has repeatedly initiated the Duke offense, which takes a by-committee approach to point-guard duties.

That ability to control the pace of the game coupled with his lateral quickness and skill to quickly maneuver from the perimeter to the rim was obvious in the season opener and resulted in the benching of his Kentucky matchup, forward Keion Brooks. "He was struggling to guard Paolo," Wildcats coach John Calipari said when asked why the junior logged only 16 minutes and 40 seconds of action. "[Paolo is] really good."

Banchero is up against recent program history when the NBA comes calling. The only thing worse than Duke's record of producing NBA greats is its record of producing exceptional bigs. Since 2000, the Blue Devils have featured six first-round draft picks who were at least 6-foot-10. None has made an All-Star team, and many are either out of the league or are struggling to find playing time. Banchero may be the one to break the streak, with atypical abilities that could translate well to a league prioritizing multi-skilled bigs.

Despite a recent loss to Ohio State in the ACC-Big Ten Challenge, the Blue Devils are the No. 7 team in Ken Pomeroy's adjusted efficiency margin, the No. 9 team in Sports-Reference's Simple Rating System and the No. 13 team in ESPN's College Basketball Power Index. By all accounts, they're playing like one of the best teams in the nation – largely due to the sensational freshman out of Seattle.

Paolo Banchero Makes Statement In Win Over Gonzaga: 'He Will Be The No. 1 Pick'

By Adam Zagoria, Forbes.com (November 27, 2021)

Two weeks after announcing his presence to the college basketball world with an impressive performance against Kentucky at Madison Square Garden, Duke freshman Paolo Banchero helped solidify his status as the presumed No. 1 pick in the NBA Draft with another breakout performance against No. 1-ranked Gonzaga in Las Vegas.

"He will be No. 1 [because of] his size, strength and ability to score at all 3 levels," one of the 60 NBA GMs and scouts said after Banchero's performance Friday night in No. 5 Duke's 84-81 win over the Bulldogs.

In going for 21 points, five rebounds and two assists while battling cramps in the second half, the 6-foot-10, 250-pound Seattle native displayed his full arsenal. He pulled up for jump shots in transition, drained 3-pointers (making 3-of-8) and bullied his way past the 7-foot-1, 195-pound Holmgren for baskets.

"It was Paolo Banchero and it really wasn't even close. He looked like the No. 1 pick today," ESPN draft analyst Mike Schmitz said on air after the game.

"He had 20 first-half points and he did it in a variety of ways. A lot of NBA shots from him, making transition pull-up 3's, scoring in mid-range spots and he just big-bodied Chet Holmgren. He took him to the woodshed and scored over him in the post.

"Just showing that versatility, that confidence, the ability to come out in front of a packed crowd. Every NBA general manager, president, all of them sitting here courtside watching this 1 vs. 2 matchup and he looked like the No. 1 pick. He looks like a big-bodied Carmelo Anthony and somebody who could step into an NBA game tomorrow and start."

Right now, the Houston Rockets, Orlando Magic and Detroit Pistons own the three worst records in the NBA – and thus each have a 14 percent chance at the No. 1 pick. The New Orleans Pelicans are fourth at 12.5 percent, followed by the San Antonio Spurs at 10.5 percent, per Tankathon, which has Banchero No. 1 on its mock draft followed by Holmgren.

Get your Tank Slogans ready. Here's a couple to try on for size: "Keep your wins low for Pao-lo," "Lose all your flow to land Pao-lo," and "Don't care-o for Ban-cho."

En route to helping Duke seize a 45-42 halftime lead, Banchero was dominant in putting up 20 points and making 3-of-6 from deep.

He then experienced cramping in the second half – just as he had in the win over Kentucky Nov. 9 in the Champions Classic.

Without him, two other Duke players helped themselves in the eyes of NBA personnel. Mark Williams, Duke's 7-1, 242-pound sophomore center, was dominant in the paint, finishing with 17 points, nine rebounds and five blocks while 6-5 junior wing Wendell Moore Jr., who returned to campus after testing the NBA Draft waters, helped Duke close the game and finished with 20 points, six rebounds and six assists.

"Mark came on during the last month of the season [last year]," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "He had 23 [points] and 19 [rebounds] against Louisville, and then we got COVID. He's just continued to build on that. I really believe that Theo John has helped him, and he helped us today too with those two buckets when Paolo was out. Theo is the best teammate and he's tough. He started at Marquette, and for them to be able to play and work together, he's playing against a high-level talent every day. Theo talks to him during the game, and it's helped him. Because we play fast, Mark, his stride – how he runs, how he runs – has changed. Instead of a walk-up offense, we run. That's good for him. He's going to keep getting better. Again, he and Chet – it's tough to get a shot off close to the bucket."

As for Moore, Coach K added: "Wendell – he was only 18 [when he arrived at Duke]. Two of our kids, Trevor [Keels] and AJ [Griffin] are 18. They're not 20, they're 18. Wendell is 20. He spent seven weeks this April and May changing how he ran, how he walked. He busted his butt with our medical people. He's an inch taller, he's a better athlete, his force and how he runs has changed and he took a look at himself and said, 'These are the things [I need to improve on], how I walk, how I run,' and it's worked out. But you have to be open to that, and then you have to work. He's worked really hard. That kid is really having a hell of a year. He's my captain. I love what my guys did. I love my team."

As for Holmgren, he finished with 16 points, seven rebounds and three blocks and showed some flashes of brilliance, but was also overpowered by Banchero in the paint.

"He just needs to get stronger and that's going to come naturally," ESPN's Schmitz said. "You saw a handful of possessions today where he just wasn't physical enough to deal with the strength of the Duke players. They're just stronger and they have more experience.

"He's never going to be this big-bodied guy but he's going to evolve physically as his career moves on. If you look at a young Giannis or a young Kevin Durant or a young Anthony Davis, we've seen skinny players before and he's going to fill out in time. He's never going to be the guy who going to put up the same box score numbers as Paolo, he's more of an all-around impact type of guy and that's why I like to compare him to Evan Mobley. Mobley wasn't putting up these eye-popping scoring stats but he impacts the game defensively with his passing and his inside-out game, so Chet is going to be just fine but Paolo was the story tonight and made a strong case that he deserves to be the No. 1 pick."

As for his thoughts on the matchup with Holmgren, Banchero said:

"Chet's a great player. Like you said, we've played against each other before. I think he played well. He made some tough shots. Obviously, you know he's a game-changer on defense. I had a couple of layups that usually, against anybody else, I would score, or it'd be a dunk, but because Chet's down there I wasn't able to finish like that. That's just an example of how he changes the game. He also brings a skilled game on the offensive end so yeah, great player for sure."

How Wendell Moore's words, as much as his actions, keyed Duke's win over Gonzaga

By Steve Wiseman, Raleigh News & Observer (November 27, 2021)

With superstar freshman Paolo Banchero off getting IV fluids to calm his cramping quads and a lead having disappeared, No. 5 Duke faced a make-or-break stretch of basketball Friday night.

The din of sold-out T-Mobile Arena, even though the participating teams were both more than 1,000 miles from home, grew even louder as top-ranked Gonzaga had finally grabbed a three-point lead over the Blue Devils.

One voice rose above them all and, in this case, it was not that of Duke's Hall of Fame coach, Mike Krzyzewski.

During a timeout with Gonzaga in front and the Blue Devils having committed a turnover, it was Wendell Moore who spoke up, spoke loudly and spoke forcefully.

"The leadership of my captain, I think, was the key to the game," Krzyzewski said. "Wendell Moore was absolutely spectacular in his leadership, especially at the timeout when they took the lead and we had turned the ball over. The things he said and his demeanor and what he said to his team, he really led us to a victory."

Moore scored 20 points with six assists and hit five key free throws over the final 1:11 to stave off Gonzaga and give the Blue Devils an 84-81 win.

Those are the counting stats, the stuff the play-by-play and the box score show. Krzyzewski offered a glimpse of something beyond those numbers.

'SAYING THE THINGS I SHOULD HAVE BEEN SAYING'

With 11:24 to play, Gonzaga had not only climbed back from Duke's nine-point first half lead, the Bulldogs were up 64-61. Duke's Joey Baker had just lost the ball while attempting to drive down the lane. Moore fouled Gonzaga's Julian Strawther after he'd secured the ball for the Bulldogs and an official timeout arrived.

The Blue Devils gathered around the coach but it was Moore who said the important words, even if he sheepishly feigned forgetfulness when later asked to repeat them.

"I guess in PG words it was just that we had to pick it up," Moore said with a laugh.

That's ok. Krzyzewski was glad to jump back in and fill in the gaps.

"You know, sometimes when a leader says things he doesn't remember what he says," Krzyzewski said. "But I remember what he said. Be strong with the ball. Let's get going. We can't be giving them layups. He was saying the things I should have been saying but when it comes from a player, it's better. It's better and especially that moment."

Following the timeout, Gonzaga didn't score for the next 90 seconds or so of play. While the Blue Devils strung together stops, they scored five points in a row on a Mark Williams basket and a Joey Baker 3-pointer to bolt back in front 66-64.

The Zags responded with three easy baskets – layups by Anton Watson and Nolan Hickman sandwiched around a Chet Holmgren fade-away jumper – to take a 70-66 lead with 8:40 to play. But Gonzaga would make just one field goal over the next seven minutes. With Banchero having returned to the game, Moore started the push that put Duke in front for good with a jumper at 8:06. His two free throws with 4:31 left gave Duke a 75-73 lead and the Blue Devils never trailed again.

Krzyzewski, though, looked back to that timeout. With Banchero out, Gonzaga was in position to open up a lead too large for Duke to overcome. Instead, Duke stayed within striking distance and finally made its move.

"That was a critical moment," Krzyzewski said. "I've been in a lot of games, we could have gotten knocked out right there."

WINNING WITH A LIMITED BANCHERO

But Duke didn't. Banchero's 20 first-half points, scored with a variety of moves that wowed all the NBA scouts and administrators in attendance, helped the Blue Devils lead 45-42 at halftime.

When his cramping got so bad he said he was afraid he'd fall down, Banchero left the game for treatment.

As it turned out, he didn't make a shot after halftime and his lone point on a free throw gave him 21 points, one more than Moore.

Duke won anyway, a sign they've got a little something extra that turns talented teams into great ones.

The win might not have happened had Moore not found his voice to use the captaincy bestowed upon him by his teammates in that crucial timeout.

As a result, the Blue Devils have the kind of win that can propel a team to the highest accomplishments in the sport.

Duke takes an all-hand(ler)s approach to its point guard position

By Brendan Marks, The Athletic (November 19, 2021)

DURHAM, N.C. – If the 40-point final margin didn't make it clear, only so much can reasonably be gleaned from Duke's 92-52 win over Gardner-Webb on Tuesday. Duke looked very much like the No. 7 overall team in the country; on the other hand, Gardner-Webb looked ... well, like KenPom's No. 219 team in the country, a winless outlet that's yet to crack 70 points this season. One of these things, clearly, is not like the other. Shocker.

But that doesn't mean we should take nothing away from the blowout. Because there is something, in fact – perhaps not a new development but one clearly confirmed after the Blue Devils' fourth game, and win, of the season. And it happened, as strange as it sounds, on the very first play of the game. Like, the opening tip. Mark Williams, Duke's 7-foot sophomore center, did what he does, and slapped the ball backwards to sophomore guard Jeremy Roach. But rather than bringing the ball up the floor, Roach – Duke's supposed point guard – passed almost immediately to junior Wendell Moore, who had run back to meet him behind halfcourt. Moore then brought the ball up ... only to return it to Roach on the wing, who initiated Duke's first play of the game from there. The result of that action (a turnover in the paint) obviously matters more than its inception. But why did Duke start like that? Really, that short sequence raises a fascinating question about the composition of this team:

Does Duke have a point guard? Simple question. Not-so-simple answer.

In which case, best to go straight to the source. "You don't have the so-called point guard," Mike Krzyzewski said before the season began. "You really have four ballhandlers, and then if Jaylen (Blakes) is in there, he can do that also."

Krzyzewski, the proponent of positionless basketball that he is, doesn't care for clear-cut labels. But he has a point, one that statistics and the eye test support. Duke truly doesn't have one point guard; it has three, maybe four, and in another sense, none at all. Or as freshman Trevor Keels puts it, "we don't try to put a position on ourselves. We don't really call it point guard, shooting guard, small forward. All four of us can bring the ball up the court, including Paolo, so whoever gets the ball right there is pushing it."

First, consider the analytical evidence. A point guard's job is to set up his teammates, right? Well, it's only four games, but Moore, Keels, and Roach are Duke's three assist leaders, with 21, 15, and 11 dimes, respectively. No other Blue Devil has half as many. And in the team's first three games of the season, that trio accounted for at least 75 percent of Duke's total assists. It isn't the same pecking order of production on a night-by-night basis, either. Moore had the most assists against Army (10) and Campbell (five), but Roach's six topped the box score against Gardner-Webb, while Keels and Moore had three apiece in the season-opener against Kentucky. Everyone is getting in on the fun, proper positional labels be damned.

And you know what? It's working, for a multitude of reasons. First, it means there is no one guy doubling back after every defensive rebound just to bring the ball up the floor. In years past, maybe that role is filled by a Tre Jones-type talent. Not so in Coach K's final go-around. "We're not locked in on trying to get one person the ball to start the offense or anything like that," Moore said. "It just really gives each guy a chance to go out there and be comfortable and be himself." So if Moore gets the rebound, he's grabbing and gone. But so too are Roach and Keels when a miss clangs their way, or even off made shots from an out-of-bounds perspective.

Why that matters? Because it enables Duke to do what it wants to – what this roster is designed to do – much more quickly and conveniently. "It kind of allows us to run more of an unconventional offense, which is one that we kinda like to run, which is really just a lot of transition," Moore added. "Just a lot of quick reads, hand cuts, things like that, without having to set up." The stats support that synopsis. Per Synergy, the Blue Devils average 1.003 points per possession (PPP) overall – good for the 84th percentile nationally – but that number rises to 1.145 PPP in transition opportunities. With the number of large, lanky athletes on this team, it makes sense that Duke would want to play that way ... but wanting to do something and actually doing so are two totally different things.

Keels and Roach aren't just comfortable alternating on- and off-ball roles, but they're comfortable doing so with each other specifically, given their overlapped time at Paul VI Catholic High School in Virginia. If anything, the revelation through four games has been Moore, a 6-foot-5 wing now moonlighting as a big lead guard. Moore served as a secondary ballhandler the last two seasons, but his handle wasn't quite tight enough to consistently initiate offense. Now? It is – and in his third college season, he has the know-how of where to get the ball to set up his teammates. That Moore, who had 112 assists to 109 turnovers as a freshman and sophomore, is now No. 6 in the ACC in assist rate, per KenPom? It's telling not just of his improved play, but of a shifted role altogether.

Then there's the matter of Paolo Banchemo, arguably the (literal) biggest mismatch in all of college basketball this year. Trained as a guard throughout his basketball life, when Banchemo sprouted to 6-foot-8 as a high school freshman, and 6-foot-10 by his senior season at O'Dea High in Seattle, he didn't lose any of the skills he'd studied growing up; now he just had them in a much larger body. So, yes, Duke is absolutely comfortable with Banchemo boxing out another big and then running the floor as a point forward. Hell, Duke's willingness to accept and embrace that aspect of his game is the reason he's in Durham.

"Coach made it clear from pretty early that we're gonna have four guys on the court who can grab it and go, or catch an outlet, stuff like that, handle the ball," Banchemo said earlier this season. "That's how Coach has been building the offense and everything: around that."

And while more difficult to quantify, the same is true on the defensive end. Banchemo can switch out to the perimeter, to guard opposing guards and wings, but all three of Moore, Roach, and Keels do consistently. "Switch" is the optimal word there, too, considering their comparable defensive success. Moore has been one of the team's best on-ball perimeter defenders the last two seasons, as was clear by his three steals against Campbell – it does help, of course, that he has nearly a 6-foot-10 wingspan – but Roach and Keels have the goods, too. Keels had six steals against Army last weekend, and Roach had two against Kentucky and its veteran, transfer-laden backcourt. "Me, Trev and Dell, we take the defensive end real serious," Roach said Thursday, in advance of Duke's game Friday against Lafayette, "so we're switching pretty much any matchup we want, and just kind of manhandling people on the defensive end."

Now, it bears repeating that this is after four games, and only one of them against a team in KenPom's Top 150. (Campbell is close at No. 166 – one spot ahead of Jeff Capel's Pittsburgh club.) So, we'll see if this pace proliferates against No. 1 Gonzaga next week, or the opening of ACC play soon thereafter. Perhaps by March, Duke will need one of these three to emerge as the de-facto point guard, rather than playing the position by committee.

For now, though? The train is humming along on schedule, with organic touches for all three guards. And while Krzyzewski and his staff can still scheme plays with the best of them, sometimes – with a team this physically talented – the best play is none at all.

"It's a dynamic that I think can keep growing on this team," Krzyzewski said. "When guys touch the ball, and we don't have to run something for them to touch the ball? It's very good."

Mike Krzyzewski who? How Coach K's career began at Duke in the 1980-81 season

By John Gasaway, ESPN.com (November 19, 2021)

Duke named Mike Krzyzewski its new men's basketball head coach on March 18, 1980. Coach K's first Blue Devils team posted a 17-13 mark in 1980-81 and lost in the NIT to Purdue. It was the first of what would prove to be three consecutive seasons in which Duke finished sixth or worse in the ACC and did not reach the NCAA tournament.

Coach K's early struggles have long since become a familiar part of his legend. Then, in the 1982 recruiting class, Johnny Dawkins, Mark Alarie, Dave Henderson and Jay Bilas arrived, and the rest is history. So the story goes.

But those who were connected with that first team in 1980-81, from players to reporters to Duke Athletics staff, say there was a little more to it than that. They knew Coach K when he was new, 34 years old and learning the ropes in the ACC.

As Coach K prepares to retire after the 2021-22 season as the winningest coach in men's college basketball history, that first season in Durham merits another look. Today, when members of that 1980-81 team are asked if they ever imagined back then that their new coach would go on to win five national titles, they typically respond with a shake of the head. No one could envision any coach having that degree of success.

KENNY DENNARD (senior forward in 1980-81; played three seasons in the NBA for the Kansas City Kings and Denver Nuggets; CEO of investor relations firm Dennard Lascar): I saw Coach at his K Academy this past summer. He had his people there, of course, and he got me and Gene [Banks] to come over. He pointed at us and he said, "I wish I could have had these guys when I was in my 40s, because, when I had them, I didn't know how to coach elite players."

And he's telling this to his crew, and I'm standing there thinking, "That's the nicest thing you've ever said. I'm getting a little misty."

VINCE TAYLOR (junior forward in 1980-81; played one season in the NBA for the New York Knicks; most recently assistant coach at UCF): When Coach K came to Duke, he was in his 30s, man, with a team that just went to the Elite Eight. You're coming into the ACC, where Dean Smith owns the league. And you're coming from Army. That's tough.

DENNARD: The thing you have to understand is that, when Coach K arrived, we were used to winning. Gene Banks and I went to the national championship game as freshmen on the team that had Jim Spanarkel and Mike Gminski and those guys. Coach [Bill] Foster had us rolling after some lean years for Duke.

You know how Foster got Gene, right? No. 1 player in the country, coming out of Philadelphia, Digger [Phelps] is all over him, everyone's all over him and instead Gene comes to this little bitty school called Duke that finished last in the ACC four straight years.

GENE BANKS (senior forward in 1980-81; played six seasons in the NBA for the San Antonio Spurs and Chicago Bulls; Gaston College athletic director): Bill Foster saw me at a summer league game in the suburbs, and I had 30-plus points. Top-rated coaches were there and some spoke to me, but Foster walked right by me and said nothing. If I remember correctly, I think I called Duke and asked why he didn't say anything. Coach Foster got on the phone and straight up said, "Didn't think you were good enough to play for us." And then he hangs up.

I'm standing there, and I say, "Mom, Duke says they're not going to recruit me." Then the assistant coach called back in hysterics, telling me about Bill's whimsical manner. I thought it was cool after it was explained to me.

JOHNNY MOORE (assistant sports information director in 1980-81): No question in my mind, the three most important recruits in Duke history: Art Heyman, Gene Banks and Johnny Dawkins. Duke was struggling when they got all those guys, but they all reached the Final Four. They changed the program.

TAYLOR: Why did I go to Duke? Gene was like the No. 1 player coming out of high school. And I said, man, this guy can go anywhere and he chose Duke. I thought this was the place for me, especially because it was a great academic school.

DENNARD: We actually won the 1980 ACC tournament as the No. 6 seed. Then Coach Foster announced he was leaving [to become head coach at South Carolina], and I agreed to do an interview before the NCAA tournament. Foster's gone, right? We don't know who the new coach is, and this won't come out until the season's over.

This guy had called me from "Tobacco Road," an 11x17 newspaper that's folded in half. He says they have some really, really thoughtful pieces, important student-activist-type stuff. So he comes over with a six-pack of Heineken, and we decide it would be a good idea to do a nude photo with a basketball in front of me.

Then we go to the NCAA tournament, make it all the way to the regional final and lose to Purdue. I'm not blaming the coaching staff. Well, I am blaming the coaching staff. We were in zone, and [Purdue] just held the ball. We lost four or five minutes that way.

After that game, I was trying to figure out who the new coach would be. We all thought it was going to be Tom Davis from Boston College.

"Who?"

Krzyzewski played for Bob Knight at Army from 1966 to 1969, and served as an assistant under him at Indiana in 1974-75. He was then head coach for five seasons at Army, where he compiled a 73-59 overall record. When Krzyzewski was hired at Duke in March 1980, an Associated Press story on the news began: "Duke basketball fans who struggled with 'Gminski' the past four years have a new tongue-twister to contend with ..."

MOORE: I picked up Mike Krzyzewski at the airport and dropped him off at [Duke athletic director] Tom Butters' house for the interview.

BARRY JACOBS (author, longtime journalist who has covered the ACC since the late 1970s): The day that Duke hired Mike was the first time I heard his name. NC State hired Jim Valvano at the same time. Frankly, there was some talk to the effect of, "Why didn't we get Valvano? He's just as young. Why not at least get the young guy whose name you can spell?"

TAYLOR: I'll never forget, I was in my apartment and some reporter called me. Normally, the school would let you know if somebody's going to call. I don't know how they got my number. And this reporter says, you know, "The new coach at Duke is going to be Mike Krzyzewski." And I just go, "Who?"

Literally, I didn't know him, and I had never heard his name. So my quote was in the paper the next day. They set me up pretty good. The headline just said, "Who?" Then the article said I couldn't pronounce his name, which was true. But it was also true of probably 98% of people at that time. Coach K even joked about that.

MOORE: People were thinking, "We've reached No. 1 each of the last two years, and we're hiring the 9-17 guy from Army? What the hell is going on?" Well, Tom Butters was basically John Wayne as an athletic director. He made his own decisions whether they went against the norm or not. Butters talked to Bob Knight, and Knight sold him. Butters thought Mike fit the mold to go out and recruit for Duke.

Though classes were in session at Duke, the new coach arrived on campus before all of his players did. After playing straight through the school's spring break, and then exiting the tournament in the Elite Eight, Dennard fled campus in search of sun and sand.

DENNARD: I'm at this bar in Key West. The guy on the local news on the 19-inch TV says, "Duke University has announced today that Mike ..." and it sounded like "Kadger-00-skee ... is going to become the next head basketball coach." I thought, "Oh, man, I remember him. He recruited me at Army." Then I thought, "If they've announced him, that probably means he's on campus and I should be there."

MIKE TISSAW (sophomore forward in 1980-81; professor of psychology at SUNY Potsdam): The first time I met Coach K was in Tom Butters' office. I think all the players that were going to return the next year were there. I unfortunately went to the meeting with my goatee and mustache and my hair down to my shoulders, wearing a tie-dye T-shirt. No sleeves. I walked up to Coach K and shook his hand. He was smiling, and he was kind of looking me over. Finally, he said, "I hope this is temporary."

Later that day, I'm thinking, "Wait, does he mean my appearance? Or me being on the team?"

JIM SUDDATH (senior forward in 1980-81; Hardwick Caldwell Chair of Christian Ethics at the McCallie School in Chattanooga): We had your typical "We're the seniors, here's the new coach, shake hands" conversation.

CHIP ENGELLAND (sophomore guard in 1980-81; longtime San Antonio Spurs assistant coach since 2005): I always think of Coach K introducing Mickie [Krzyzewski, his wife] to the team. They were fired up. That's the energy you need to bring.

BANKS: I was trying to figure [Krzyzewski] out. He was young looking. He talked to me along with Kenny. He said, "There's a line between men being men and boys being boys. I found out you two guys didn't just cross that line, you threw up all over it." And he was kind of joking and he said it with a smile, but we knew he was making a point. That broke the tension, and it was cool.

DENNARD: I got back from Key West, and it was parents weekend at Duke. "Tobacco Road" had just come out. It had this foldout picture of me and the basketball. Anyway, five thousand copies drop on campus. It's everywhere. It got a mention on "The CBS Evening News," and I received a two-page letter from the Duke Divinity School criticizing me. But Coach K didn't say one word about it to me. Now, he'll tell you to this day he knew he had his hands full.

BANKS: I toned things down a little bit with Coach K. It was team first.

JACOBS: You know how the officials will come over and chat with you on press row during timeouts? Well, Kenny would talk to me during breaks in the action. I don't think I remember any other player doing that before or since.

Dennard and Banks were almost adults, they had played for a coach who kept a loose rein, they were big men on campus and they were good. Kenny was one of the few players from the state of North Carolina that Dean Smith wanted and didn't get.

TAYLOR: I knew that a new coach coming in, let me put it like this, he would have his hands full with Gene and Kenny. It's a good thing social media hadn't happened yet and, keep in mind, those are my guys. Kenny was a free spirit.

MOORE: I tried not to keep up with [Dennard and Banks] so I wouldn't have to fill out any affidavits. They were very, very free spirited.

SUDDATH: I roomed with Kenny on campus, and on road trips I was Gene's roommate. That was one absolute wild year in my life.

"Are you with me?"

Krzyzewski's first game as Duke head coach was a 67-49 win at home over Stetson. Throughout the early stages of the 1980-81 season, Coach K worked with his assistant coach Chuck Swenson to blend the principles he learned from Knight with his own observations of what worked best for his players against

How Coach K's career began at Duke in the 1980-81 season (cont.)

By John Gasaway, ESPN.com (November 19, 2021)

ACC competition.

TAYLOR: You have to realize that Coach K came in having coached under Bobby Knight. He was very direct. Coach K vowed that we were always going to play man-to-man like Knight. No zone. We ran motion just like Knight.

MOORE: [Before Coach K] Every time we played Big Ten teams we were getting beat. They were so physical and they were playing man-to-man. We knew this was coming.

ENGELLAND: The motion offense was fun for me. Coach K was no-nonsense. Looks you in the face, tells you what's going to happen.

TISSAW: I thought he was a brilliant defensive coach. I was really into what Coach K was trying to do. He said the best play in basketball is drawing a charge. You get a stop, you force a turnover and the opponent picks up a foul.

Coach K introduced a drill at practice where you had to take a charge, and he would jump right in and do it with us. One time I had the ball when he was in the drill, and he was defending me. I'm thinking, "What do I do here? I don't want to knock over my coach. Will he still be doing this drill when he's 50?"

BANKS: We had a road game against NC State, and Coach completely changed the offense. He put me at the point and set up a new play called the pentagon. Three at the top, two at the free throw line. It looked like a stall but it wasn't. If I saw an opening, I could take it to the basket. He said, this guy is All-ACC, I want him to have the ball.

DENNARD: Coach K said, "We're starting fresh. Five passes, and then get the ball to Gene." I think I averaged six points the next three weeks.

TISSAW: There were games that season where we were outmatched inside. I do recall being concerned about having to guard [Virginia's] Ralph Sampson or [Maryland's] Buck Williams.

BANKS: For our home game against Maryland, Coach K was real fired up. Red in the face. He wanted warriors, he wanted soldiers. He yelled, he took off his coat. "Are you with me?"

"The North Carolina win was the pinnacle"

Duke reached the last game of the regular season with a 14-11 record. North Carolina was paying its first visit to Cameron Indoor Stadium since Krzyzewski became head coach. The student section wore T-shirts reading: "Dennard and Banks, so long and THANKS!" With two seconds remaining, Sam Perkins went to the line for the Tar Heels and the score tied at 56.

DENNARD: Perkins made both free throws, and before I even had the chance to call timeout, Coach Smith called one. I was stunned. We got set up, advanced the ball to half court and Chip [Engelland] called our timeout.

SUDDATH: That was masterful coaching to get the ball up the floor with the timeout in two seconds at the end of regulation.

DENNARD: In the huddle, Coach K said, "Everyone thinks the ball is going to Gene." So he drew up the play for me to pass to Chip in the corner for the shot. Chip was a great shooter and it looked good on paper. But it wasn't going to happen.

MOORE: Chip took a last-second shot against Clemson as a freshman and missed. Kenny wasn't going to let that happen again.

ENGELLAND: With that final huddle in regulation, there's Kenny's version. I never thought that play was for me, but it sounds great if it was. As for that shot at Clemson the year before, that was from the hash mark. It wasn't like a clean look off a diagrammed play. The ball was batted, and I had to scoop it up at the hash mark and shoot it.

DENNARD: When we broke the huddle after the timeout, [Gene] and I looked at each other.

BANKS: Kenny and I didn't even talk about it. It was in the flow.

ENGELLAND: The right read if you're Kenny? Throw it to Gene Banks! He's the leading scorer in the ACC!

DENNARD: I gave a slight ball fake to Chip in the corner. Then Gene made the perfect catch and the perfect turn and launched the perfect rainbow jumper over the fingers of Perkins. It swished through the net and we went to overtime.

SUDDATH: For some reason I played most of the overtime. I got the rebound away from [North Carolina's] Al Wood in OT, and it went to Gene for the winning shot.

DENNARD: The fans went crazy!

TISSAW: What I remember is that I tried to take a charge on Jimmy Black and it didn't go well. I was on my back on the floor and someone came down on me. It just made mush of my ankle. There was a Springsteen concert in Greensboro that night, and I went to it on crutches.

MOORE: Great day in Duke basketball history. Dean Smith's 50th birthday. Springsteen was playing in Greensboro that night.

DENNARD: I found myself at the Springsteen concert in the 10th row.

TAYLOR: The North Carolina win was the pinnacle. When Coach K won that game, I think that gave him unbelievable confidence. He could look at Dean Smith and say, "I beat this guy."

ENGELLAND: It was the heyday of the ACC. We had what would be an NCAA tournament team now.

We went to the NIT. Gene broke his wrist. We won a couple games. Yeah, we lost to Purdue, but it was without Gene. I really liked this team. It had grit. It tried to adjust, and Coach K adjusted to us, too.

"Good thing there was no plus-minus stat"

Despite losing to Duke in the final game of the regular season, North Carolina would advance to the Final Four before losing the championship game to Indiana. Banks and Dennard graduated and entered the NBA after the 1980-81 season. The next year, North Carolina won the 1982 national championship on a game-winning shot by freshman Michael Jordan -- who would later play alongside Banks on the Chicago Bulls from 1985 to '87.

Then in 1983, NC State won the national title under Valvano, a coach who had been hired in Raleigh at the same time that Krzyzewski arrived in Durham.

As North Carolina and NC State won their titles in consecutive years, Duke, meanwhile, posted a 21-34 record in Coach K's second and third seasons.

DENNARD: Those first two years after Gene and I left were pretty hard for Duke.

TAYLOR: [Krzyzewski] told me one time, and I really appreciated it, he said, "Vince, you were a great player, we just didn't put enough guys around you." And he was talking about my senior year.

DENNARD: I remember two of my teammates with the Kansas City Kings, Phil Ford and Hawkeye Whitney, were from rivals of ours in the ACC [North Carolina and NC State, respectively]. They were always giving me grief. They would be reading the sports section, and they'd say, "Seriously? Duke lost to Appalachian State last night? How long is that coach of yours going to last?"

ENGELLAND: I scored a thousand points at Duke, but sometimes when I see Coach K I tell him I probably allowed 1,500. He just laughs. Good thing there was no plus-minus stat back then.

SUDDATH: To say that I was a Duke basketball player who gave Coach K his first win over UNC is a strong moment for me.

DENNARD: When Coach K announced his retirement this year, he and I got together on the phone. He said, "Do you remember the time we were at Clemson and you and Gene came down to the training meal at the hotel with no shirts on?" And I went, "No, I don't. Is that something we shouldn't have done?" It stuck in his brain after 41 years that we had the audacity to come to the training meal with no shirts. But, you know, we were Adonises, we were pretty proud of what we looked like.

BANKS: I don't remember anything about not wearing shirts at the hotel at Clemson. I'm sorry.

ENGELLAND: Going to Duke was one of the four or five best decisions I've made in my life, but it wasn't a storybook the whole time by any means. Sometimes it's better when it's not a storybook.

A general hypothetical: What if Duke's Mike Krzyzewski had stayed in the Army?

By Luke DeCock, Raleigh News & Observer (November 12, 2021)

DURHAM -- In 2006, Mike Krzyzewski went back to South Korea in one of his first trips with USA Basketball, taking the national team to the Army's Camp Casey ahead of the world championships in Japan. It was a return not only to the demilitarized zone, but the path not taken.

He'd been there for the first time in 1970 as a recent graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, just out of artillery school. When he returned, he was an accomplished basketball coach, climbing the record books, with three national titles to his credit and another two yet to come, not to mention three Olympic gold medals.

It's an interesting hypothetical to consider as Krzyzewski's final season at Duke continued with Army visiting Cameron on Friday night, a sort of personal farewell to arms: What if he'd chosen a different uniform?

"That would never have happened," Krzyzewski says now. "I always knew I wanted to be a coach. I loved the Army. More so, if I didn't coach, I would have been a teacher. I had my sense of duty and all that. But I didn't have a passion."

He even spent his last few years in the Army coaching – first in Korea, and then at the West Point prep school before leaving the service as a captain and joining his old Army coach, Bob Knight, as a graduate assistant at Indiana in 1974. His alma mater hired him as head coach after that 31-1 season, and the rest is history.

But what if it wasn't?

Of the 148 West Point alumni honored with the Distinguished Graduate Award, Krzyzewski is one of 36 recognized for contributions outside the military. Ninety-nine recipients retired as generals. Very broadly speaking, that's his peer group.

"He probably would have become a general," said Pat Harris, who played for Krzyzewski at Army and later followed in his footsteps as basketball coach at West Point. "There's no stopping him. He's the type of individual that adjusts well to soldiers, to players, to personnel and I think that his flexibility truly would have helped him to be successful in the Army, too."

Harris knows of what he speaks. Not only do his personal ties to West Point run deep, two of his children served in the military as well. His son, an infantry officer, is still in the Army, stationed at Fort Bragg. Like Krzyzewski, Harris served as a field artillery officer immediately after leaving West Point. It was something they discussed as coach and player.

"He had mentioned several times that if he hadn't gotten into basketball he could have stayed in the Army," Harris said. "He enjoyed the whole thing about leading people. That's what he does in the sport of basketball. He would have had an excellent opportunity to do the same thing in the Army."

Others close to him aren't so sure. Over the course of his Duke career, Krzyzewski has frequently chafed under the strictures of the NCAA bureaucracy and railed against it, especially when it comes to what coaches can and can't do. He has shown increasing exasperation in recent years at the NCAA's failure to adapt to the quickly changing basketball world, and called for action in areas like name, image and likeness long before the NCAA was forced into change.

When it comes to bureaucracy and standing orders, the NCAA is truly following the so-called amateur model compared to the military. His daughter Jamie Spatola told the N&O's Steve Wiseman that she wasn't so sure her father would have handled that well.

"I don't know that there are any leaders that my dad admires more than military leaders," Spatola said. "He has a profound respect for service. But I don't know. I don't know if there's too many rules. I don't know. He might have been frustrated by the bureaucracy. He can feel frustrated about that at times."

There is no question, though, that some of the military lineage has run through Duke's program over these four decades. There is perhaps no better example than his relationship with Martin Dempsey, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff – now in his second term as chairman of USA Basketball and a Rubenstein Fellow at Duke – but it manifests in smaller ways as well.

Duke forward Joey Baker, the son of a Fort Bragg special forces sergeant, can recognize that influence implicitly.

"The things he's brought along with him from West Point are kind of instilled into the program and the culture here at Duke," Baker said. "The things that he tells us as players on a daily basis are very consistent with those values, I'd say."

And entering his fourth season at Duke, Baker can envision what might have happened if Krzyzewski had heeded a different call.

"I think with his attention to detail, his commitment to excellence, just his overall character, it would have lent himself to being an elite soldier, someone that serves our country in the best possible way," Baker said. "I obviously could see him being a high-ranking general, something of that sort, in the long run."

Coach K said goodbye to the only place that competes with Cameron

By Luke DeCock, Raleigh News & Observer (November 10, 2021)

NEW YORK -- With a quick point, a subdued wave and a pause for his wife to exit the stands and join him, Mike Krzyzewski stepped off the court, through the narrow passage through the stands and into the bowels of Madison Square Garden, turning his back for the last time to an arena floor that has meant more to him than almost any other.

There was very little overt celebration of Duke's win over Kentucky, the first of this final season and the 1,171st of Krzyzewski's career, nor any sentimentality in his departure. The floor went unknissed, the crowd at large unacknowledged, the moment unadorned.

That final MSG exit had more resonance than the odd halftime ceremony during the opening game Tuesday, when an ESPN executive presented Krzyzewski with a framed Champions Classic poster and the two seemed to wrestle over who would carry it off the court.

Krzyzewski waved to the crowd then but there was more than a little awkwardness to it, the honoring of a coach amid a game between two other teams whose fans aren't particularly fond of him, the crowd still absent most of the Duke fans yet to arrive.

But there was never any doubt on what this meant, not only to this latest iteration of Duke but this final iteration of Krzyzewski's many visits to the Garden as a player and coach.

"We wanted to get this win, especially for coach in his first game," Paolo Banchemo, Duke's star freshman said. "It was a big game for us. Coming in felt like we had a chance to make a statement with this game."

That's a bit of a twist on "first" but in this already prolonged season of farewells, one where the word "last" has been proscribed from the Duke vocabulary, this evening was one unquestioned and indisputable finality. Krzyzewski may watch Duke play again someday at Madison Square Garden – it's the only place he has indicated he might – but he will never again stalk this sideline.

He played here a handful of times at Army, then coached four games here with Army and more than 10 times that with Duke, but the next time he comes to Madison Square Garden he'll need a ticket, like any other schlub. Duke will be back in New York, in March, but in a different building in a different borough.

Krzyzewski exits this particular stage with a 79-71 win, and in keeping with the latter years of his time at Duke, he has a freshman to thank for it, just not the one anyone expected. With Banchemo missing a big chunk of the second half to cramps, Trevor Keels took over for the Blue Devils.

Stockier and sturdier than some of his rookie predecessors at point guard, Keels had no trouble with the pace or physicality Kentucky demanded of the Blue Devils. Banchemo is a special player but Keels is going to be a different kind of problem in the ACC.

When Kentucky made a push heading into the final five minutes, Keels hit a jumper in the lane, Mark Williams had a big block and Banchemo scored in the paint to restore the Duke lead to a comfortable margin. It showed the ability to fend off impending crisis Duke so lacked a season ago – and delivering a big win for the ACC on what turned out to be a dismal opening evening.

The curious poster from ESPN was the first of what figures to be many momentos in this season of farewells but the real gift Tuesday was this visit, beginning his final season with a pilgrimage back to the only arena that means anything close to what Cameron means to him over the course of his career.

"It felt so good, with the Garden crowd, playing against an outstanding team," Krzyzewski said. "They're tough. And we're tough. That was a big-time game."

It's a relationship between man and building that predates his time at Duke and taps the true roots of his basketball career, which brought him to the ACC from the regional sect of basketball that for many years served as its northeastern counterweight.

As far as Duke is concerned, Madison Square Garden has an importance of its own, beyond whatever it may mean to Krzyzewski. For a large swath of the fan and alumni base, it's a far more convenient venue than Cameron itself, and Duke has always kept MSG as a Manhattan pied-a-terre.

Krzyzewski has coached more Duke games at MSG than anywhere but Cameron and the Greensboro Coliseum, and fate and coincidence collided to deliver two of his biggest milestones on this floor: He passed Bobby Knight in 2011 with a win over Michigan State in the inaugural instance of his event, sharing a hug with his former coach in the aftermath, and he reached 1,000 wins with a win over St. John's three seasons later.

But the Garden held deep meaning for Krzyzewski long before he even arrived at Duke, before he'd won his first game there, because he came of basketball age at Army, as a player and coach, in an era when the Big East had yet to stratify basketball in the northeast into haves and have-nots, and that entire basketball universe revolved around Madison Square Garden. It was that way for an entire generation of New York-area coaches – Coach K and Jimmy V and Louie and Dr. Tom and P.J. and on and on – who would become known by a single name.

Jim Valvano and Krzyzewski moved south a week apart in 1980, trading the big city for the ACC, but the depth of feeling for the Garden still resonates for Krzyzewski today, all these years later. He played five games there as a cadet and went 1-3 as a coach at Army before leaving for a new opportunity at Duke.

Forty-one years later, the final act of that tenure started in this place that in some ways represents where it all began, a place that has always been special to Krzyzewski and will remain special to Duke after he's gone, even if it won't be the same.

Paolo Banchemo is Paving the Way For Generations to Come

By Alex Squadron, SLAM Magazine (November 10, 2021)

Sitting at the podium in Duke's Scharf Hall, the legendary coach Mike Krzyzewski makes clear that, in what will be his final season before retiring, there will be no talk of "lasts." In fact, the word has been all but banned from his team's vocabulary for the foreseeable future. Coach wants to "live, not savor," focus on the present and remain in the moment.

OK, so no "lasts"—but there should be plenty of talk of "firsts" in Durham this year, especially since freshman phenom Paolo Banchemo arrived on campus. The Seattle native already made history by signing a name, image and likeness (NIL) deal to become the first college athlete featured in the video game NBA 2K. He is also the first player to join the Blue Devils from the state of Washington since Quin Snyder in 1985. While countless talented prospects have come through Duke's program, Banchemo is perhaps the first with his specific skill set at his size—he is a legitimate 6-10 but can do just about everything on the floor. Oh, and Banchemo might very well be the first overall pick in the NBA draft come June...

But let's not get ahead of ourselves. Right now, on a muggy evening in late September, Banchemo is at Cameron Indoor Stadium for his first ever SLAM cover shoot. Lil Durk blasts from a nearby speaker, breathing life into the gym. After all, it's past 7 pm and things have been moving nonstop for Paolo since the morning. During media day, when he was swarmed by writers and cameras, the news broke that he had agreed to another exclusive NIL deal with the trading card company Panini—the first of its kind, too. He had his first official Duke practice in the afternoon and then an hour or so to get ready for our shoot. Once we wrap-around 9 pm—he's off to study for an upcoming exam.

There are, of course, high expectations for Banchemo, who was a consensus five-star recruit and the No. 3 player in the Class of 2021, according to ESPN's rankings; and with those expectations naturally comes pressure, particularly in what will be Coach K's last—err, 47th (including his five seasons at Army)—season. But you wouldn't know it at all from being around the freshman. Banchemo is laidback and soft-spoken, but still manages to exude the type of cool confidence that says, Why worry? None of the outside noise appears to be getting to his head. He is just taking it day by day and, like his coach, staying in the moment.

Traces of his journey to this point are tattooed across his burly right bicep—the downtown Seattle skyline in intimate detail, with Mt. Rainier edged in the background; the name of the street where he grew up and his family continues to reside; the location of the Rotary Boys and Girls Club, where Paolo first picked up a basketball. "I carry [Seattle] with me everywhere I go. Seattle is always going to be in me and a part of me," Banchemo says. "Part of my mission is to try to put Seattle on the map and get us as much recognition as I can."

Being a proud Seattleite is part of being a Banchemo. Paolo's parents, Mario and Rhonda, met when they were both athletes at the University of Washington—Mario, a walk-on tight end on the football team, and Rhonda, a star center on the basketball team. Mario is of Italian descent, which led Paolo to receive Italian citizenship in February 2020. Rhonda graduated from UW as the program's all-time leading scorer and eventually became the first player from the state of Washington to be drafted to the WNBA. She spent a year in the W, seven years competing overseas and 11 years as a high school coach in Seattle.

Unsurprisingly, Paolo was a multi-sport athlete as a kid. He was a track star in numerous events and initially dreamed of going to the NFL. His stellar quarterback career culminated with an invitation to the FBU All-American Game in eighth grade, which annually features the best prospects from across the country. Playing in the historic Alamodome, Banchemo threw for more than 200 yards and three touchdowns in the first half alone. "I don't think there's any doubt that he was a high DI, high major quarterback prospect," says Mario. "And if you ask Sam Adams [Paolo's coach and a former NFL player], he'll tell you that he was a league guy."

A massive growth spurt in middle school, however, gradually steered Paolo closer to basketball. And the hometown heroes he once admired from afar—Jamal Crawford, Isaiah Thomas, Nate Robinson, Zach LaVine, Spencer Hawes and many others—started to embrace him in their Seattle hoops brotherhood. He has since trained alongside several of them, battled against them in the city's Pro-Am (The Crawsover) and been in constant communication with them over text. They provide valuable advice and inspire him to keep pushing, just as Rhonda and Mario have always done. By her own admission, Rhonda is the stern and brutally honest one, nitpicking his every mistake and keeping it real with him when others won't. Mario instilled lessons of discipline and hard work, accompanying Paolo to the gym at 5 am each morning to train before school.

The result of all that? Well, even as an 19-year-old kid, Banchemo is already paving the way for generations to come—both on and off the court. As a player, he is the prototype for the modern and future NBA: a strong, dynamic, versatile forward who can score at all three levels, make plays for others and guard every position defensively. During his junior year at O'Dea High School (Paolo did not play in his senior season due to the pandemic), he averaged 22.6 points, 11.0 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 1.6 blocks. He is still getting accustomed to his 6-10 frame and working on the type of quick post moves that once made his mom unstoppable; but he can just as easily shoot from deep and rise over smaller defenders for midrange jumpers as he can finish with force at the rim. He genuinely loves to set up teammates—passing, he says, is his favorite part of his game—and has a lot of good ones to facilitate for at Duke, from returners Wendell Moore Jr, Jeremy Roach and Mark Williams to fellow freshmen Trevor Keels, AJ Griffin and Jaylen Blakes and Marquette transfer Theo John.

"I don't think there's anything on that court that I can't do," Banchemo tells SLAM. "I'm going to always play hard. I'm going to always get my teammates involved. But, like I said, I can score, pass, defend. Just going to be able to do whatever the team needs me to do."

"He's special. He's unique," says Amile Jefferson, a former forward at Duke who now serves as the program's Director of Player Development. "He fits the modern day prototype of if you could make your dream player. He's 6-10, 255-260 [pounds], can handle the ball, can shoot it. When you watch him, you don't understand how massive he is. When I used to watch tape or footage of him, I used to be like, Wow, he looks like a guard. But he really looks like a center coming at you with speed, handles, unbelievable athleticism. It's almost like when people create a 2K player—you make him the biggest, the strongest, the fastest, and then you also give him a jumpshot. You're like, Alright, this is not real. I'm playing a game. But then you see this kid, and he's almost like a real life version of that."

"We've had a lot of really good bigs, but he's up there with the best of them, just as far as his versatility. I think that's what separates him," Duke assistant coach Nolan Smith says. "The fact that he can put it on the floor, he can shoot the three, he can play inside, he can score at all three levels. That's what makes him very, very different from a lot of guys I've seen with my eyes in this basketball game."

Outside the game, Banchemo is blazing a very, very different path as well. Due to recent changes in NCAA policies that now enable college athletes to profit off their NIL, he suddenly finds himself becoming as much a trendsetter in business as he is in sports. The family sat together shortly after the NCAA's announcement and mapped out a strategy that made the most sense for Paolo. Every opportunity wasn't worth pursuing, they established. It was, and still is, about finding the ones that fit best—that stay true to who Paolo is and what he really wants. In August, he signed with an agency (CAA Basketball) to help represent him in all NIL negotiations.

"Our perspective was always that any opportunity that we're going to take advantage of should be foundational, should be things that lead to other opportunities," Mario explains. "Before NIL was finalized, we had discussed pursuing opportunities to be involved in NIL type of deals for no money, just to introduce Paolo to it and sort of build his brand and put him out there in an authentic way. With NIL, obviously there are more opportunities to do that and also be compensated."

"For him, specifically, it was, Don't worry about chasing the dollars here. At Duke, you're already affiliated with a premium brand. If the opportunities don't meet or exceed that brand, then you don't want to do them. You want to be focused on things that are authentic and things that can further you and be foundational, that you can build on as you continue to grow and progress through your collegiate—and hopefully ultimately—professional career."

"Just not saturating," adds Rhonda. "Wanting him to be one-of-one or the first. We thought that was important. Not that you don't want to be associated with other players who may also sign deals with the same companies, but we wanted Paolo to be the first. With that said, you can't be the first at a million things. You can be the first at a few."

Nothing can, and nothing will, get in the way of basketball, though. Paolo understands that none of these deals would be possible without his commitment to the game. Business opportunities won't distract from his primary goals: winning Player of the Year, being the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft, sending Coach K out with a national championship. "He's not one of those dudes who's just focused on that he could make millions of dollars," says freshman guard Trevor Keels, Paolo's suitemate in the dorms. "He's going to focus on the time right now. And he knows we gotta win a national championship." Following a disappointing 2020-21 campaign, the new-look Blue Devils ranked ninth to open the season, and beat No. 10 Kentucky 79-71 in the Champions Classic on Tuesday night. Banchemo finished with 22 points and 7 rebounds in the victory.

He might be soft-spoken, but you can also tell that beneath his calm exterior, Banchemo is eager. When we dim the lights in Cameron Indoor Stadium blue, just as they will be for the school's annual "Countdown to Craziness" event soon after our photo shoot, you can see his eyes widen. A smile slowly takes over his face. He can't wait much longer.

We ask him to deliver a message to the Duke faithful and basketball fans across the country anticipating his debut.

"As far as Duke fans, you're going to see me playing extremely hard, playing with energy," he says. "Seeing us [all] play extremely hard and play with energy. We got a lot of talent all over the floor, all over the squad. I think it's going to be a great year, a fun year. So just be on the lookout for that. Don't miss it."

"And then basketball fans in general," he continues. "Some might not know me, but they will soon."

Keel Mode is active: Behind Duke's big win were two freshmen ready for the moment

By Brendan Marks, The Athletic (November 9, 2021)

NEW YORK – Keyosha Keels is speechless. Can this really all be happening? A jazz saxophone solo blares over the loudspeakers at Madison Square Garden, and as thousands of fans funnel toward the exits, just past 11:30 in the evening, they're all talking about one thing:

Her son.

And rightfully so. Because in No. 9 Duke's 79-71 win over No. 10 Kentucky on Tuesday – in the late-night Champions Classic slot, the one reserved for college basketball's best stars – Trevor Keels shone as bright as any. People will point to his 25 points, which led all scorers, and sure, that's certainly impressive. Keels made driving, falling-over layups, needed his way right through the middle of Kentucky's defense. Hell, he even knocked down Duke's lone 3-pointer of the evening. But consider the circumstances he did all that under, and suddenly, it's doubly impressive. Maybe more.

Actually, definitely more.

That's because, while Duke came out of halftime with a narrow 39-35 lead, the Blue Devils watched it evaporate entirely in minutes. Kentucky forward Oscar Tshiebwe – the West Virginia transfer who finished with 19 rebounds, 12 of them on the offensive glass, and 17 points – caught consecutive lobs over Duke's 7-foot center Mark Williams, instantly silencing large swathes of the Garden crowd. And then to make matters worse, three and a half minutes into the second frame, Paolo Banchemo – Duke's top-rated recruit and an early favorite to be the No. 1 overall pick in next year's NBA Draft – asked out of the game with what turned out to be cramps. In the moment, though, as Banchemo cut through the crowd and headed back to Duke's locker room? It was as if MSG's ceiling fell out and collapsed right on the Blue Devils' bench.

Only, not for Keyosha and her husband, Roland, sitting several rows behind Mike Krzyzewski and his team. Because they've seen this song and dance before, so they know what the next notes sound like. In high school, starring for Catholic powerhouse Paul VI just outside of Washington, D.C., Keels watched two of his teammates, fellow Division-I recruits Jeremy Roach (Duke) and Anthony Harris (North Carolina), go down with ACL injuries. And what did he do? Become arguably the top talent in the DMV and a five-star national recruit.

"I'm just thinking, it's time," Roland tells The Athletic. "Paolo went out with an injury, it looks like Wendell (Moore) had an injury – so I just knew that it was time for Trevor to step up. He's done it before, so it was just time for Trevor to show the world what he's capable of."

And did he ever. Surprisingly, with Banchemo out of the lineup, the Blue Devils managed to reclaim their lost lead... and even took things a step further, shockingly building upon it. Over the next 5:32, with a substantially smaller lineup, Duke went on an 18-6 run fueled in large part by Keels, who scored 10 of those critical points. And some of the shots he made... Sheesh. Now, does Keels' 6-foot-5, 230-pound stature give him an advantage over 5-foot-10 UK point guard Sahvir Wheeler? Obviously. But while Keels could bully his way past Wheeler, he also had to have the finesse to thread through the rest of the traffic thereafter – including Tshiebwe, who also had two blocks, lying in wait at the rim. Not many college basketball players in the country, not to mention freshmen, can hit a step-back against Kentucky's length from the top of the key.

"I use my body a lot," Keels said, smirking all the while. "You get in the lane, you can't just go in there full-steam ahead. You've got to read the defense. I think that's what I do well."

Safe to say Coach K agrees. Back at ACC Tip-Off last month, Krzyzewski hinted that Keels could have this sort of impact. "He's really good," Krzyzewski said then, with the exuberance of a high schooler shoddily trying to hide a secret. Only, cat's out of the bag now. Keels didn't just grab the spotlight in a town known for them; he stole it, stomping all over the opposition in the process. And as if Keels' performance wasn't provocative enough, he also went out of his way to tell Kentucky's roster

about it. After an early layup in the first half, over Tshiebwe, Keels gave the Kentucky big man a bit of an elbow as he ran back down the court. In the second half, after backing down Wheeler in the post and scoring as the shot clock expired, he ran down the court with his hand at shin level. You must be this tall to try defending me.

"He likes to feed off the opponents' energy. That means the world to him," Roland says, flashing the smirk his son so clearly inherited. "The more trash you talk, the more he gets into the game."

If you're looking for a term for Keels' cocktail of performance and passion and pissing-people-off, well, there's a ready-made one – and it's in gigantic letters, tattooed across the width of his shoulder blades: Keel Mode. It's a play on words, his parents explain, meant to mean Kill Mode. On Tuesday, at Madison Square Garden, they were one and the same. "It's like a superpower," Roland adds. "You tap into it, and he's there."

Now, much to the chagrin of the Duke fans in attendance, Keel Mode isn't an unlimited energy boost like in some video game. You try doing all the scoring Keels did – not to mention his tenacious on-ball defense, fighting over screens and even once forcing Wheeler into a backcourt violation – and not getting tired. So with 11:52 left to play, and Duke up by a comfortable margin, Keels finally went to the bench... right in time for Banchemo, who received an IV in the locker room, to return to the game. Banchemo's mother, Rhonda, said he looked "a little tender, a little ginger," when he checked back into the game, but you wouldn't have known that from the box score alone. Because when Keels checked out of the game, he didn't just sub out of the lineup; he passed the baton, and the offensive burden, back to Banchemo.

And at that point, the 6-foot-10, 250-pounder – who technically plays forward, but with the skillset of a smaller wing – did what Krzyzewski recruited him for, all the way from Seattle. He grabbed defensive rebounds, immediately initiating the break once he did, and seemingly scored at will. We're talking spin moves inside, pull-up jumpers, even a step-back or two. Two blocks over from Broadway, Banchemo wasn't the singular show of the evening, but he was a show nonetheless. "He's the real deal," said Krzyzewski, who has produced more NBA lottery picks than any college coach ever. "There's no question about it."

It bears mentioning that, yes, at one point, Kentucky did pull the game back and make things closer. A 15-point lead dwindled to four, re-igniting one-half of the Garden's blue-blooded crowd. But you know what happened next? More Keel Mode. More Banchemo going berserk. And from the 69-65 point, with six minutes to play, Keels and Banchemo scored eight straight points to re-plunge the dagger into the Wildcats' heart. Keels said the team had hoped to do that with the prior 18-6 run – "we got to put them away right here," he said the team discussed at the time, "step on their necks" – but the decisive blow ultimately didn't come until the closing minutes.

All that matters, though, is that it did. And in the fashion that it did, in the Champion's Classic, against Kentucky, it naturally swirled memories of the last Duke team with freshmen this fun and fiery: the 2018-19 team, headlined by a trio of eventual top-10 picks: Zion Williamson, R.J. Barrett (who was courtside Tuesday, along with several of his New York Knicks teammates), and Cam Reddish. Four years ago Williamson and Barrett became the first pair of Duke freshmen to drop over 20 points apiece in their debut.

As of Tuesday? Keels and Banchemo – who finished with 22 points, seven rebounds, and two steals – are the second.

So, that's some company to keep. That elicits emotions, energy – and, yes, expectations. Season-openers are ripe for "statements," for immediate takeaways, with Tuesday being no different. So, what were Rhonda's? "I think it says one, the team is not just about Paolo. I think Trevor showed that he can play, too," she said. "I think Theo (John) did a great job defensively, and was really in there banging. They all made tough shots, they all made timely shots. I think this team is for real."

Keel Mode is active: Behind Duke's big win were two freshmen ready for the moment

By Brendan Marks, The Athletic (November 9, 2021)

She isn't the only one, nor were the tens of thousands in attendance Tuesday. Krzyzewski thought so, too, as far back as this spring – and, no, it's not a coincidence that this star-studded squad will be his last. Just as Roy Williams, his Hall of Fame counterpart on Tobacco Road the last 18 years, walked away from the sport abruptly in April, Coach K could've done the same. Instead? He committed to one final go-around, one final swing at winning a sixth ring. He concocted a succession plan, one which would take him off the recruiting trail all summer and really let him focus on his players. On building a team. Krzyzewski said after the game that amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, which robbed last season's Blue Devils of most of its summer workouts, he re-learned the value of relationships and preparation. Not missing a practice all summer long allowed him to do that. And Tuesday was at least a piece of proof that that strategy might pay off.

"It's a good point, and I do: I feel closer to this team, where I know them, than I have really in the last decade, and I have been really close with teams," he said. "We didn't go to the transfer portal for other players. We specifically told our guys that we're not doing that, and they're our guys. Just a bunch of different things to build that level of trust and camaraderie."

Those things, clearly, are valuable, as this Duke team looked much more like the ones of old, the ones fans have come to expect. The ones whose title dreams are tangible, not tough to imagine. And when the final buzzer sounded, and the jazz started playing, and the win was certified, that was only further confirmation. Now, can this endure? We'll see. One win, even with these stakes and storylines, does not a season make. But if Keels and Banchemo – and fellow five-star freshman A.J. Griffin, who played 10 minutes as he continues rehabbing from a knee injury sustained in October – keep up this pace, then... well, the mind starts to wonder. Maybe Krzyzewski's final squad really can be something special. "We're going to play together. We're going to play hard all 40 minutes," Banchemo said. "And yeah, I mean, we're going to play like Duke."

That didn't mean much last season, admittedly; the Blue Devils stumbled and struggled their way to the program's first non-NCAA Tournament season since the mid-90s. But after Tuesday? After Keel Mode, and Banchemo looking beastly, in the best sense of the word? This is a team that shot 1-of-13 from 3, only had seven assists on 31 made baskets, was obviously out-rebounded... and yet still won convincingly, against a top-10 team littered with experienced transfers. It's early, but at least in this moment, all things seem possible – even Krzyzewski's sixth title.

Which, more than anything else, is why Keels committed to Duke in the first place. For moments like these, for the brightest spotlight in the sport. Maybe that, as much as anything, was why it took Keyosha a minute or two to say anything. Everything her son had dreamed – for himself, for his team, for his Hall of Fame coach – suddenly seemed within reach. Trevor Keels tasted it all Tuesday, and the world was witness to his will. How do you think his mom felt from five rows off the floor?

"I'm super proud," Keyosha said, smiling. "Extremely, extremely proud."

The making of Paolo Banchemo, Duke's newest freshman superstar

By Brendan Marks, The Athletic (November 9, 2021)

DURHAM, N.C. – No one knows, exactly, how the 4-year-old boy wound up onstage. But there he was, front and center, fake-strumming a guitar and crashing a community festival concert. The artist he upstaged, a local jazz musician named Michael Powers, became so enamored with the toddler's enthusiasm that he gave him a free live concert DVD to take home.

"I kid you not," Mario Banchemo says now, "Paolo watched that DVD five times a day."

Paolo, for the uninitiated, is Mario's son. But if you've heard the name Paolo Banchemo (pronounced ban-care-oh) before – and you will, soon, if you haven't – it likely wasn't in the context of childhood capers. Instead? It's as this: the freshman centerpiece of Coach K's final Duke squad; one of the top three recruits in all of college basketball; and, according to industry insiders, the frontrunner to go No. 1 in next year's NBA Draft. He's a 6-foot-10, 250-pound guard crammed in a center's body, as capable of crossing up defenders as he is dunking them into oblivion. It's an overused aphorism, sure, but there simply aren't scores of human beings with his blend of size and skill – and he doesn't turn 19 until Friday, three days after the Blue Devils' opener against Kentucky in the Champions Classic.

But before all this? Paolo was, like countless kids, a wannabe rockstar. Or, jazz star, technically, but same sorta deal. He'd watch that Powers DVD over and over again, drumming along to the beats. At first, it was using his hands; before long, Mario had slipped the cardboard pieces off two clothes hangers from the cleaners to form makeshift drumsticks. Paolo wasn't playing an instrument, per se, but he remembered the beats and practiced the timing. Mario and Rhonda, Paolo's mom, would drive all around their hometown of Seattle, following Powers wherever he was scheduled to play. One day, that meant hauling over to Eastern Washington to listen to Powers at a winery. "The looks we got," Mario jokes, "when we showed up at this jazz performance, at a winery, with a 5-year old? People thought we were the worst thing on the planet." Five minutes into Powers' set, though, Paolo's miniature drum routine on his lap pillow stole the show. "He just went berserk," Rhonda says, laughing. "Whenever the music would stop, he'd stop and have one stick in the air, waiting for the music to start back up."

Paolo's interest in drumming came as something of a surprise, his mom says, since the family is not musically inclined. Sports were more their thing. Mario walked on to Washington's football team as a tight end, working his way up from junior college; Rhonda was a prized basketball recruit in her own right, ultimately leaving UW as the school's all-time leading scorer before playing in the WNBA and other professional leagues. The Banchemos nourished Paolo's musical passion nonetheless, signing him up for drum lessons and even buying him a drum set for their home. (Parents of young drummers will surely empathize with their eardrums.) They supported it, relentlessly and rigorously.

Within two or three years, though, Paolo's interest in drumming faded. Or more accurately, it was swallowed up by his surging (and probably inevitable) attraction to basketball. His parents' son, after all. "Listen, I'm 6-1, my husband is 6-3 1/2," Rhonda jokes. "We both knew what hopefully was going to happen." He was 6-foot-7 as a high school freshman. Athletically, he was born on third base.

And yet ... so too are swarms of kids, who can jump high, run fast, do all the things that high-level achievement requires. Paolo had the advantage of two parents who knew the sweat and the sacrifice it took to play Division-I sports, and one who knew what was required to thrive at that level. If he really wanted it, they would push him – a little too hard sometimes, in Rhonda's case. They would also go to great lengths to put him in position to succeed, as they did by driving their would-be preschool drummer all over the Pacific Northwest. Still, there was only so much they could do. "Our responsibility was just to put him there; it was his responsibility to do well while he was there," Rhonda says. "The kid had to be the one that's doing it. We were just the taxi and the bankroll."

Therein lies the essence of Paolo Banchemo. He had a head start physically, sure. He had the right support system at home. Maybe that gets you 75 percent of the way to greatness. The other 25 percent, though? That required the willingness to challenge himself, to do things like choose a college nearly 3,000 miles from home because he thought that would be best for his development.

"What drives me?" he tells The Athletic. "It's just, like, a natural want to be great. I just knew from the jump I wanted to do that. And I work every day. You know, I don't gotta put my mom in a new house. I don't gotta get anybody out the struggle. It's just, straight up, see how far I can take this."

Last month on fall break, Paolo went back home to Seattle and did the normal things college kids do when they leave campus. Spending time with his younger siblings. Visiting his favorite food spots. Getting a haircut from his old barber. As Paolo's luscious locks got trimmed down into something tidier, Mario and the barber asked him how things were going at Duke.

"He was just talking about how they'd had a film session, and Coach K was just in him the entire film session," Mario recalls. "The whole team is there, all the coaches are there, and he's just telling him, 'This right here? This isn't good enough. You can't have bad days.' But it's funny, because he's telling me how Coach K was letting him have it, but Paolo was telling me

this story from the perspective of, I knew what he was doing. I was scoring. I was performing at a certain level. But (Krzyzewski) was saying if you want to be great, you have to be at this level."

Apparently, the story made the rounds in Paolo's basketball circle. "Coach K just ripped him up," says Darryl Hennings, the director of Paolo's grassroots program, Seattle Rotary. "Just ripped into him about four or five really small details. Well, small to him, but to (Coach K), he made it seem like it was a huge deal. And it just kind of made P realize that K wasn't gonna let him take any shortcuts."

That, with coaches like Hennings and his own parents, is what Paolo is used to. Being held over the edge of a competitive cliff and dared to look down. That's the very reason Paolo opted for Duke in the first place. Other coaches, his parents say, told him he could do whatever he wanted if he picked their school: take 15 shots a game, play any position, you name it. But at what point in his life had he ever experienced that before? Consider, Paolo first learned the game from his mom, way back when she was an assistant coach at Holy Names Academy, an all-girls school on the east side of Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood. Paolo would tag along to his mom's after-school practices and, from her and the head coach, longtime family friend Lee Adams, witnessed their incredible focus on fundamentals. "I think the boys, because they're so athletically-inclined, sometimes they miss those," Rhonda says. "But bounce passes, backdoor cuts, screening, just the real basic fundamentals, he got those every day. Every day. And then we put him out there with the girls (when he got older), and ... they were better than he was, so he had to really kind of think about it: how to score on them, how to be successful with girls who were quite a bit older and faster and stronger."

So from the start, Paolo wasn't receiving preferential treatment. Duke, and Krzyzewski specifically, never promised any either. And that's why, some three weeks before Paolo committed to the Blue Devils, he walked into his parents' bedroom upstairs and told them he was leaning – hard – toward Duke. "Duke was, we thought, on the fringes. Just outside," Rhonda says. "Of the three (other main finalists, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Washington), we thought Duke was four." What Rhonda and Mario didn't know was how often Coach K was reaching out to their son. During the NBA playoff bubble at Disney in 2020, Paolo constantly received texts from Krzyzewski about things pro players were doing that he could also incorporate into his game. That outreach not only showed Paolo how much Krzyzewski wanted him, but it told him that Coach K had really studied his skillset, and understood the things he was capable of. "A lot of people saw him as a versatile big," Mario says, "and I think he sees himself as a little bit more than that." One clip Krzyzewski sent Paolo that proved that was of LeBron James transitioning from point guard to center. Basically, Coach K saying: Hey, you can do this, too.

But it was one specific phone call, Paolo says, that got the idea of Duke stuck in his head. Krzyzewski and Paolo would speak by phone three, four times a week at that point, but on this particular call, Krzyzewski had a specific message to relay. "He told me I was a pro wherever I went, there's no doubt about that," Paolo remembers. "But he was like, 'If you want to maximize your potential, you have to come here. Players like you don't just come around, and players like you need to be pushed to get the most out of your talent.'"

"That right there, that kind of just set the decision for me."

Why did Krzyzewski feel it was important to convey that? "Because we wanted to tell him that he still had a lot of development to go," Krzyzewski tells The Athletic. "He's still a young player, and he needed to be in an environment where we were going to coach him hard and make sure that he developed his potential, not just use his talent, and where he might discover other talents – a talent of communication, of leadership, things like that. And he was very excited to do that, and still is excited about doing it."

There, of course, were other things about Duke and Krzyzewski that appealed to Paolo. He valued that, in the aftermath of George Floyd's murder, Krzyzewski and his staff were vocal about the Black Lives Matter movement. Especially considering Paolo's own experience with racial profiling and social injustice – at a concert in high school, he and a friend wrongfully had guns pulled on them when police believed they were sitting in a stolen Jeep – it was important to him and his family that coaches valued social justice. On the basketball side of things, Paolo appreciated that Krzyzewski had coached several of his all-time favorites: James, Kobe Bryant, Kevin Durant, and more. "And knowing those players respect him? And those players love him as a coach?" Paolo says. "It was a no-brainer."

The pre-fall break film session, then, was proof Paolo made the right choice. Krzyzewski said he'd challenge him, push him, same as everyone else in Paolo's life – and, well, here it was. "He stayed true to his word. He doesn't take it easy on me," Paolo says. "He's on me about a lot of stuff. But it's all good. Like, I love it. You know, I'm used to hard coaching, so you don't ever take it personal. You just take it. You get the message from it; you don't take the tone of it, or the extra stuff that he adds into it to get under your skin. You just take the message. And you roll with the message, and you build off that."

And on Coach K's side of things, what does it tell him when a player of Paolo's pedigree seeks out that tough coaching? Well, Krzyzewski calls it something different.

The making of Paolo Banchemo, Duke's newest freshman superstar

By Brendan Marks, The Athletic (November 9, 2021)

"I think truthful, to use another word that starts with a T. His mom's always been truthful with him: you played well, you didn't play well, you were soft, you need to do this," Krzyzewski says. "Anybody has a better chance to develop if they're told the truth all the time, and his family does that. So I already know that that's how he was brought up, so we tell him the truth, and he's acceptant of the truth. He wants to hear it. So I love that about him, and that's why he's getting better, and he has a chance to continue to get better. He won't fulfill his full potential while he's at Duke; he's going to keep getting better and better."

It's an interesting dichotomy Krzyzewski brings up: tough versus truthful.

And, phew, is that line ever fine. Rhonda will be the first to tell you: At times, it blurs all too easily. But given her own basketball background and the genetic gifts Paolo inherited, some push and pull between the pair was always almost inevitable. Watching Rhonda's Holy Names practices, Paolo learned about the standard his mom held for training. "If you're practicing, don't practice bad shots," she told him. "Don't be over there doing trick shots and doing 'Dude Perfect' stuff. If you're going to be over there shooting, shoot it right."

That attention to detail was how Rhonda propelled herself to the playing heights she did. Hennings, who went to Franklin High in Seattle with Rhonda, still recalls how they and the rest of their class would play pickup every lunch period. "And Rhonda, she was pretty much always on the team that ran the court – the boys and everybody," Hennings jokes. "That's just kind of the fire that she had." Paolo learned that lesson early on. Mom wouldn't relent, or rest, or really relax at all unless he was constantly striving and being pushed.

Much like Rhonda, Mario wasn't going to let Paolo wait until late in the game to recognize what necessary effort looks like. On youth teams, Paolo played alongside a number of fellow future collegians, including Gonzaga's Nolan Hickman, Arizona's Shane Nowell and Ohio State defensive lineman J.T. Tuimolou. Their team dominated so dramatically that winning was almost guaranteed. And if that was the case, his teams' collective talent always coming out on top, how would Paolo come to prioritize the grind? "Where can we take him," Mario wondered, "for lack of a better term, to get punched in the mouth?" Encouraging Paolo to play up multiple age groups, so his physical advantages were neutralized, was just one answer.

Another was that, sometimes, that meant Mario or Rhonda had to become that challenge, be the people who demanded more even amidst Paolo's surging success. Say Paolo held an opposing center to 11 points, for instance; Rhonda would be all over him that the other kid shouldn't have even had 10. "As I got older and started playing real AAU games, she'd be there yelling," Paolo says. "Giving me the business after games in the car ride home. She was one of those parents. I hated it back then. Plenty of games where I was upset."

Ask Paolo, and he'll tell you that as early as middle school, he figured he was good enough to probably play in college. Then after his freshman season at O'Dea, he was dominating on the EYBL circuit with Rotary, outperforming other stars in his class. "That's when I realized I could possibly get to the NBA," Banchemo says, "and that was my set dream from that point." The following summer, having sprouted to 6-foot-8 and well over 200 pounds, Paolo was named MVP of the NBPA Top 100 Camp. "We all knew he could play," Hennings says, "but we didn't know he was one of the main guys in that class." That was the same weekend college coaches could begin contacting recruits. Naturally, Paolo's phone blew up. "The floodgates opened," Mario says, "and then it was like, this thing is real."

But even as external praise for Paolo picked up, it didn't always mesh with what Rhonda was telling her son. "I was very critical, I won't lie," Rhonda says. "I probably stopped screaming at him in the 11th grade. For a while, if he wasn't rebounding, I was one of the loudest people in the gym telling him what he needed to be doing – and he hated it."

Adams – then one of Paolo's assistant coaches at O'Dea – recalls a moment mid-game where Rhonda yelled something out. He considered turning around to respond, "Hey, it actually wasn't his fault!" But she persisted, just like her dad did to her when she was a promising high school player. Rhonda remembers her relationship with her father devolved, at one point, to where she wished he wouldn't even watch her play anymore.

And then one day, Paolo came asking for the very same.

"It actually impacted our relationship negatively. He was like, 'I don't want you to come to any more of my stuff: like, my games or anything.' So for a year, I didn't," Rhonda says. "And it was hurtful, but it wasn't. I understood it."

His mom had always loved him, supported him, but it had gotten suffocating. Paolo knew his headspace was split: He'd be focused on his games, absolutely, but when Rhonda called out? He'd turn around. Break focus. To reach the heights he now thought he could achieve, well, he couldn't have that. "There were some tough days," Hennings says. "He would think he played well, and he'd come off and she'd kind of tear into him about what he didn't do." Coaches tried getting through to Banchemo that his mom had always been that way. It was tough love, but love was the undercurrent for any criticism. And another thing: Sure, she was a great player in her time, but so are you. "I told him, look, you have to find a way to balance it out to where

you're fulfilling your expectations. If you feel good about what you're doing, if you feel good about the effort you're putting in," Hennings explains, "then you have to be accepting of what she says, but then kind of let it roll off your back."

Eventually, Rhonda returned to the sidelines at Paolo's games – and initially, she still struggled not to call out to her son on the court. Until one day, Mario turned to his wife and said something that seemed to get through: "I think he's gonna be alright." After all, Paolo already had the accolades by then, as well as the attention of every major program in the country. He was working with three separate coaches – Hennings, Kerr, and his trainer, Mike Knight, whom he calls a big brother – to iron out any real or perceived problems with his play. If that wasn't enough, if that wasn't satisfactory, would anything ever be?

"I was probably too hard on him because I felt like other people weren't," Rhonda says. "It took a while for me to realize that he was as good as people said he was."

While Rhonda will never stop giving her son pointers – how could he shoot 1-of-4 from the free-throw line during Countdown to Crazy? – she did stop yelling. She didn't have to be his obstacle anymore.

"That's actually when I really knew I was getting kind of good," Paolo says. "She would get on me about smaller stuff: more of it was like playing hard, talking. Once I started doing those things, I just started playing well every single game. So that's when I realized I was getting better – when she didn't have to say that stuff anymore."

Mario vividly remembers, up until Paolo's junior year of high school, waking his son up at 5:30 in the morning to go work out. Paolo would design the drills, map out the whole routine, and Mario would rebound as necessary. By Paolo's junior year, though?

"There was a shift there," Mario says, "where I didn't have to get him up anymore; suddenly he was coming to get me up."

Credit goes to the final figure responsible for helping Paolo reach this point: Knight, the former Division I player and overseas professional whom Paolo began seriously working with as a junior. Knight was there to propel Paolo's game, but also his mentality. Having first met Paolo in the eighth grade, he'd seen what his pupil was physically capable of; the trick was reinforcing that to Paolo and getting him to realize that there is no stopping him at his best. "There's no cap on P," Knight says. "I call him 'Thanos' on the court, because I feel like when he does all that he's supposed to do, all the Avengers would have to team up to have a chance to beat him. He has that kind of thumbprint on the game."

Like all Paolo's coaches, and his parents, Knight didn't take things easy. He'd have Paolo do 45 minutes of band work before even picking up a ball, and then 100 jumping jacks with resistance bands after a grueling multi-hour session. As Paolo persisted, he steadily adopted that can't-be-contained attitude Knight was harping on. "It's the mindset of work," Paolo says. "Being at peace, but then having that peace be my confidence. Going out there knowing that nobody can stop me: It's me versus me. That's what (Mike) always tells me, so that's how I think."

Around the same time, Paolo became borderline obsessed with film. Kerr had taught him how to break down his own deficiencies at O'Dea, but Paolo and Knight took that to another level. Their text thread is littered with game tape, from some of the greatest to ever play: Hakeem, Kobe, Jordan, LeBron. Paolo still watches his favorite current players, too, with former Blue Devils star Jayson Tatum high on that list. For those yet to watch Paolo play, the names he studies say something about the type of player he envisions himself: Tatum's shooting and savvy around the perimeter; Jordan and Kobe's midrange magic; Hakeem's wiggles and shakes deep in the paint; and LeBron's ability to facilitate and lead as the ultimate playmaking big. There is one other, too, who feels worth mentioning, especially considering the comparisons Paolo gets to him: Zion Williamson, the last Duke freshman superstar to physically dominate college basketball in the way Paolo plans to.

Like with Tatum, Paolo says he and Williamson have chatted since he enrolled this summer. One topic of conversation, naturally, was Duke's game against Kentucky. Williamson set the standard for a season-opening coming-out party in 2018, when he torched the Wildcats for 28 points on 11-of-13 shooting, seven rebounds, two assists, one block, and a steal in a blowout victory. Now, in the first matchup of these teams since that beatdown, Paolo has the platform, and the preparation, for a similar debut.

"(Zion) obviously did great things here, so it's a good comparison," Paolo says. "But I'm trying to do what he did and win a national championship. So I'ma do it my way: play my game, be a team player, and everything will take care of itself."

The ‘crazy good’ moment that fostered Coach K’s approach to his final Duke team

By Steve Wiseman, Raleigh News & Observer (November 7, 2021)

Michael Savarino settled onto a couch in his grandfather’s office June 2, in the midst of a history-making week at Duke University.

That same day, the Blue Devil basketball players and their parents learned during a Zoom call with Mike Krzyzewski that he planned to retire after the 2021-22 season.

That news struck Savarino in two ways – one as a Duke basketball player and another as Krzyzewski’s second-eldest grandchild.

“Wow,” Savarino said, looking back. “It’s really coming to an end. But he’s going to be on to better things. He’s going to be even more of a family guy than he already is.”

But the 74-year-old coach had one bit of family business to add to his plan.

In his office, on the sixth floor of the Schwartz-Butters Athletic Center, Krzyzewski settled into a chair facing his grandson on the couch. Savarino enrolled at Duke in 2019, spending his first two seasons on the Duke roster as a walk-on while becoming more and more of a leader to his teammates

“He’s earned his stuff,” Krzyzewski told the News & Observer in an exclusive interview. “None of those guys think of him being my grandson.”

Krzyzewski and his assistant coaches noticed Savarino’s hard work and the respect he’s gained among his teammates, just as they have with other walk-ons who’ve routinely been put on scholarships over the years

“Michael, you’ve worked your fanny off man. You’ve been terrific,” Krzyzewski told Savarino. “Going into next year, we’re going to need your maturity and your leadership and how you interact with the team.”

Retelling the story, two months later, Krzyzewski stopped in the middle to say, “I get chills thinking about it.”

Now, back to June 2, when Krzyzewski told Savarino, “I want you to know. I want to put you on scholarship this year.”

This isn’t about a player earning a scholarship from an expensive private school and thus relieving a crushing financial burden from his family. Savarino’s mother, Debbie, is Krzyzewski’s oldest child. She graduated from Duke and has worked in the basketball office since 2002, currently as an assistant athletics director for special projects and director of the Legacy Fund.

Instead, it’s about a lifelong dream coming true.

Michael Savarino began sobbing as he absorbed the news.

“I just broke down crying,” he said. “I probably cried for 10 minutes. It was one of the best days of my life. One, it’s a dream to come here. But to play on scholarship is a whole new level. I can’t describe it at all.”

Krzyzewski went to his grandson and hugged him. A thought entered his mind about the entire team for this season, the final one of his career before retirement.

“I knew at that moment what I wanted this year to be,” Krzyzewski said. “I want every kid on my team to feel that way.”

Not focusing on how to get better for the NBA, he said, not focusing on any individual honors, just totally bought into this Duke team and its season and accomplishing as much success as possible and enjoying it together in Krzyzewski’s final year.

To have that clarity while sharing in his grandson’s joy meant everything to Krzyzewski.

“Imagine having that moment with your grandson?” he said. “It was beautiful. Not good. Crazy good. So damn good. Those are like the real special, really special, moments. For me to share that with him.”

A dog named Blue: Coach K's final season will look different without his companion

By Luke DeCock, Raleigh News & Observer (November 7, 2021)

DURHAM -- After Duke's plane returns to RDU from New York in the wee hours of Wednesday morning, Mike and Mickie Krzyzewski will head back home in the dark, and when they turn up the circular driveway of their house, that face won't be there waiting.

The dining room window next to the front door will be empty. The familiar yellow face, ecstatic at the coach's return, won't be there for the first time in more than a decade.

Krzyzewski will go through his final season as Duke's head coach without his constant companion for the last 12 1/2 years, a yellow Labrador named Blue who watched more film with the coach than any of his assistant coaches.

Took more walks than any of them, too.

"He was my guy," Krzyzewski told the News & Observer. "When I came home, the walks, I work outside a lot, watching tape – he's there. I miss him."

Blue died in Krzyzewski's arms this summer, a week after being diagnosed with lung cancer. It's a measure of Krzyzewski's grief that he brought it up, unprompted, during an August media briefing. He had sporadically mentioned Blue over the years – "I don't have a doghouse. I have a dog. His name is Blue," Krzyzewski said in 2013 – but never like that. It was an unburdening, a rare moment of uncontainable private grief displayed publicly for a perpetual companion.

"Always. And a good one," Krzyzewski said later. "And also, not just as a guy, but also at my age you don't just have somebody new to fool around with. He was good. A great dog with the kids. People. He was just a good guy. Just a real good guy."

Anyone with a dog – any pet, really – has their own relationship with it, but there's something different with coaches who have dogs: A working companion during all the late hours, a walking partner during constitutionals to blow off steam or clear one's head, an unfailingly friendly face after the hardest losses, or when even when the die-hardest fans and wealthiest boosters have lost faith.

If you need a friend in coaching (or many other cutthroat pursuits), get a dog, the saying goes.

Krzyzewski has had three.

The first two – a black Lab named Defense and a chocolate Lab named Cameron – were family dogs, companions for his daughters as much as a coach who didn't have dogs growing up and had to learn to love them.

"Defense was my dad's first pet," Krzyzewski's daughter Jamie Spatola told the N&O's Steve Wiseman, a phrasing that could potentially apply to basketball as well.

Blue, who was born just before Krzyzewski won his fourth national title in 2010, was different. The girls were long out of the house. When Krzyzewski got home from work or the road, Blue was always there, waiting impatiently for his walk.

"As soon as I came in," Krzyzewski said. "Even though I'm talking to Mickie, he was like, 'Let's go. Let's go.'"

When you've been somewhere as long as Krzyzewski has been at Duke, there are fundamentals that become constants, a routine that becomes a comfort as much as it is a means to an end. That's changing for Krzyzewski now. He's already off the recruiting trail, almost but not quite fully disengaged from that process. While fully invested in the Xs and Os of this Duke season, his interactions with successor Jon Scheyer will necessarily increase as part of the transition.

These are small but jarring changes for someone as set in their (successful) ways as Krzyzewski has been. And yet none of them will be as personally disruptive as this final season spent without the furry, floppy companion who was by Krzyzewski's side when no one was watching.

Blue's role will not be filled during this season. "We haven't recruited anyone to replace him," Krzyzewski joked in August, because Mickie wants to travel with the team during this farewell season and it wouldn't be fair to a new dog to spend that much time alone.

Selecting a replacement for the irreplaceable Blue will be one of Krzyzewski's first and more important post-retirement tasks. Even if he was unsure, his family may insist upon it.

"That man needs, he needs a dog," Spatola said. "He needs a dog."

46 years of family: Coach K on and off the basketball court

By Sasha Richie, Duke Chronicle (November 4, 2021)

When Duke men's basketball head coach Mike Krzyzewski announced his forthcoming retirement in a press conference in early June, he said, "My family and I view today as a celebration."

It was a celebration of an illustrious career, one that has seen five NCAA championships, three Olympic gold medals as head coach of the United States men's basketball national team and 1,170 collegiate wins, the most of any head coach in college basketball history.

However, the day of Krzyzewski's retirement was also a celebration of a four-decade long tapestry woven with the threads of the entire Krzyzewski family. Duke men's basketball and the Krzyzewski name have become synonymous, and as Duke faithful everywhere reflect on 41 years of Coach K, it also becomes time for the Krzyzewskis to reflect on the program that they have been so intimately tied to.

"For us, there is no greater joy than being part of our players' respective endeavors through basketball, and more importantly, their lives off the court," Krzyzewski said at his retirement press conference. "Our family is eternally grateful to everyone who contributed to our career for the past 46 years. So, to the countless members of our extended family, thank you very much."

'Our career'

While the announcement of Krzyzewski's imminent retirement sent shockwaves through the basketball world, it was really the final step of a career that has prioritized family since the very beginning, even when their family was a small one of just two, Krzyzewski and his wife Carol "Mickie" Krzyzewski.

The two met when Krzyzewski was still a cadet at West Point, and, though they humorously recall that Mickie was Krzyzewski's third choice for their first date to a Chicago Bears game, they have been a team for 52 years now, having wedded in 1969. Three daughters and nine grandchildren later, it's still the two of them at the head of the table both in the family and in Duke men's basketball.

"It's always been, for the two of us, our career," Krzyzewski said, referencing him and Mickie, at the Blue Devils' media day in September. "When [then-athletic director] Tom Butters, God bless him, hired me, he mentioned to Mickie, 'I just want you to know, I'm not hiring your husband, I'm hiring your family,' and that was a really big-time thing to say to a 33, 34-year-old couple getting ready to take a real big jump into the ACC."

Krzyzewski joined Duke as head coach in 1980 with his wife and three young daughters in tow, a quintet he, according to his grandson Michael Savarino, lovingly refers to as "the starting five." However, though the Krzyzewskis had each other by their sides, braving a new environment was not all smooth sailing for the young family. Despite Krzyzewski having been head coach at West Point for five years, the Blue Devils were a whole new mountain to climb.

In an interview with The Chronicle from 2015, Mickie recalled how, after moving into their first house in Durham, she had picked a wallpaper for the bathrooms, but when installers came to put it up, they questioned her choice. At first, Mickie was surprised, thinking the men were criticizing her interior decorating taste, but then they explained and it turned out that the wallpaper she'd chosen was Carolina blue. In that moment, for the first time, she understood the gravitas of joining a program like Duke with such rich traditions and realized the long road they had ahead of them.

"To all of that, we were a little naive. I was not familiar with North Carolina, I hadn't ever really been here," Mickie said in that earlier interview. "We moved in and were just really kind of bright eyed about everything."

'Part of everything'

Beyond the history, simply adjusting to the intensity of the ACC while raising a family was a journey for them, but looking back, Krzyzewski says that, because of his family's unwavering support, that journey has, "been pretty easy, really."

While Krzyzewski credits his family's support, Mickie credits Krzyzewski and his proactive effort to bring the family into the program from the start and carrying on throughout his entire tenure at Duke.

"He let us be part of everything. When the girls were little and they were on a team trip, they were allowed to ride on the team bus. We still, to this day, go into the coach's locker room," Mickie said in the 2015 interview. "Our daughters and our grandkids, we see him as soon as possible after a game and no matter what, win or lose, he's got a hug and a kiss for each of the grandkids."

She believes that openness was key to not only surviving what could have been a difficult situation, but thriving in it.

"He allowed our family to be a part of his career...I credit him for being smart enough, secure enough and loving enough to let us in," Mickie said.

However, while an intentional effort, involving his family in his career as a coach was also a labor of love, as Krzyzewski got to share his passion with his daughters.

"Debbie [Savarino] was young, really young, and when they used to have Super Eight projectors, I'd be home watching, and she would watch film with me, and at the end I'd do all those figures on the wall," he said at the Blue Devils' media day.

Years later, Krzyzewski is still proud that all his daughters know the game of basketball, and his oldest, Debbie Savarino, even serves as an assistant athletic director at Duke today. But it all stemmed from that early decision to, as Mickie called it, "open the door" between his career and his family, and that decision has paved the way for a lifelong relationship between the Krzyzewski family and the program.

'I just break down crying'

Given how profoundly family has influenced Krzyzewski's career, it's fitting that he is sharing his final season with his grandson Michael.

"I was blessed to be able to grow up around the program, and I'm blessed to be in it," Michael said, reflecting on his time with Duke men's basketball since joining the team as a walk-on in 2019. "I feel like I know [Krzyzewski] so much better, as a coach and as a grandfather, just from being around him every single day. Like, I literally see him everyday. So having little interactions like that is something I'm incredibly, incredibly grateful for, and I wouldn't have it if I didn't come here."

It wasn't always a given that Michael would join his grandfather at Duke despite demonstrating basketball prowess from a young age, but when it came time to decide, the decision was obvious.

"I visited a ton of schools. But everything I was looking for was right in my backyard, like everything I wanted in a school," Michael said.

Now, he's glad he made that decision, as the experience of sharing three years with his grandfather, including Krzyzewski's final season, has been "bittersweet," and he points to the day before Krzyzewski announced his retirement as being "one of the best days of [his] life," as it was a turning point in their relationship.

Michael says that on that day, Krzyzewski called him into his office and told him two things: that he was going to announce his retirement the next day and that he was putting Michael on scholarship.

"He just told me how important I was to the team and the role, the specific role I've been playing and how good of a job I've been doing and how he wanted me to elevate that role even more, and how I need to be a little more vocal, I need to be a leader," Michael recalled. Then Krzyzewski told him he was putting him on scholarship, and "I just break down crying. I probably cried for about 10 minutes," Michael said.

46 years of family: Coach K on and off the basketball court (cont.)

By Sasha Richie, Duke Chronicle (November 4, 2021)

Still, despite the bond they've formed over three years with the Blue Devils together, Michael joked, "I'm definitely not his grandson when we walk into the gym, or when we're on Duke's campus at all."

"When we walk in the gym, he's 'Coach.' When we walk out...he's completely different. And that just shows how he can turn it on and off. And not many people can do that," he said.

'No Duke hanging in the house'

It's that line that Krzyzewski has been able to draw between family and basketball that has made the family so strong. Even as the Krzyzewski family has grown in and with Duke men's basketball, family has always come first.

"The things that we would hang in our house or on our fridge was stuff that the girls had accomplished. So there was no Duke hanging in the house. We tried to make sure that they knew that they came first to us and that they were more important to us," Mickie said of drawing that line from the moment they joined the Blue Devils and had to decorate their new home in Durham. To this day, Michael says there is "never, ever" basketball at the family dinner table.

Still, even as he built a home filled with "lace and pink" for his daughters instead of Duke blue, Krzyzewski's family has guided his career at every step.

In an interview for Time Magazine in 2001, Krzyzewski said, "Over the years, the girls have exposed me to an environment where they share their feelings, and I've tried to teach my players to do the same thing. I tell them it's not guys doing girl things; it's being a real person—to hug, to cry, to laugh, to share. If you create a culture where that's allowed, all of a sudden, you have some depth," speaking on the influence his daughters and family have had on his coaching.

That family legacy continues. Aptly named "The Brotherhood," Duke men's basketball is head-to-toe a family affair. Aside from the Krzyzewski family's involvement at every level of the organization, Krzyzewski has made sure that family is a priority for not only himself, but for his players and staff.

In his interview with Time Magazine, Krzyzewski said he looks for how recruits treat their parents as a way to discern character, and he makes sure that players know they are not just joining a team but joining a family.

In his book "Leading with the Heart," Krzyzewski writes, "As a basketball coach, I have no problem telling a team, 'I love you guys,'" a lesson he says he learned from his own family growing up.

Now, with just one more season of Krzyzewski-led basketball, all of the Duke community can reflect on those lessons too, lessons borne out of Krzyzewski's intense and intentional love for his family.

Even as the Blue Devils say goodbye to arguably the greatest college basketball coach ever, they will always carry the legacy of the Krzyzewskis, every single one of them.

Coach K's last season: Mike Krzyzewski reflects before he leads Duke one final time

By Mike DeCourcy, Sporting News (October 12, 2021)

DURHAM, N.C. – The man who taught us all long ago there is no such thing as a “defending champion,” that falling short the following season does not mean anyone’s coming to tear down your banner, now is attempting to eradicate the word “last” from his program.

The execution on this one will be trickier, because even Mike Krzyzewski trips on it occasionally. He dropped the word, using it in the forbidden context, at least once on a routine Monday afternoon. And, in the few weeks Duke has been practicing, he has caught himself at least a couple of times wandering past the emotional barrier he has constructed around the 2021-22 college season.

One more time. That’s the K-friendly way to discuss what will transpire for the coach and his program over the next five – or, if things follow the fairytale script allowing him to depart a champion, like John Wooden and John Elway and so few others – six months. He announced in June his decision to coach the current season and then leave the Blue Devils to a successor, which he preferred to be Jon Scheyer, who turned out to be the school’s choice, as well.

Their approach to this succession process is not unique, but it is uncommon. It has allowed Krzyzewski the opportunity to enter this season with a focus unlike any in his previous 46 seasons as a head coach. He need not travel for recruiting, not for scouting nor home visits. He is able to work on building relationships and building his team, and that is most welcome after the COVID season of 2020-21 he refused to let become the closing chapter of his Hall of Fame career.

Now he looks on the floor at the practice facility that bears his name and sees the ingredients of a promising team that could make this a joyous season, principally 6-10 freshman forward Paolo Banchemo, whose size and skill might be described as a combination of Danny Ferry and Grant Hill if that didn’t feel a bit too extravagant.

“I don’t want to go through memory lane here, or whatever. The reason I love coaching, and the reason we’ve had a continuity of excellence, is because we’ve focused on the moment, and I’ve done that with every team,” Krzyzewski told Sporting News. “And so I’m going to do it with this team. I’ve told them: Don’t talk about ‘sixth’, ‘last’, ‘doing it for Coach K.’ Let’s just do it together. Let’s see what the hell happens.”

Krzyzewski will reach his 75th birthday in February. He has won two FIBA World Championships, three Olympic gold medals, five NCAA championships, 12 NCAA regionals and 1,170 games as a Division I head coach. It may seem exhausting to carry around such a weighty resume, but Krzyzewski insists he feels “youthful” and “passionate.” He understands there only are so many years to a lifetime, though, and there are other ways to spend them beyond the passionate pursuit of youthful basketball prospects.

He considers himself beyond fortunate to have enjoyed this degree of professional success, to have had the opportunity to coach so many great players and teams over such a long period of time. “How lucky ... now, again, you’ve got to be good,” he said. Krzyzewski first dreamed of becoming a coach at 16, played for Bob Knight at Army and then entered the business and took over that program four years after Knight left. Here he is, nearly 60 years later, on the verge of completing a career no one could have imagined.

“To do something you love doesn’t mean you love everything you do to do what you love,” Krzyzewski told SN. “For me, the time – how much time do you have? There’s got to be something more that I’d like to do with my time. As much as I love going to Peach Jam and all the recruiting, the amount of recruiting and the intensity that you do to get the level of player that we get is enormous. And, again, it’s not like I hated it. But you’ve got to make some decisions.

“That’s part of it. The other thing is, Mickie, we’ve been married 52 years. We have 10 grandchildren; they’re all here. They’ve made a lot of sacrifices. And again, my daughters and my family would be all for me, whatever I would do. But Mickie and I have talked about it for a couple years.”

If the year 2020 had developed differently, we might have had this conversation a year ago. Krzyzewski’s Blue Devils owned a 25-6 record on March 11 and finished the ACC regular season a game out of first place. There’s no way to know what course he would have followed if that season had ended with a loss somewhere in the NCAA Tournament or maybe a slightly improbable Final Four appearance.

Once the pandemic became an issue, though, Krzyzewski knew he was not going to leave. Navigating COVID last winter while trying to run a Division I basketball program was no kind of fun, but leaving it for someone less experienced to manage might have set back Duke basketball – and the person left in charge – for years. That never was an option.

“As soon as COVID hit, I said there’s no way. We have to shepherd – I didn’t know where it would end or whatever – but I said we have to shepherd the program,” he said. “I didn’t know that shepherding would lead the sheep through the Valley of Death and up the Himalayas. For everybody, it was tough.”

Leaving after last season was over was not a possibility, and not just because the Devils finished 13-11, missed the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1995 and chose to end their season following a member of the program testing positive for COVID during the ACC Tournament.

Krzyzewski explained that three of the most important pillars of the program were undermined by COVID restrictions: preparation, relationships and communication.

“We have prepared really well, and I learned that from when I was a player under Coach Knight,” Krzyzewski said. “We could not prepare. We lost the summer. Forget about that we were a young team and not as talented.

“We have been great with relationships with our players, as a team and a coaching staff. No way did we come close to the level that you needed to be really good.

“And how do you teach communication at the level it needs to be when, really, for the first month of individual work in September, I wasn’t even on the court. Our weight room is right there, and I was behind the glass and would come out at different times. So the ability to touch, communicate, just be able to pat somebody on the back. Or, ‘Come over here son,’ give him a little hug or get on his ass. All that level of communication, verbal and non-verbal communication, was just ... to me, it showed just how important it’s been for us.

“It was such a bad year.”

Krzyzewski responded by bringing the Duke freshmen to campus a month earlier than in past years and having them take an academic class to become familiar with the campus, the program and their coach, who was around them daily. In July, when the rest of the players arrived for summer classes, they entered an unofficial, program-designed course called “the Brotherhood curriculum” – the Brotherhood being what Duke calls the unofficial fraternity of players who’ve competed for the Blue Devils.

They were instructed by Duke basketball’s academic coordinator, its creative director for advice on social media and branding, and by a financial adviser on personal finance. And then the coaches would help teach the program’s culture.

“As a result, we’ve learned from doing it. We saw what we missed. And we needed to right the ship,” Krzyzewski said. “You were in the gym. I don’t know how many games we’re going to win or lose – I think we’ll win more than we lose, maybe be real good – but that was fun in there. There’s energy. Last year, there was no energy.

“We got away a weekend ago, and Mickie said, ‘Do you have any regrets about continuing to coach?’ Not stopping coaching, because I’ve already let the recruiting go ... I’m not calling every night and texting. And I said, ‘No. I’m good. I think I’ll be better. I’m anxious to feel people in Cameron and on the road.

“My whole career is feeding off that energy. You have a passion for what you do, but the energy of the environment you do it in – your own, the players’, the crowd’s – there’s energy. And that was not there last year.”

On the evening of June 3, the day he held an afternoon press conference to discuss his decision to retire as head coach following the 2021-22 season, Krzyzewski was at home watching David Muir report “World News Tonight” to a large segment of the U.S. population.

And it turned out, to the coach’s surprise, he was World News that night.

“I was knocked back by the response,” Krzyzewski said. “I told Mickie, I said, ‘Holy crap.’ I literally was surprised.”

It only has grown more intense as the season approaches. Jon Jackson, Duke’s deputy director of athletics for men’s basketball, has had the responsibility of handling the coach’s media requests. There were calls from “60 Minutes” and HBO. Eventually, if that interest still is there when the season ends, “I owe that to people,” Krzyzewski said. “Then I’ll do whatever.”

Keeping the attention off himself during the fall has allowed more to be paid to the job Scheyer is doing recruiting the first Duke team of which he will be head coach. The Devils already have commitments from three top-10 prospects.

Mike Krzyzewski reflects before he leads Duke one final time (cont.)

By Mike DeCourcy, Sporting News (October 12, 2021)

Krzyzewski has not been uninvolved in that success, but he did not attend any summer tournaments or showcases to evaluate prospects or make them aware of his presence. Scheyer filled the role of Duke head coach at those events. The staff discussed with him what they learned on their various trips. And when players and their families visited campus, he met with them and explained his retirement does not equate to an evacuation.

"In June, we had a number of visits," Krzyzewski said. "So I had meetings with the families to reassure them: I'm not going anywhere. I'm staying in this office. I'm going to be an ambassador for the school. I'm not going to coach your son, but I'll be there for you. I'll be there for you if you go pro after a year. Jon and these guys are going to coach you. I'm not going to interfere, but you should know I'll be here if you need me for guidance and anything.

"So I know all of our recruits and their families, and will know them, but in a different way."

When prospects visited Duke in previous years, the trip usually included a breakfast at Krzyzewski's home. Now, that occurs at Scheyer's home.

To accommodate the visitors, Krzyzewski said, he along the way picked up some "really nice extra chairs" so everyone would have a place to sit. "They're not folding chairs. They're really good," he said. Scheyer, with a scout's eye, figured those would be very helpful when the prospects' families came to his house. So he asked to borrow them.

"We have two kids who are committed coming in in this weekend, and another kid and his family that we're recruiting," Krzyzewski said. "Today in our meeting, I said, 'So tell me what your plan is. Where do you want me?' And I said, 'By the way, when do I get my damn chairs back?'"

Adjacent to the Michael W. Krzyzewski Center for Athletic Excellence, where the Blue Devils practice each day, there is a rectangular courtyard fronted by a sign that reads "Krzyzewskiville." That is where, for decades, students have camped out to be first to enter Cameron Indoor Stadium and claim the best seats for Duke's home games.

To better manage this process, there are "line monitors" selected from among the student body. Recently, a line monitors "reunion" was arranged, and several dozen who handled that duty in the past came to campus to join the current group for an event that included a chance to visit last Friday's Devils practice and a cocktail party afterward. Krzyzewski spoke to the group then.

"Right toward the end, in talking, I said something. I don't even remember the exact words. I started, like, crying," Krzyzewski said. "So I said: All right, we'll see you all and keep up the good work."

The following day, there was an "open practice" used as a fundraiser for the Duke Children's Hospital, a favorite charity project for the Krzyzewskis for decades. Those willing to pay \$100 were granted a seat in Cameron to watch Banchemo and muscular freshman guard Trevor Keels and vets Wendell Moore, Jeremy Roach and Mark Williams continue their preparation for the opening game Nov. 9 in the Champions Classic at Madison Square Garden.

"I was doing different things and finally 10 minutes before – our guys were out there already – I came on the court and it's a standing ovation," Krzyzewski said, and he started to explain how that felt, then stopped, because it wasn't necessary and might have provoked the same reaction, again.

"I've got to be careful it doesn't hit me like that," he said. "I wasn't expecting either one. On the road, when they boo me, that'll balance the scales.

"We'll see what the hell happens. But I just wanted to coach for this ... like, I'll go home tonight and watch the tape. I love watching tape. I love practicing planning. I love developing relationships with the players, and all that. And building a team.

"I hope it never hits me until it's over that I won't be able to do that again. But right now, that hasn't hit me. If it does, then I won't be as good, I don't think."

When he was close to reaching the ultimate decision to coach the Devils once more, and only once, Krzyzewski and his wife spoke with a close family friend, with his three daughters and then gathered assistant coaches Scheyer, Chris Carrawell and Nolan Smith and discussed it with them. All this took place over about a week in the spring.

"By the time I talked with the coaching staff, I was pretty sure that this is what we were going to do," he said. "I brought up, 'Look, in order to do this, I'm in an ethical dilemma. I can't recruit a kid if I'm not going to coach him.' And so it creates a situation if I still want to coach, it's Duke's decision then, will they allow me to do that? I didn't think they'd ask me to retire, but again, you still have to show courtesy to everybody.

"And so we need to find the answer of who – it needs to be somebody from the Brotherhood. And Chris Carrawell said, 'Coach, the answer is right here: Jon.' And I already knew that. And Nolan said, 'That's right.' And I said, you know what: 'That's a hell of a thing.' I get chills just thinking about it. I said, 'Jon, you're ready.'"

Krzyzewski explained he would not have said that of Scheyer a year earlier, but it's now been nearly a decade since he joined the staff. Scheyer was an All-American point guard for Duke's 2010 NCAA Championship team, even though he wasn't truly a point guard. He adapted to the position because that's what the team needed. He had to do that with only a short time to prepare in practice.

Now Scheyer gets nearly a year to adjust to the demands not just of coaching in the ACC, or coaching a program that three different coaches have led to the Final Four, but to follow the man who is the greatest men's basketball coach in NCAA history.

It'll help to have the greatest coach around to guide him. Even now, with a team to prepare to chase an ACC title and perhaps another Final Four and possibly more beyond that, Krzyzewski is discovering another approach to coaching that can continue into his retirement. He even, as he is teaching, learning some new ideas about how to coach this one more season.

"Jon and I, as good a relationship as we've had, doing this it is off the charts," he said. "I've loved it. After we have a staff meeting, I'll say, 'Let's the two of us spend a few minutes.' This was like weeks ago, I had something to tell him, and I got in at 8 o'clock in the morning. And I was going to get – we have a Starbucks machine on the floor – and I open the door and Jon was right there, at the door. And we started laughing. He said, 'I have a couple things.' And I said, 'I have couple things, too.' And after we got through those couple things, we spent another 45 minutes.

"And I said: I haven't talked to you about time. You're going to be amazed that you don't have enough time. And so before you commit to anything, make sure you know that's time. With you, with a young family, you've got to be careful. It was really a good talk about time."

Krzyzewski understands that clock is ticking. There will be a final buzzer, because that is how the game ends, no matter how one might endeavor to manipulate the language. It may be followed by confetti descending from the ceiling of the Superdome or tears dropping from the corner of some Devilish eyes, possibly even both. It is coming, though.

How Wendell Moore changed his mind and body to lead Duke basketball

By Steve Wiseman, Raleigh News & Observer (October 4, 2021)

Wendell Moore etched his name in Duke basketball lore with his game-winning basket at North Carolina during his freshman year.

An overtime buzz beater in the sport's biggest rivalry? On the road to silence the Smith Center?

For many, that's a badge of honor to carry for a lifetime.

For Moore, though, it represents but a start.

Because after he scored 17 points with that basket to beat UNC 98-96 in overtime on Feb. 8, 2020, Moore combined for only 13 points over his next four games.

When he scored 25 points in Duke's 83-82 win over Boston College last Jan. 6, Moore followed that up with back-to-back four-point outings.

Consistency lacked; confidence waned from game to game.

MOORE CHANGES HIS APPROACH

Moore, though, worked this offseason to change that, and his Duke teammates and coaches are confident he's achieved that goal.

"He's come back and he's been a different guy," Duke assistant coach Nolan Smith said. "He's been really special. We're excited to see it all come together now."

A 6-5, 213-pound forward, Moore's versatility allows him to handle the ball at the point when needed, or fill the shooting guard or small forward slots or even go down low and battle big guys for rebounds.

Now a junior, he's the most experienced Blue Devils player in terms of games played with Duke.

But, mostly, it's that his mental and physical approaches are in tune now, something that wasn't always the case as he learned how to handle the ups and downs of a season.

"He's benefited from not just the successes he's had, but the times he's been knocked on his butt," Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski said.

For everyone who patted him on the back for that overtime basket to beat UNC, Moore had to hear about his 4-of-19 3-point shooting as a freshman.

For all the bouquets thrown his way for scoring 20 or more points three times in ACC play last season, there's criticism for his four points in a loss to Michigan State or failing to score when Illinois beat the Blue Devils.

"All those things that are said and all the sudden the guy is good," Krzyzewski explained. "(People say) 'Well, I'm surprised.' Well, you're surprised because you don't know it's a process. I mean, you don't get an app to be good. You have to earn being good. And he spent the spring changing his body and how he runs. He's taller now. He's a much better athlete."

MENTALLY CONSISTENT

One of his teammates who knows Moore best, roommate and fellow junior, Michael Savarino, said Moore sharpened his mental approach as well.

"I feel like he's wavered multiple storms and this is his time," said Savarino, who is Krzyzewski's grandson. "He's in a great mental spot."

Moore, from Charlotte and Concord's Cox Mill High School, averaged 9.7 points and 4.8 rebounds as a freshman and 7.4 points and 4.2 rebounds last season as a sophomore.

Those are decent numbers. But the inconsistency of his play is what he sought to fix this offseason.

"It's always been mentality with me," Moore said. "The biggest thing was changing my mentality, making it stronger every time I get out there on the court. I really just need to play where I never feel weak on the court. I know my teammates always believe in me and I think now I'm really starting to believe in myself the way everybody else does."

Smith said he and Moore have had "many, many conversations about that." Playing with confidence, being strong to protect the ball and finish plays, being a force on defense are all things Moore strives to show this season.

A video clip of a Moore dunk in practice making its way around the Internet last week showed perhaps that work paid off. Even Krzyzewski noted it had gone viral.

Moore worked with senior Joey Baker and Savarino on their games last spring and during the summer on campus. He traveled to Los Angeles to work with Matthew Hurt, his former Duke teammate who was preparing for the NBA Draft last summer, and spent a few weeks in Miami working on his game.

He's turned in some memorable performances in his Duke career, but they were too few and far between for his liking.

"I started showing flashes of it," Moore said. "For me it was about putting those flashes together into a consistent run over the season. I'm starting to really figure that out."

MOVING FORWARD WITH PERSEVERANCE

Smith sees his own career in Moore's. During Smith's first two seasons with the Blue Devils, he averaged 5.9 and 8.4 points per game. As a junior, he's scoring jumped to 17.4 points and he helped Duke win the 2010 NCAA championship.

As a senior, Smith averaged 20.6 points and was the ACC player of the year in 2011 when the Blue Devils won the league championship.

Moore's perseverance impresses Smith.

"The one thing I'm most proud of him when it comes to that is, he didn't run," Smith said. "We are in the climate of transfers, when a lot of guys transfer and run when it's not going their way. Obviously it worked out for me. I'm a firm believer in if you stick it out, it's going to work out, especially if you are talented enough and you have the tools to make it work."

Krzyzewski looks to Moore as a team leader. He's clearly in line to be named a team captain this season. With Krzyzewski set to retire following this season, Moore is one of the players he's counting on to produce one more great season.

"I love my relationship with him," Krzyzewski said. "He's our leader. He's vocal. He's in a great, great place. I love where he's at. I'm really anxious to see how it will turn out for him this year. He's one of the keys to our team because he's going to be that leader."

One-and-not-quite-done: Why Mark Williams returned to Duke basketball

By Steve Wiseman, Raleigh News & Observer (September 26, 2021)

A strong finish to his freshman season could have been enough for Mark Williams.

Standing 7 feet tall, with a 7-7 wingspan and weighing a solid 243 pounds, the Duke center looked like one of the ACC's top players in the ACC tournament.

A 23-point, 19-rebound effort when Duke beat Louisville to reach the quarterfinals at Greensboro Coliseum last March 10 showed Williams could dominate.

But could he do that in professional basketball?

That's the question he faced after Duke's season was abruptly ended by COVID-19 with positive cases on the team leading to its withdrawal from the ACC tournament with a 13-11 record.

One of his classmates, Jalen Johnson, declared for the NBA Draft and left the team in February. Another, D.J. Steward, turned pro after the season ended.

Every year since 2014, at least one Duke freshman has been taken in the NBA Draft's first round, usually in the lottery.

Williams explored the idea of becoming the latest one-and-done Blue Devil.

"I did," Williams told the News & Observer this month.

But it went no further.

"I felt like coming back, I could really show what I can do over the course of a whole year," Williams said. "My body of work last year, I don't think, would have been enough. I mean, it could have been, obviously, if I'd have tested the waters. But I didn't want it to be a question. So I wanted to come back, show what I could do, dominate for a whole year and see what happens from there."

MARK WILLIAMS LOOKS AT THE BIG PICTURE

His decision made him a rarity among Duke players of recent vintage. Sophomores become grizzled veterans as guys from Jabari Parker and Jahliil Okafor to Jayson Tatum and Zion Williamson boarded the one-and-done train.

Williams looked at the big picture. He'd struggled to adjust to college basketball early, only playing more than eight minutes in one game prior to late January.

Even on Feb. 20, tasked with guarding Virginia 7-1 center Jay Huff, Williams played just seven minutes that day.

"Jay is such a good basketball player," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said that day, after the Blue Devils won 66-65. "His footwork, his touch and his ball handling. Mark hasn't guarded anyone like that."

In a game 11 days later at Georgia Tech, which had 6-9, 230-pound, ACC player of the year Moses Wright in the middle, Williams scored 20 points but fouled out.

So, while his size and skill would have been enough for some NBA to either draft him or sign him as a free agent, Williams knew what he'd done wasn't enough for him.

He was good at times, great in the ACC tournament. He's seeking a higher, more consistent level.

"He should be the best rebounder and be the best defender in the country or try to be," Duke associate head coach Chris Carrawell told The News & Observer.

To get there, Williams hit the road this summer, working out and finding gym time and games to play in Philadelphia, Miami and Washington, D.C., against fellow college and some professional players.

"Continuing to work on my game, expanding my game," Williams said. "Just being decisive with all my moves."

INTERNAL COMPETITION, AND DEPTH

Back at Duke with his new teammates by late June, Williams found one particularly intriguing addition to the roster who should help him in practice and games.

Theo John transferred to Duke to play his final year of NCAA basketball. Listed at 6-9 and 242 pounds, the veteran center joined the Blue Devils after starting 25 games for Marquette last season. He's played in 123 college games.

Suddenly, Williams has a comparable athlete to battle in practice every day. He has a teammate who's played in the Big East and has NCAA tournament experience.

"He's really strong," Williams said. "He's been around the game for a while and can teach me some tricks. He's really strong. That forces me to make better moves. If I can do it against him, that's going to make life easier against somebody smaller than that, because he's 6-10, 250. He's legit."

Former Duke and NBA center Shelden Williams (no relation), the two-time national defensive player of the year during his days with the Blue Devils, said a physical teammate like John will make Williams even better, especially on defense.

"What I'm actually excited about is, now they actually have a guy who can bang against Mark every day in practice," Shelden Williams said on his podcast. "He can actually get used to Theo bumping his chest and still trying to stay strong and stay straight up where he's not putting his arms down and giving up cheap fouls."

Carrawell made it clear that is where the foundation of Williams' game needs to be for him to be considered one of the nation's top centers and someone worthy of being a first-round draft pick.

"You build it from defense," Carrawell said. "They want to know if he can defend. That's the first thing they look at from bigs now. Can you defend around the rim? Can you go out on pick and rolls? Can you protect the paint? Can you rebound the ball? That's the foundation and everything else comes from that."

BIGGER THAN BASKETBALL

Mark Williams' belief in improving his play to a higher level before jumping to a higher level of competition isn't the only way he's different from recent one-and-done Duke players.

NCAA rule changes in July allowing players to profit financially from their name, image and likeness removed some of the monetary impetus for leaving school. Williams is active on Cameo, receiving \$50 for custom, personalized video greetings, with more opportunities still out there.

His family also values education. His father, Dr. Alex Williams, is a practicing gastroenterologist in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Mark Williams made the all-ACC Academic Honor Roll for posting a 3.0 GPA or better last school year.

His older sister, Elizabeth, was a four-time, all-American center for Duke's women's basketball team from 2011-15. She twice made the ACC Honor Roll, in addition to the school's Dean's List, while receiving her psychology degree before entering the WNBA, where she now plays with the Atlanta Dream.

Mark Williams, though, said that aspect of his life alone wouldn't keep him from entering the NBA early if he's ready after this season.

"Even if I leave, I would plan on coming back to finish school," he said.

Back in 2010, when Elizabeth Williams committed to Duke, it was an 8-year-old Mark who helped reveal the news by removing his jacket to display a Blue Devils shirt at her signing day event.

In December 2016, 15-year-old Mark was at Cameron Indoor Stadium with his parents when Elizabeth's No. 1 jersey was retired to the rafters.

His family's legacy literally hangs over his head while he plays for the Blue Devils.

Now here he is, honing and strengthening his game with a chance to become a national defensive player of the year, just like his sister was in 2015.

"I honestly got familiar with Cameron when I was younger with her playing in the same gym," Mark Williams said. "It's crazy. Full circle."

All of that was too much to pull Mark Williams away from Duke and to the NBA following his freshman season.

The Blue Devils figure to benefit from having their standout center on the court as they work to deliver one last national championship in Krzyzewski's final season before his retirement next spring.

How Jon Scheyer's Glenbrook North childhood explains his rise to Duke head coach

By Brian Hamilton, The Athletic (July 20, 2021)

NORTHBROOK, Ill. – The new Glenbrook North High School scoreboard is pretty nice, as luxuries in suburban multipurpose gyms go. It's also bigger than its predecessor and compelled administrators to do some redecoration upon installation. This is how a large and thoughtful and well-crafted jersey-retirement signboard comes to rest on a carpeted floor, in a corner of an assistant athletic director's office, like a semi-ancient relic you need a guide and a tattered map to find.

Here lies Jon Scheyer, Class of 2006. But only figuratively and only for the moment. A redesigned board to fit the space is on order, for one. And the former state champ and Illinois Mr. Basketball and McDonald's All-American – yes, that's all spelled out on the gym wall adornments – is never out of mind within these town limits. For that matter, he's not even really out of sight, right here and right now.

In a display case, across the hall from the gym's main entrance, is Scheyer's Mr. Basketball plaque. And two for Parade All-American honors. And another for Gatorade Player of the Year. And a limited edition basketball honoring his achievements. And a picture of Scheyer with Morgan Wooten at the McDonald's All-American game, which sits one shelf below the official McDonald's All-American certificate. And Scheyer's college jersey. Plus other memorabilia from postseason runs and that state title, just one of 10 in any sport in school history. It is a meticulously curated altar to one kid's greatness and its echoes. It is, if you will, the Scheyer Shrine.

Before Jon Scheyer was a big deal because he's the next men's basketball coach at Duke, he was an insanely big deal because he was one of the best basketball players this state has ever seen and, as such, something like a small-town hoops demigod. He had ad hoc bodyguards. He had a sandwich named after him. He bore the full weight of the hopes of a place he loved dearly. And he somehow navigated all of it with uncommon grace.

To understand how a 33-year-old will handle maybe the hardest job in college basketball history, you have to understand he's kind of already lived the life he's about to live. "It certainly is crazy, but I also feel like he's prepared," says Justin Weiner, who has known Scheyer since preschool and is now a baseball and football coach at Glenbrook North. "They're not going to put someone in this job who isn't prepared to be successful. And I've never seen Jon in a position where he's not been prepared to be successful."

Revisiting the Jon Scheyer origin story is now, inevitably, a search for clues as to how he'll keep post-Krzyzewski Duke humming, beginning with the 2022-23 season. Those 3,034 points scored during his high school career – still good for fourth in state of Illinois history – are in a way only a symptom. The absurd competitiveness? The precocious on-court feel and real-time grasp of basketball nuance? The uncanny knack for getting everyone to follow his lead, without resorting to I'm better than you to make his case? Generally being a normal person in circumstances that are cartoonishly abnormal?

Northbrook, a suburb of 33,000 residents about 25 miles north of downtown Chicago proper, was the incubator for all of it. Here, Scheyer developed into the kind of person, in every sense, who even can fathom taking on a job of Duke's magnitude. This place is not Durham, and those years are not the same as the ones to come. Obviously. But it's the same life, writ small. A dress rehearsal on a bigger stage than you think, for a life spent on the biggest stage conceivable.

"The same for me happened for him: We have such supportive family and friends back in Northbrook, any struggles in our careers, we've been able to rely on them and use them to help us out of a rut or pick us up a little bit," says Jason Kipnis, a Northbrook native and Scheyer friend and, most notably, a two-time All-Star second baseman for the Cleveland Indians. "The same thing I found in Cleveland, I think he found at Duke. You're there for long enough, you develop friends into family. He's built up the pillars of support to where he knows he's not alone in this journey at all."

So you start to ask around, and unsurprisingly, tall tales of an insatiable need to win roll off everyone's tongues. The Scheyer house had a pool in the backyard, making it a natural epicenter for warm-weather adolescent shenanigans. One of the most memorable activities was pool basketball. Friends broken into teams, attempting to score on a mini-hoop at water's edge. Over time, one strategy for winning at pool basketball beat all the others: be on Jon Scheyer's side.

Because his team strategized. His team huddled up and discussed the angles and where the ball needed to go – or, more accurately, his teammates listened to Jon tell them what the angles were and where the ball needed to go. And, well, if things didn't quite go as planned, rules strangely seemed to shift in favor of Scheyer's squads at key moments, or calls reliably favored the "home" team more often than not, and so on.

It might have been frustrating if his pals expected anything less. "This is a true story," says Sean Wallis, a longtime friend and a teammate on that Glenbrook North championship squad of 2005, not to mention a Division III All-American himself. "He'd go into the settings to change how the defense would pick up in a video game, and change who the matchups are, and double-team people. I'm like, dude, just play the game. What are you doing?"

Long nights of best-of-5 one-on-one sessions against Wallis grew longer on the fairly rare occasions Wallis actually won; Scheyer would insist they stay in the gym until he came out on top. It wasn't pique reserved for a close buddy delivering the L. "If he lost a pickup game," former Glenbrook North coach Dave Weber says with a laugh, "I would not want to be his teammate." No, being competitive isn't determinative. Anyone who plays college basketball and/or coaches college basketball must be pathologically competitive, or they ought not bother at all. But Scheyer's confidants aren't resting their case simply because their friend made sure his basketball schedule permitted him to show up and pitch his Shelby's Too little league baseball team to a World Series win over Town Car Wash in eighth grade.

Their point, generally, revolves around Scheyer's circumstances: Any misgivings about his move one seat over from associate head coach will strike the perfect antagonistic chord, to where they can't imagine him allowing himself to fail. "The competitive nature inside of him is not competing with everything Coach K did but all the people who have said, 'This is an impossible act to follow,'" Wallis says. "Man, I'll tell you, I will never doubt Jon. Those types of comments only fire him up more for the opportunity."

Emotion won't win 30-odd games each winter, of course, but neither did it at Glenbrook North in the mid-aughts. Having a very talented player helped. Having a very talented player who might've been smarter than everyone else on the floor, who possessed a self-awareness beyond his years, helped even more.

In 2003, Glenbrook North met Hoffman Estates High School in a state tournament sectional final. By Weber's estimation, Hoffman Estates had the better team. So he deployed a triangle-and-two defense to unsettle the opposition and hopefully mitigate any talent disadvantage. The problem? Hoffman Estates wasn't unsettled, not entirely. It simply started screening the two Glenbrook North defenders chasing individual assignments. Weber effectively had to conjure up another layer of answers on the fly – the adjustment to the adjustment to the adjustment – when a freshman on the floor caught his eye.

Coach, Scheyer said, why don't we just switch that?

"I was like, 'You're right,'" Weber says now. "And it worked to perfection."

Glenbrook North won by seven and ultimately finished third in the state that spring. It was a sign of what was to come on multiple levels. Scheyer's innate feel and Xs and Os acumen would be as surpassing as his scoring prowess over his prep career. "He taught me a lot," Weber says. Go back and rewatch the file footage of Glenbrook North games, and Weiner, then a student broadcaster, promises you'll see countless examples of Scheyer directing traffic during the flow of a game or mapping out the next possessions in timeout huddles. Wallis recalls car rides to grassroots tournaments during which Scheyer busied himself by watching game film, and not because anyone made him do it, and not necessarily because he wanted to be a coach someday.

Scheyer understood, in a way few high school players would, that studying film not only made him better but also empowered him to raise the floor for the rest of the roster. During his retirement news conference, Krzyzewski lauded his successor's basketball intelligence, as if it were the best-kept secret in the game; moments such as these at Glenbrook North seeded an appraisal like that years later. "He made everyone better," Weiner says, "because he knew the next move."

The trick, then, is to get unequivocal buy-in. It's not easy being the most talented and the most demanding. Even good friends have egos. Trip the wrong wire, the whole thing blows up.

Scheyer never did. How?

"Probably because he was the best player and wasn't a dick," Kipnis says. "It's funny how simple it is sometimes. When you're a really good player and not an asshole about it, guys tend to gravitate towards that."

How Jon Scheyer's childhood explains his rise to Duke head coach (cont.)

By Brian Hamilton, The Athletic (July 20, 2021)

He put in the time to earn his voice, which was part of it; after finishing dinner and homework, Scheyer returned to the Glenbrook North gym with his father for a shooting workout pretty much every night. (Weber can't say Scheyer for sure acquired a key to the place ... but he pretty much assumes Scheyer acquired a key to the place.) As critically, Scheyer worked on relationships as diligently as he worked on his jumper. He befriended Jordan Gaffen, a 20-something volunteer team manager who had dealt with a lifetime of struggles due to speech and language processing disorders; Scheyer engaged Gaffen on activities big and small, called him a teammate and treated him as an equal. The night before one sectional final, Scheyer called the entire varsity team back to the gym at 9 and gathered everyone in a circle at midcourt. He then asked the group to explain what the next day meant to them, player by player. When someone relayed the story to Weber the next day, he had one thought: There's no way we're going to lose.

By the end of Scheyer's junior season, with multiple future college hoops players on the roster, a state championship was in sight. So before the playoffs began, Glenbrook North's All-American sat down with a stack of paper and a pen. He wrote a personal note to every one of his teammates, spelling out what they needed to do as individuals and as a team. He wrote that he knew the Spartans could win, but they needed to do it together, because they'd been playing together for too long not to make it happen.

"It wasn't just for a couple players that were key and who were starting," Wallis says. "He did that for everyone."

Turn off Shermer Road, head west past the freshly paved parking lots and the Center for the Performing Arts, pull into a space in the lot adjacent to the football field and you can't miss it: a white rectangle held up by green posts, with GLENBROOK NORTH STATE CHAMPIONS emblazoned at the top. Ten in all, dating back to 1966. The lone boys' basketball championship of 2005 is on the top of the right column. A vision turned reality for Jon Scheyer, and very much a moment in time for his town.

Still, relative to the years of ScheyerMania, it's a rather large log tossed on an absolute wildfire. It didn't start or end anything. Before and after that, students arrived for the sophomore boys' basketball games to have any chance at a seat for the varsity tilts. The line for regular spectators sometimes stretched as far as the eye could see from inside the doors. Wallis' coach at Washington University would later tell him he's never parked farther away for a high school game than he did for Glenbrook North's sectional in the 2005 playoff run. Scheyer, for years, had two assistant athletic directors serve as his ad hoc bodyguards, helping him move through the throngs waiting outside doors or at the bottom of stairwells for autographs – at home or on the road. By the end of his career, during the first 30 minutes of Glenbrook North practice, the Spartans stretched and warmed up while Scheyer used that window for media requests.

The zeal hasn't waned. Following Duke's national title, Scheyer returned to his high school alma mater for an assembly; a standing-room-only crowd filled the space. Weiner once had Scheyer drop by one of his physical education classes and, as he puts it, "lost the class completely." The old gym floor is basically hallowed ground: When Glenbrook North put down new hardwood a few years back, it saved the planks with the tip-off circle, and they now hang in the mezzanine.

"Someone said to me, 'My daughter is friends on Facebook with Jon!'" Weber says. "I was like, oh my God. What does that really mean?"

"It comes up so often: 'Oh, were you Scheyer's year? Or the year before Scheyer?' 'You played with Jon Scheyer?'" Wallis says. "That conversation happens for me on a monthly if not weekly basis."

"Around the area, everyone knew who Jon was," Weiner says. "In school, of course, it's Jon Scheyer. You wanted to sit next to him in the blocks, you wanted to go to lunch with him. He's had those experiences where most people might let it get to their head, and he never did."

As Duke's next head coach, there will be pressure to win, to coach every game better than the other guy, to run a program with more harmony and belief than anyone else's, to live as the center of a roiling universe with patience and humanity, to make even the smallest people feel giant-sized, and to flinch not once during the whole ordeal, year after year after year. It's a hell of a responsibility.

Good thing Jon Scheyer has had some practice.

"There's just a special little part of him that, I don't know why he has it, but he does have it," says Weber, who knows a bit about college basketball coaches, considering his older brother Bruce has been one for 40-plus years. "And he's worked under Coach K for all these years and played for him and that's taught him a lot. He just has that little intangible. You never know, but I really think it's going to work."

Little Louie's, established in 1967, occupies a spot near the beating heart of Northbrook, steps away from the intersection of downtown's main streets, across from the park that is literally called The Village Green. It's a redoubtable two-room joint serving up damn near anything preparable on a flat top grill or in a fryer, with a heaping side of nostalgia. The walls are lathered in memories: small plaques for little league softball and baseball teams, infinite shots of locals, signed AC/DC and Cheap Trick album covers, autographed pictures of Keifer Sutherland and Kid Rock among countless others. ("Your hot dog is an 'American Bad Ass!'" was the inscription left by Mssr. Rock.)

Arguably nobody has a larger presence than a skinny local basketball player. In the dining room hangs the front page of the sports section after Glenbrook North won its state title, Jon Scheyer tugging his jersey and smiling wide. Above that is the Sports Illustrated cover following Duke's 2010 national championship, autographed by Scheyer. ("To Little Louie's: Thanks for never doubting me!" has nothing on Kid Rock, honestly.) And then there's the grid of printouts describing specialty sandwiches on the Louie's menu, next to the order counter.

The Munson. The Bad Mother Clucker. The Von Dripsy.

And, of course, The Scheyer.

Skirt steak, romaine lettuce, tomato, avocado, grilled onion on fresh bread with a side of teriyaki dressing. (It is, The Athletic has learned, really tasty and insanely messy, so double order the napkins.)

"That was what he would eat every time," says Pete Weiss, the owner of Louie's. "Jon would come in all the time, and he came up with this sandwich and I just called it The Scheyer. It was just his thing. That's what he wanted. And I would never say no to him, obviously."

Weiss, like a lot of people around here, has his Jon Scheyer stories. He remembers a 9-year-old playing ball across the street with vision beyond anything someone can expect from a grade schooler ... and that same kid hung out with Weiss in Durham a few hours before they and everyone else at Cameron Indoor Stadium watched Zion Williamson's shoe explode. Also like a lot of people around here, Weiss misses his guy Jon, all while his excitement and pride about what's next renders him more or less speechless. "I have never seen anybody doubted more in my life than Jon," the 45-year-old Weiss says, "and he's the biggest winner I know."

And that's the thing.

It is crazy to everyone that the kid they played video games with or coached or fed is the next coach at Duke. Absolutely. But it's also not crazy. At all. Nor is it crazy for them to believe Scheyer will handle an awesome burden with aplomb. They've seen him do it. This next part isn't a new chapter. It's a sequel. Bigger, brasher, the stakes raised astronomically. And they think they kind of know how it's going to end.

Sean Wallis, in fact, was included in Jon Scheyer's first round of calls once one of the most talked-about transitions in the history of the sport had been settled. This was only fitting. Beyond their longstanding friendship, Wallis and Scheyer had played in the same backcourt forever growing up, sharing what everyone describes as an almost psychic connection on the floor. Neither could move without the other knowing where he'd be. So, naturally, Scheyer and his wife, Marcelle, reached out over FaceTime to connect with Wallis and his wife when this next momentous step was official.

We got the job, Scheyer announced.

There was joy and smiling and congratulations and all that, but also a weird, intangible sensation lingering over the connection. After a moment or two, one of the call's participants addressed the vibe.

I feel like you're not that surprised, Scheyer told his old friend.

"It's a combination, right?" Wallis says about a week after the world changed, but in a way that's totally familiar to everyone living in it. "You are surprised, because you weren't sure it was going to happen. But you also aren't surprised because you know he's going to do an amazing job. And it should be him. That's the guy."

‘Our next coach is in this room’: Inside Duke’s secret search to replace Coach K

By Seth Davis and Brendan Marks, The Athletic (June 21, 2021)

It started as an ordinary staff meeting. On April 12, Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski summoned his three assistants – Jon Scheyer, Chris Carrawell and Nolan Smith – to the conference room adjacent his office on the sixth floor of the Schwartz-Butters Athletic Center. Krzyzewski had just returned with his wife, Mickie, from a brief vacation in Las Vegas. (“That’s Coach’s spot,” Smith says.) The respite helped the Krzyzewskis recover from a difficult season and clear their minds for the path ahead.

With his assistants seated around the table, Krzyzewski revealed that he had reached a decision: He wanted to coach one more season and then retire. “Being in that moment, it was like, ‘Wow, this is arguably the greatest coach of all time stepping away from the game, and here I am witnessing it behind the scenes,’” Smith says. Krzyzewski, who turns 75 in February, had long maintained he wouldn’t announce his retirement in advance, but he told the guys he wanted to be transparent with recruits about his intentions. He also liked the idea of having a clear succession plan in place. That meant asking the university to choose the next coach before the season started.

Upon hearing that idea, Carrawell spoke up: “I believe our next coach is in this room.”

All eyes turned to Scheyer. At 33, he was the age Krzyzewski was when Duke hired him in 1980. Unlike Scheyer, Krzyzewski had previous head coaching experience for five years at Army, but Krzyzewski strongly believed Scheyer was far more equipped to become the head coach at Duke than he was in 1980. Scheyer was a senior co-captain on Duke’s 2010 NCAA championship team, and he has been on Krzyzewski’s staff for eight years, the last three as associate head coach. They are fellow Chicago natives and kindred spirits, and they have talked many times over the years about basketball, life and the future. Yet until that moment, they had never discussed the possibility that Scheyer would be Coach K’s heir apparent.

Krzyzewski did not expect Carrawell to make that observation, but he seemed pleased that he had. “Well, I was going to talk to you privately,” he said, turning to Scheyer, “but it makes a lot of sense. I think you’d be terrific. You’re here, you know the program, you understand the culture. You’re ready to do this.”

It was a lot for Scheyer to take in. He figured he would be in the mix whenever Krzyzewski decided to retire, but he also knew there were plenty of former Duke players and assistants – including ones with head coaching experience – who would be viable candidates as well. Moreover, Scheyer had interviewed in March for the head coaching vacancies at UNLV and DePaul, only to be passed over both times. He was particularly disappointed he didn’t get the DePaul job, considering both he and his wife are from Chicago and still have family there. As his mind spun, Scheyer felt grateful that Carrawell and Krzyzewski had endorsed him so strongly. “That was pretty powerful,” he says. “When the people who are closest to you believe in you like that, it means a lot.”

As the next few weeks passed, Krzyzewski would reference the situation during staff meetings, but Scheyer heard little about what was going on behind the scenes. He wondered at times if Coach K had changed his mind. Finally, on the afternoon of Sunday, May 23, Scheyer got the call he’d been waiting for while he was cooking burgers in his backyard on the family’s Weber gas grill. (“He’s a lot better on the grill than in the kitchen,” his wife, Marcelle, jokes.) The caller was Todd Turner, founder and president of Collegiate Sports Associates, a North Carolina-based executive search firm the school retained to assist with the hire. Scheyer handed Marcelle the spatula and answered his phone. “We’d like to interview you,” Turner said. “Are you interested?”

Scheyer smiled. “Absolutely, 100 percent, yes.”

He hung up and told Marcelle the news. She felt a wave of excitement, tinged with a current of dread; her husband had, after all, just emerged from two other job searches empty-handed. “I got my hopes up, and then I got disappointed,” she says. “I didn’t want that to happen again.”

At that moment, Scheyer didn’t have a firm idea of what his chances were. He guessed they were around 50/50. The only thing he could do was rely on his instincts, just as he had as a player. Whatever happened, he was ready to take his best shot. “I don’t go into anything thinking I’m going to lose,” he says. “I understood this is a high-level job and it’s going to be incredibly competitive. But ultimately, I’m going to bet on myself.”

Krzyzewski and his wife, Mickie, had discussed the prospect of his retirement often over the last few years. She, too, will turn 75 soon, and all 10 of their grandchildren live in the area. Mickie had felt increasingly strongly of late that it was time for her husband to step away. That was especially true in the wake of the pandemic-induced difficulties of last season, when the Blue Devils missed the NCAA Tournament for the first time in more than two decades.

Advancing age was a big factor, but the rapidly evolving environment inside the sport also played a part in their decision. The transfer market in college basketball has exploded over the last decade, and given the passage of the NCAA’s one-time transfer rule, player movement this offseason has reached record highs. Rules are also on the way that, for the first time, will enable college players to profit off of their name, image and likeness (NIL) away from the court. Krzyzewski has adapted to many such changes during his four decades as a head coach, and he was a strong advocate for the new NIL rules. But managing all this tumult requires a long haul, not a quick fix, and he wasn’t prepared for that kind of journey. “He’s not scared of NIL, he’s not scared of the transfers, he’s not scared of what’s coming,” says ESPN broadcaster Chris Spatola, who is married to Krzyzewski’s youngest daughter, Jamie. “I just don’t think he had the energy to say, OK, how do we attack the next five years?”

After Krzyzewski and his wife returned from their postseason trip to Vegas, they held a Zoom call with their three daughters on April 10 to share their decision. He told his staff two days later. The search for his replacement was further complicated by the impending retirement of Duke’s athletic director, Kevin White. His deputy, Nina King, has been named his replacement and will take over in August. The two of them worked with Duke president Vincent Price to put Krzyzewski’s plan into action. The first task was to form a search committee, and then go through the painstaking process of identifying candidates, interviewing them, and selecting a coach – all of which had to be done out of the public eye.

It would not be easy to keep such a big secret. After a smattering of cryptic rumors made their way onto Twitter the night of May 11, Spatola was bombarded by text messages and phone calls from media colleagues wanting to know what was up. Jon Jackson, Duke’s deputy athletic director for men’s basketball and external affairs, also got an email overnight from The Athletic asking about a tip from an anonymous source indicating that Krzyzewski had decided this would be his last season. Since nothing had been officially activated yet, Jackson was able to be cagey yet truthful in the statement he provided. Jackson acknowledged that discussions about Krzyzewski’s future were ongoing but nothing new, and anything beyond that was “speculative.” He added, “We look forward to many more games with him as our leader.” Jackson hoped that would be the end of that, but he sent an email to the basketball staff warning that the story could soon break at any moment.

The next day, Jackson was called into White’s office for a group meeting, where he learned he would serve as chairman of the search committee. Turner formally reached out to Scheyer the following Sunday and scheduled his interviews for Tuesday, May 25.

Having just been through multiple interviews two months before, Scheyer had a good idea of what to expect. When he asked Krzyzewski for advice, the coach replied simply, “Be yourself.” On Tuesday afternoon, Scheyer told Smith and Carrawell he needed to be in his office alone for a while. Then he shut the door and spoke to the search committee for over an hour via Zoom, followed by another hour-long call with White, King and Price.

Scheyer thought he scored some levity points when he quipped, “I just want to make clear I realize I’m not Coach K.” When the lengthy sessions were done, he felt good about how it all went. “I’m normally pretty critical of myself, but I walked out of there feeling I did everything I could do,” he says. “I told my wife, I have zero regrets. I felt I was authentic to who I am.” With the first round of interviews completed, Jon and Marcelle decided it was time to let their parents know what was going on.

So what happened next? “I’ll tell you what happened next – I heard nothing,” Scheyer says. “I didn’t hear one single thing for the next six days.” The wait was not only excruciating but ominous. It reminded Jon and Marcelle of the radio silence that settled in during the days before they got the bad news from UNLV and DePaul. The Scheyers did their best to stay in the moment. Between her work as a nurse practitioner at a local wellness center and her duties raising the couple’s 3-year-old daughter, Noa, and 22-month-old son, Jett, Marcelle had no trouble staying busy. If she had some spare time, she took out her stress on her Peloton treadmill. Jon, meanwhile, managed to maintain an even keel during the daytime, but he did a lot of tossing and turning at night. Friday was especially fitful. He woke up at 3 a.m., came down to the kitchen for snacks, and waited for the sun to rise. “I was actually calm most of the time, but I’m human,” he says. “The unknown was incredibly hard. You’re lying awake at night thinking, what if I get this? What if I don’t? My mind was just racing.”

Scheyer never tried to find out who else was up for the job during those interminable six days. Multiple sources confirmed to The Athletic that the other candidate most seriously considered was Harvard coach Tommy Amaker, who played for Krzyzewski from 1983-87 and was his assistant for nine seasons. Amaker, 56, is as well-respected as any member of the Duke basketball family, and his 24 years experience as a head coach, including previous stops at Seton Hall and Michigan, was an asset Scheyer couldn’t match. On at least one occasion, Amaker spoke directly with Krzyzewski about the job. The biggest hurdle for Amaker’s candidacy was the fact that taking the job would require him to leave Harvard and return as an assistant at Duke for the coming season. There is precedent for this – Matt Painter left his post as head coach at Southern Illinois in 2004 to spend a season as Purdue’s head coach-

Inside Duke's secret search to replace Coach K (cont.)

By Seth Davis and Brendan Marks, The Athletic (June 21, 2021)

in-waiting under Gene Keady – but in this case, Amaker would be joining a staff that included the other primary candidate in Scheyer. In addition, Krzyzewski recently promoted Smith to full-time assistant as a replacement for Nate James, who left in April to become head coach at Austin Peay. If Amaker joined the staff, Smith would have to be demoted or even out of a job.

On Saturday, Scheyer squeezed in nine holes of golf with a couple of buddies. He played lousy, although he adds, “That’s how I normally play, so I don’t think they thought anything was wrong with me.” Sunday came and went with nary a peep. The radio silence finally broke on Monday, May 31, when Scheyer spent part of Memorial Day on another Zoom call with White and King.

The next evening, Scheyer was again in his backyard and talking to a recruit when he saw King’s cell number pop up. “I’m gonna need to call you back,” he told the recruit. Then, he picked up King’s call.

“Hey, Jon,” she began. “We’d like to set up another Zoom interview.” Pause. “Just kidding. Actually, I’m calling to let you know that I’ve spoken with President Price and Dr. White, and we’ve selected you to be the next men’s basketball coach at Duke.”

What goes through a man’s mind at the very instant his life changes forever? “I can’t even explain the feeling,” Scheyer says. “It was months of uncertainty but also years in the making, beginning with my decision as a kid to go to school here. It was just overwhelming.” To that point, the school had not had any substantive conversations about Scheyer’s contract with his agents at CAA, Jimmy Sexton and Evan Daniels, but Scheyer had no desire to delve into such matters. He accepted the job on the spot.

Scheyer maintained his calm while speaking with King, but as soon as he hung up, he dashed upstairs to where Marcelle was waking Noa from her nap. “We got it! We got it!” he said through tears. They were still hugging and crying a few minutes later when Price called. Scheyer put the president on speaker so Marcelle could listen in. “It was so important for me to hear that excitement from him and Nina,” Scheyer says. “I’m connected with them now. Their belief meant the world to me.”

The rest of the night is a blur of celebratory phone calls. There were a few technical difficulties getting Jon’s parents, siblings and their spouses on one FaceTime call, but they managed to make it happen so he could let them know. They did the same with Marcelle’s family. Scheyer reached Smith on his cell phone as he was picking up his children at daycare. “Are you around anybody?” Jon asked. Smith was alone, save for his kids, so Jon delivered the news to his 2010 championship backcourt mate. Carrawell’s house is in the same neighborhood as the Scheyers’, so Jon and Marcelle drove over to deliver the news in person. Carrawell was on his way home from the dentist. When he pulled into the driveway, Jon and Marcelle faked disappointment, but Carrawell didn’t fall for the ruse. “They’re horrible actors,” he says. Jon then broke the news, whereupon Carrawell sprinted in circles around his front yard in delight.

By the time Scheyer reached Krzyzewski, his soon-to-be-former boss had already heard the good news. They reveled in the moment, and then Coach K threw a good-natured jab. “Just remember you’re still my assistant for one more year,” he said. Scheyer laughed. “He was excited for me, but I think he also felt some relief to get closure,” Scheyer says. “It allowed us to move on and focus on the future.”

On Tuesday night, Jackson got word it was “go” time. He rang up the athletic department’s facilities manager and asked him to prepare Cameron Indoor Stadium for a news conference. The decision would not be final until the Board of Trustees approved it at a 3 p.m. meeting on Wednesday. The plan was to allow that vote to happen, after which Krzyzewski would inform the players during a Zoom call. Then the school could blast the news.

That plan was upended shortly after 1 p.m., when Stadium’s Jeff Goodman reported on Twitter that Krzyzewski had decided to retire following the 2021-22 season, and that Scheyer was the leading candidate to replace him. Several media outlets confirmed Goodman’s scoop, and in a flash the news was everywhere. Marcelle, who isn’t on social media, was unaware of what was going on until a TV reporter knocked on her front door and tried getting her to divulge what she knew. The break gave Jackson and his team some breathing room to take their time preparing a press release. At 7 p.m. Wednesday evening, Duke issued its official announcement.

As soon as the news dropped, Smith was flooded with texts and calls from other members of the 2010 championship squad. They wanted to know when Scheyer’s introductory news conference would be held, so they could be there in person to support their captain. Krzyzewski’s news conference took place in Cameron on Thursday, Scheyer’s the next day. When he walked onto the floor, resplendent in a snug-fitting royal blue suit, a hundred spectators rose to give him an ovation. Among the faces were not only his wife, kids and parents, but also Gerald Henderson, Lance Thomas and Brian Zoubek, the other members of Scheyer’s 2006 recruiting class. “That’s when it hit me,” Scheyer said. “The magnitude of what was happening.”

A considerable amount of talent and hard work went into creating that moment, but luck and fate played major roles as well – arriving, as they often do, under the guise of adversity. For example, had Scheyer not suffered a serious eye injury during his first summer camp with the Miami Heat in 2010, his playing career might have lasted longer – in turn delaying the launch of his coaching career, and perhaps leading him to begin somewhere other than Duke. And had Scheyer gotten either the UNLV or DePaul jobs in March, he probably wouldn’t have been in a position to take over at Duke. “It’s crazy how life works,” Scheyer says. “I know it’s a cliché, but I truly felt like those jobs didn’t work out for a reason. But for me to be named the Duke coach a couple of months later? That was not the reason I was thinking about.”

It took a few days for things to settle down, but a sense of normalcy has returned to the program over the last two-and-a-half weeks. Coaches are preparing for the fall and recruiting the 2022 class – the first official group of the Scheyer era. The team’s four incoming freshmen have arrived on campus, and players have enrolled in summer school and begun their workouts. On some days, if you didn’t know better, you’d think they were getting ready for just another season.

Except it won’t be. Krzyzewski has already been flooded with multiple requests for longform TV interviews, insider books and documentaries to chronicle his final season. Aside from a brief spot on CNN’s “The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer,” he has turned down all of them. Krzyzewski dismissed the notion that this will be a farewell tour, but that’s exactly what it will feel like, especially when the team goes on the road and the end draws nigh. If the Blue Devils can stay healthy, bolstered by one of the nation’s best recruiting classes, they should be right back in the national championship chase. But the outside noise will be as loud as ever, and it won’t be easy shutting it all out. “My goal is for him to have a year where he can just love every second of coaching,” Jackson says. “Just keep it as pure as we can. We’ll figure out the outside stuff along the way.”

Then there’s Scheyer’s challenge: to continue staying in the moment, while simultaneously keeping an eye on the future. No one has to tell Scheyer how high the bar has been set – he helped set it, after all – but his instincts have worked pretty well for him so far. He figures he might as well keep shooting. “I’m not going to move ahead comparing myself to Coach every single day. That’s a recipe for disaster,” he says. “But I’m also not hiding from the fact that this program is built on the expectation to compete for a championship every year. I’m not running from that at all. I believe in myself, and I’m excited to show what we can do.”

Get ready for Coach K's farewell tour -- and a realistic run to a national title

Ryan McGee, ESPN.com (June 2, 2021)

The first time I saw Mike Krzyzewski was on a fall Saturday in 1983. It wasn't at Cameron Indoor Stadium, but rather across the street at Wallace Wade Stadium, the long-miserable home of Blue Devils football. In those days, there was plenty of misery to be found in the basketball gym too. They'd made the Final Four in 1978 and the Elite Eight in 1980, but lost their head coach, hired a guy whom no one could spell his last name, and hadn't been back to the NCAA tournament in the three years since.

My father was officiating a football game, and I had managed to get into the press box to score a boxed lunch. It was halftime, and I was eating a barbecue sandwich at a table full of crusty old Tobacco Road writers and photographers when the Duke hoops coach walked up. Krzyzewski said hello to the group and said that he hoped to see them all over at the little gymnasium across the street when his fourth season at the helm began just a few days later. No sooner than he had walked away, the old ACC scribes rolled their collective eyes.

"That sumb---h..." one of them blurted out, cutting his eyes to me to apologize for his language, but continuing anyway. "His ass is about to get fired."

He, of course, was not fired. Instead, his team won 24 games that winter and made their first NCAA tournament appearance on his watch. They have missed the tourney only twice during the nearly four decades since.

That day when I first saw Coach K, I was in elementary school. Ronald Reagan was in his first term. The No. 1 movie at the box office was Return of the Jedi. That same fall my family bought our first VCR at a Kmart. Ms. Pac-Man was still new. His first coaching rivals were UNC's Dean Smith and NC State's Jim Valvano. The NCAA tournament was a 32-team bracket. Jay Bilas had hair.

That's how long it's been since Mike Krzyzewski first moved to Durham, North Carolina. It's a marathon by any measuring stick, be it the 42 years, the five national titles, the 12 Final Fours, 15 ACC Tourney titles, 12 ACC regular season championships, the 1,170 wins or the wall of Olympic gold medal-winning team photos.

So, when he hangs up his whistle at the end of the 2021-22 basketball season, none of us have any idea what Duke University, the ACC, or, for that matter, the world is going to look like without K stalking the sideline and barking out orders to try and beat Carolina, State, Wake and everyone else on the ACC calendar one more time.

It's like trying to picture the Duke campus without the chapel.

That's probably why the shocking news of the 74-year-old's retirement was also quickly followed by a sigh of relief when it was revealed that he would be coaching until he was 75, logging one more season before being replaced by longtime protégé Jon Scheyer. It was just two months ago when we all watched his frenemy Roy Williams tearfully walk away from the Tar Heels after being bounced from the first round of the NAAs for the first time in his Hall of Fame career. Williams cried and talked about the game beginning to pass him by and said, "I no longer think I am the right man for the job."

It's a safe bet that Krzyzewski still believes deep down that he is the right man for Duke, but it's no secret that he's been frustrated by the drastic changes in the college game over recent years. See: His visible and audible irritation at trying to navigate the choppy, ever-changing seas of 2020-21 pandemic season, a year his team finished 13-11 and ended with the second of those two missed NCAA tourneys since '83 and the first since his back injury-asterisked 1995 season. Duke's year ended unceremoniously, with a positive COVID-19 test and a quiet exit from the ACC postseason.

Did you really think he would let that be his finish line? Of course not.

Call this upcoming campaign a retirement tour, call it a victory lap, call it whatever you want. But if we have learned anything about Krzyzewski over the last half-century it's that he will never pass up a chance to win basketball games. Duke has a chance to win a lot of them between now and April.

He just inked a top five recruiting class. Seven-footer Mark Williams chose to return to a team that will have more high-flying wings than the RDU airport, as inconsistent vet Wendell Moore Jr., will be joined by top-3 prospect Paolo Banchemo, internet highlight sensation A.J. Griffin and late signee/buzz-generator Trevor Keels.

This team will likely find itself in an early locker room tug-of-war between a large group of upperclassmen and the wave of incoming freshmen, but what else is new? 'Tis the way of the modern college basketball world (if you want to kill an hour, ask K for his views on that). But though it seems easy to forget now, in the five seasons that preceded the pandemic, Duke won a national title and reached the Sweet 16 four times, including consecutive Elite Eight appearances in 2018-19.

Oh, and the Devils will also be catching UNC transitioning into its first post-Roy season, NC State and Wake Forest scuffling (what else is new?) and really, a spaghetti pile of an ACC that feels very scalable. It all begins with an uber-hyped matchup with Kentucky on Nov. 9. In the midst of it all, rivals will recruit against Duke with a strategy of "Coach K is leaving, do you really want to play for What's-his-name Scheyer?" But it's also Scheyer who has done much of the heavy lifting to bring in Zion, etc. since the former Duke player returned as an assistant coach in 2013.

Will Mike Krzyzewski enjoy the inevitable procession of pregame ceremonies, rocking chair gifts and lifetime achievement plaques? He will tell us that he does not. In reality he will relish the spotlight one more time. He'll even dig the boos. Despite always trying to convince us otherwise, he has always liked to be reminded of how great he is at what he does, whether that praise comes in the form of a Duke Blue thumbs up or Carolina Blue middle finger. He smiles at both.

But this winter, those smiles will come only if his last Duke Blue Devils team is winning games. If instead, for the third consecutive year they do not, then heaven help those rocking chairs, let alone those freshmen.

Then again, it wouldn't be a true Mike Krzyzewski season if there weren't plenty of snarls to go around. Even now, the last time around.

Nolan Smith is now a Duke assistant coach because he trusted his boss

By Brendan Marks, The Athletic (April 15, 2021)

Nolan Smith didn't have to wait.

Last summer, Memphis coach Penny Hardaway approached Smith with an opportunity he has always coveted: to become an assistant coach. Smith was Duke's director of basketball operations, a vital behind-the-scenes role – but not nearly the same thing as being an assistant, who are allowed to recruit on the road, scout opponents and work directly with players. A DOBO? Not so much.

But Smith, a former ACC Player of the Year and national champion, didn't take Memphis' offer. Instead, Mike Krzyzewski gave him the same advice he did back when he first recruited Smith to Duke as a teenager: Trust me.

"He said, 'Look, someone is gonna get a head coaching job, and you'll get moved up,'" Smith said on Zoom on Thursday, the day he was announced as a new assistant coach at Duke. "(Coach K) said, stay here. Trust me. It's funny; he's always said, 'Trust me.' And I always have. Always have. I've never wavered in my trust from Coach, and he said, 'You're on the right plan. You're on the right path.' And it worked out."

Smith's promotion comes days after Nate James – himself a former Duke national champion three times over – left as associate head coach to take the head coaching job at Austin Peay. James' departure opened up a spot for Smith, who seamlessly slides to the bench.

This is just the next step in what has been a meteoric rise for Smith up the coaching ranks. Smith, 32, said Thursday that from a young age, coaching was always something he'd wanted to do; his father, Derek, after all, went from his NBA playing days to being an assistant for the Washington Bullets. But injuries robbed the younger Smith of the longtime professional career he imagined for himself, setting him on his coaching path earlier than expected.

That meant a return to Duke in 2016, when he became a special assistant for the program. Two years later he was elevated to director of basketball operations. It's not like Smith has just been biding his time, though, waiting for the next promotion. He already has been a mentor to several classes of Duke players, as was evidenced Thursday when his announcement hit social media. That his former pupils, like Jayson Tatum, as well as those he never coached, like Kevin Durant, reached out with congratulations should tell you all you need to know about Smith's place in the basketball community.

Just as important, though, in the time since Smith has been back in Durham, has been the role he has played in the community. Last summer, as protests against police brutality and systemic racism erupted in the wake of George Floyd's killing, Smith organized efforts in the Bull City. He facilitated meetings between city officials and activists, led marches, and helped Duke establish a deeper series of conversations with generations of former players. Smith said Thursday not only will he continue his community outreach in his new role, but also that's exactly what Krzyzewski told him to do. In other words, "Be you, son."

Now, for all the things that'll remain the same for Smith in his new role – being a mentor, improving Durham – there are some fundamental changes too. Smith will be allowed to serve as an on-court coach, walking players through certain actions and drills. "I was reading Coach's quote about me before I sat down, and he mentioned I can still play," Smith said with a laugh. "So I can actually show them a thing or two now too, so I'm thankful for that. Just to be on the court with these players and teaching them the game of basketball."

He'll also be expected to prepare scouting reports, which he'll then have to teach to the players. He'll have to tell players hard truths, something he said he's not afraid to do. And he'll be able to hit the recruiting trail full-time, rather than doing so only in certain capacities. In that regard, Smith joked he'll need to up his shoe game.

"Look, I'm telling you, that's a big thing," he said. "These recruits, they want to see your shoe game. I have to make sure that's fresh, and make sure my gear is fresh when we get on the road, and I'm just excited to be in those gyms as a full-time coach."

Smith's enthusiasm practically jumps through the Zoom screen. And in that exuberance, you can see why he chose to hold out not just for a job, but for this job. At this place. The one that meant so much to him when he was younger, and the one that has shaped him into the person he is today.

"To love what you do is one thing. But to work at a place that you love, and with people that you love? It doesn't get much better than that," Smith said. "So to be the assistant coach for Duke, with Coach K – who has trusted me since 2007 when he came into my living room and offered me to come to Duke – to this day, that trust and that bond is still there."

When James decided to leave for Austin Peay, the process of finding a replacement was a short one. James told Smith he was more than ready to make the jump, and Krzyzewski felt the same way.

"Nolan is a rising star," Krzyzewski said in a statement. "To get him on the court with our players on a day-to-day basis will mean so much to our program. Our players will benefit immensely from his enthusiasm to teach, but also the fact that he's young enough, he can show them. He can still play. We're very fortunate that he and his wife, Cheyna, are so involved in our program and our community. He is a national champion and has been such a great member of my staff as director of basketball operations, but he's done so much more for our school and our community. Nolan has always used his platform for the good of others. We are so lucky to have him, and Durham is even luckier."

As for what Krzyzewski told Smith when he finally got to follow through on his promise from a year ago?

"He said, you're ready," Smith recalled. "Come in, be yourself. Be yourself with the guys. Keep leading. Keep being a role model. Let's go."

5-star guard Trevor Keels will join Jeremy Roach, giving Duke a lethal backcourt

By Brendan Marks, The Athletic (April 2, 2021)

As is always the case with Duke and recruiting, Mike Krzyzewski is the closer.

And for good reason, right? You roll out those five national championship rings, list all the dudes you've sent to the NBA, and ... well, that's a pretty convincing pitch. Then you tack on the entire staff, all of them former players of Krzyzewski's – and former national champions, at that – and you're talking about a darn-near ironclad proposal. You want tradition, or banners, or a Hall of Fame coach, or a proven development system? It's all there, all yours for the taking.

Now, that all said, a little help never hurts.

Which is exactly what happened in this particular case. On Friday – the day after freshman guard DJ Steward announced he was entering the NBA Draft – Duke officially landed the commitment of five-star combo guard Trevor Keels. Keels, who stands 6-foot-5 and weighs 210 pounds, is the No. 20 overall player in the country, per the 247Sports composite. Given the offseason departures thus far of Steward and senior point guard Jordan Goldwire, Keels fills a major need for Duke in the backcourt, especially as someone capable of playing both positions.

Know why the staff has faith he can do that? Because he's done it before – with his new Blue Devils backcourt mate, rising sophomore Jeremy Roach.

Roach and Keels played together in high school for Glenn Farello at Paul VI Catholic, where they won two championships together and regularly torched opponents. At one point, that duo also played with Anthony Harris, now a rising redshirt sophomore at North Carolina. "We used to call it like this: We had two Batmans and a Robin," Farello told The Athletic

But when Roach and Harris, the two elder guards, both went down with ACL injuries in a compressed time period, that left Paul VI needing much more out of then-sophomore Keels. "We had to get Robin to go be a Batman," Farello said. And Keels' response, even two years ago – he went on to win WCAC Player of the Year that season – says everything about the type of player Duke just landed.

It also says everything about the bond between Roach and Keels, who now represent Duke's new-look backcourt. Keels, who announced his commitment live on ESPN2, even mentioned how the four years he played with Roach was a significant factor in his decision. "He's always competitive – that's what I really like about him – and we work out all the time. We always go at each other in practice when I was at PVI, when we played together, and he recruited me," Keels said. "Recruited me hard, too. So he told me the things he did like, the things he didn't like, and he always kept it 100 with me. That's one thing I liked."

In addition to Roach's influence, Keels said that his relationship with Krzyzewski helped push Duke over the top. (Keels' other finalists were Kentucky, Villanova, and Virginia.) "All four coaches are Hall of Famers in my eyes, but I think that relationship I had with Coach K, it's just different," Keels said, donning a flat-brimmed Duke cap. "We really connected."

As for what Keels brings to the Blue Devils, he's much more than just another body. In some ways, he's the missing piece of what could become Duke's next national championship team.

The program was already set to bring in forward Paolo Banchemo and wing A.J. Griffin – the No. 3 and 7 players in the class, respectively – as one of the better freshmen duos in the country. Those two, combined with rising sophomore center Mark Williams, are expected to make up one of the nation's best frontcourts next season. (Matthew Hurt, the team's leading scorer, has also yet to declare for the NBA Draft, although that still remains an option.) But the balance on the roster, especially with Goldwire and Steward on their way out, was clearly off. Before Keels' commitment, Duke really only had Wendell Moore Jr. and Roach in the backcourt, with Joey Baker capable of playing some two guard if needed. But now? Keels isn't just that much-needed depth; he's the versatile chess piece capable of alleviating either Moore or Roach, depending on different situations.

"The two of them (Roach and Keels), they complement each other really well. They play off one another really well. They're both very versatile, playmakers and they can score as well," Farello said. "They can both play with the ball in their hands and without the ball in their hands. And I think that's what makes this a very unique situation for the two of them."

As for Keels specifically, what sort of attributes does he bring to the next level? For starters, he's one of the stronger, more physical guards in the class. He also brings a much-needed skill: shooting. Hurt was the only regular rotation player for Duke last season to make more than 40 percent of his 3s, and Keels certainly should be able to help in that department. He averaged 28.7 points, 9.1 rebounds, and 7.2 assists this season, not to mention recording six double-doubles. But for as strong as Keels is, as good a shooter as he is – "We take his shooting for granted because we've been working with him for four years," Farello said – there's something else about him his high school coach believes will translate more immediately at the ACC level.

"I know he's an elite shooter; I would not say that's what would translate quickest," Farello said. "It's just his ability to read the floor – his feel for the game and court awareness, I think, is what is elite. That's what really separates him, not just the shooting."

Here, Farello mentions that Keels never really gets sped up. From the time he had to take over as the alpha for Harris and Roach, he learned how to impact games – how to contribute to winning – without being fazed by what opponents threw at him. It helps that he can drain buzzer-beating bombs from outside the arc. It helps that his strength keeps him on balance, prevents him from getting pushed around. But it's Keels' mentality and awareness, Farello said, that separates him.

Keels already knows both Banchemo and Griffin, in addition to Roach, which should seemingly expedite the entire class' transition to the next level. But with the focus Friday on Keels, Duke fans can take pride in the fact that they added another piece to a championship puzzle.

And that the assist came from one of their own players should only make Keels' commitment that much sweeter.

"If you talk to Trev, you want to play with someone you know and respect and who plays the game the right way. He also knows the guys coming in in his class, and he's very comfortable with those guys, too," Farello said. "In a time where a lot of people are out for themselves – and we understand that's the nature of the sport, people are trying to get places – you want to surround yourself with some players who still care about their teammates, and want to be a great teammate, and care about the bigger picture."

"That's what Trevor felt really comfortable with, and Jeremy was such a good influence on that, as well as the players that are still there and the ones coming in with him."

COACHES BIOS



THE MICHAEL W. KRZYZEWSKI LEADERSHIP HEAD COACHING POSITION

Mike Krzyzewski

HEAD COACH
42ND SEASON AT DUKE
ARMY, 1969

It does not take long for a conversation about the highest levels of success in the basketball world to turn to the name Krzyzewski. In 42 seasons at Duke, Mike Krzyzewski - a Naismith Hall of Fame coach, five-time national champion and NCAA record 13-time Final Four participant - has built a dynasty that few programs in the history of the game can match.

No coach in Division I men's basketball history has won more games than Coach K's 1,202.

Announcing his retirement in June ahead of his 42nd season at Duke, and 47th overall as a head coach at both Duke and Army West Point, Krzyzewski owns an 1,202-367 record as a head coach, including a 1,129-308 mark at Duke.

The numbers that illustrate Coach K's career are simply staggering:

- Five national championships (1991, 1992, 2001, 2010, 2015)
- Six gold medals as head coach of the U.S. Men's National Team
- Nine National Players of the Year (11 honors)
- Six National Defensive Players of the Year (nine honors)
- 10 consecutive top-10 AP poll finishes (1997-06)
- 12 National Coach of the Year honors (eight seasons)
- 13 Final Four appearances (most in NCAA history)
- 13 ACC regular season championships
- 15 ACC Tournament championships (most in league history)
- 28 NBA Lottery picks (most in Draft history)
- 36 NCAA Tournament bids (most by one coach)
- 38 All-America selections (52 honors)
- 68 NBA Draft selections, including 42 first-round picks
- 69 ACC Tournament wins (most in league history)
- 101 NCAA Tournament wins (most in NCAA history)
- 127 weeks ranked No. 1 in the AP poll (most by a coach in poll history)
- 535 ACC wins (most in league history)
- 575 weeks ranked in the top 10 of the AP poll (most by a coach in poll history)
- 668 weeks ranked in the AP poll (most by a coach in poll history)
- 1,129 victories at Duke (most in NCAA history at one school)
- 1,202 career wins (most in NCAA history)

WEEKS RANKED NO. 1 | COACHES, ALL-TIME

1.	^ Mike Krzyzewski	127
2.	John Wooden	121
3.	Adolph Rupp	61
4.	Dean Smith	60
5.	Roy Williams	59

as of final 2022 Associated Press poll; ^ - active coach

ALL-AMERICANS | COACHES, ACTIVE

1.	Mike Krzyzewski	52
2.	Bill Self	24
3.	Jim Boeheim	23
4.	John Calipari	20
5.	Mark Few	16

1st, 2nd or 3rd team selections included; AP, NABC, Sporting News, USBWA, Basketball Times

NATIONAL PLAYERS OF THE YEAR HONORS | COACHES, ACTIVE

1.	Mike Krzyzewski	11
2.	John Calipari	3
	Rick Barnes	2
	Fran McCaffery	2

AP, Basketball Times, NABC, Naismith, Rupp, USBWA, Wooden

UNCOMMON WINNING

From his first career win at Army on Nov. 28, 1975, to his 1,202nd over Arkansas in the 2022 West Regional Final, Krzyzewski has set the standard for winning in Division I men's basketball.

Coach K became the Division I men's career wins leader on Nov. 15, 2011, at Madison Square Garden, moving past his former coach Bob Knight with his 903rd victory. His historic 1,000th career victory came against St. John's at The World's Most Famous Arena on Jan. 25, 2015, as he became the first Division I men's basketball coach to achieve a four-figure win total.

Krzyzewski's 1,129 victories at Duke are an NCAA record by a coach at one school. With 1,129 of the Blue Devils' 2,246 all-time victories, Coach K has presided over more than half (50.2 percent) of the men's basketball wins in Duke history.

Duke made history under Krzyzewski's watch by winning an NCAA four-year-record 133 games from 1998-01; the Blue Devils' total, which came against just 15 losses in the timeframe, surpassed the previous record of 132 held by Kentucky.

Krzyzewski has averaged 27 wins per season during his tenure in Durham and established NCAA career records with 37 20-win seasons and 16 30-win campaigns.

Krzyzewski has won a league-record 535 ACC games (regular season and tournament), passing former North Carolina head coach Dean Smith (422) on Feb. 4, 2015. He has also won an ACC-record 201 conference road games.





HANGING BANNERS

The crown jewels of Krzyzewski's tenure at Duke are the five NCAA championship banners that hang in Cameron Indoor Stadium. Coach K's five national championships are the second most in NCAA history, trailing only the 10 won by former UCLA coach John Wooden. He is one of just two coaches since 1975 to lead a team to back-to-back national titles (1991 and 1992).

Krzyzewski and former Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun are the only coaches in NCAA history to win national championships in three different decades, and Krzyzewski is only coach to reach the Final Four in five different decades.

Each of Krzyzewski's five national title teams at Duke has blazed its own trail to the top of the ladder:

- The 1991 team knocked off top-ranked and undefeated UNLV, which was riding a 45-game win streak, in the national semifinals before outlasting Kansas to capture the crown
- The 1992 team held the No. 1 ranking for each of that season's 18 AP polls and capped off a 34-2 season with a 20-point win over Michigan in the national championship game
- After a home-finale loss to Maryland for one of the best senior classes in Duke history in 2001, the Blue Devils roared to 10 consecutive victories to end the season; Duke got revenge on Maryland - erasing a 22-point deficit -- in the national semis before a memorable win over Arizona to claim the crown
- The 2010 team was largely ignored as a title contender prior to the season but rode the second-best scoring defense in program history - 61.0 points per game - and the nation's highest-scoring trio in Jon Scheyer, Kyle Singler and Nolan Smith to the program's fourth championship
- The 2015 team started three freshmen and leaned on the senior leadership of Quinn Cook, winning 18 of its last 19 games with just eight recruited scholarship players to put a fifth banner in the Cameron rafters

Coach K's banner-hunting mentality has also translated to unprecedented success on the ACC level.

Duke's historic four-games-in-four-days run to the 2017 ACC Tournament championship was its record 14th under Krzyzewski's guidance. He also finished that title run in Brooklyn with a league-record 61 ACC Tournament victories. He has since extended those records with his 15th ACC Tournament championship in 2019 and 69 career ACC Tournament wins through 2022.

From 1999-03, Duke won a league-record five consecutive ACC Tournament championships. The Blue Devils captured 10 ACC Tournament crowns in a 13-year period from 1999-11.

Coach K first led Duke to the ACC regular season title in 1986 and has since increased that total to his 13th and final this season. From 1997-01, the Blue Devils either won the league outright or shared the crown in five consecutive seasons. In the decade-long stretch from 1997-06, Duke captured seven regular-season conference championships.

KNOCKING ON THE DOOR

Championships are won in March and, as Coach K constantly reminds his players, there are no free passes into the NCAA Tournament. Berths are earned on merit and Coach K has led the Blue Devils into the NCAA Tournament 36 times - more than any other coach in NCAA history.

Coach K took Duke to the NCAA Tournament in 24 consecutive years from 1996 to 2019 -- tied for the longest streak in NCAA history, surpassing Dean Smith's 23 consecutive appearances from 1975 to 1997.

Krzyzewski has done much more than just get his teams into the NCAA Tournament. He and his Duke teams have thrived on the biggest stage in college basketball.

Krzyzewski holds NCAA Tournament records for games coached (131) and wins (101) while ranking second all-time and leading active coaches with a .771 NCAA Tournament winning percentage (min. 20 games). He has reached the Sweet 16 on 26 occasions, seven more than any other coach in NCAA history, and has advanced to the Elite Eight a record 17 times.

Coach K has been a fixture at the Final Four during his Duke tenure, reaching the final weekend 13 times, breaking a tie with Wooden for the most in NCAA history. His nine national championship game appearances, 21 Final Four games and 14 Final Four wins are all the second-most in the history of the tournament.

Krzyzewski piloted the Blue Devils to five consecutive Final Fours from 1988-92, capturing Duke's first two national championships during that stretch. From 1998-02, Duke earned a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament an unprecedented five years in a row. Duke's eight No. 1 seeds under Coach K are the most by a coach in NCAA Tournament history.

COACH K'S CAREER RECORD

Year	School	Record	Conf.	Notes
1976	Army	11-14	-	-
1977	Army	20-8	-	-
1978	Army	19-9	-	NIT
1979	Army	14-11	-	-
1980	Army	9-17	-	-
1981	Duke	17-13	6-8 (t5)	NIT
1982	Duke	10-17	4-10 (t6)	-
1983	Duke	11-17	3-11 (7)	-
1984	Duke	24-10	7-7 (t3)	NCAA Tournament
1985	Duke	23-8	8-6 (t4)	NCAA Tournament
1986	Duke	37-3	12-2 (1)	NCAA Final Four (Finalist)
1987	Duke	24-9	9-5 (3)	NCAA Tournament
1988	Duke	28-7	9-5 (3)	NCAA Final Four (Semifinalist)
1989	Duke	28-8	9-5 (t2)	NCAA Final Four (Semifinalist)
1990	Duke	29-9	9-5 (2)	NCAA Final Four (Finalist)
1991	Duke	32-7	11-3 (1)	NCAA Champion
1992	Duke	34-2	14-2 (1)	NCAA Champion
1993	Duke	24-8	10-6 (t3)	NCAA Tournament
1994	Duke	28-6	12-4 (1)	NCAA Final Four (Finalist)
1995	Duke	9-3	0-1	out after back surgery
1996	Duke	18-13	8-8 (t4)	NCAA Tournament
1997	Duke	24-9	12-4 (1)	NCAA Tournament
1998	Duke	32-4	15-1 (1)	NCAA Tournament
1999	Duke	37-2	16-0 (1)	NCAA Final Four (Finalist)
2000	Duke	29-5	15-1 (1)	NCAA Tournament
2001	Duke	35-4	13-3 (t1)	NCAA Champion
2002	Duke	31-4	13-3 (2)	NCAA Tournament
2003	Duke	26-7	11-5 (t2)	NCAA Tournament
2004	Duke	31-6	13-3 (1)	NCAA Final Four (Semifinalist)
2005	Duke	27-6	11-5 (3)	NCAA Tournament
2006	Duke	32-4	14-2 (1)	NCAA Tournament
2007	Duke	22-11	8-8 (t6)	NCAA Tournament
2008	Duke	28-6	13-3 (2)	NCAA Tournament
2009	Duke	30-7	11-5 (t2)	NCAA Tournament
2010	Duke	35-5	13-3 (t1)	NCAA Champion
2011	Duke	32-5	13-3 (2)	NCAA Tournament
2012	Duke	27-7	13-3 (2)	NCAA Tournament
2013	Duke	30-6	14-4 (2)	NCAA Tournament
2014	Duke	26-9	13-5 (3)	NCAA Tournament
2015	Duke	35-4	15-3 (2)	NCAA Champion
2016	Duke	25-11	11-7 (t5)	NCAA Tournament
2017	Duke	28-9	11-7 (t5)	NCAA Tournament
2018	Duke	29-8	13-5 (2)	NCAA Tournament
2019	Duke	32-6	14-4 (3)	NCAA Tournament
2020	Duke	25-6	15-5 (4)	Postseason ccd., COVID-19 pandemic
2021	Duke	13-11	9-9 (10)	-
2022	Duke	32-6	16-4 (1)	NCAA Final Four

Career Record (47 years)	1,202-367 (.766)
Duke Record (42 years)	1,129-308 (.786)
ACC Record (regular season)	466-192 (.707)
ACC Tournament Record	69-24 (.742)
NCAA Tournament Record	101-30 (.771)
at Cameron Indoor Stadium	572-76 (.883)

NCAA COACHING WINS CHARTS

^ - active coach // Note: Records adjusted for vacated games // entering 2022 Final Four

CAREER WINS (MIN. 10 HEAD COACHING SEASONS, ALL DIVISIONS)

1.	^ Mike Krzyzewski, Army, Duke	1,202
2.	Herb McGee, Jefferson	1,096
3.	^ Jim Boeheim, Syracuse	998
4.	Glenn Robinson, Franklin & Marshall	967
5.	Don Meyer, Hamline, Lipscomb, Northern State	923

CAREER WINS (MIN. 10 HEAD COACHING SEASONS IN DIVISION-I)

1.	^ Mike Krzyzewski, Army, Duke	1,202
2.	^ Jim Boeheim, Syracuse	998
3.	Jim Calhoun, Northeastern, Connecticut & St. Joseph's (Conn.)	920
4.	^ Bob Huggins, Walsh, Akron, Cincinnati, Kansas State & West Virginia	917
5.	Roy Williams, Kansas, North Carolina	903
6.	Bob Knight, Army, Indiana, Texas Tech	902
7.	Dean Smith, North Carolina	879
8.	Adolph Rupp, Kentucky	876
9.	Jim Phelan, Mt. St. Mary's	830
10.	Rollie Massimino, Stony Brook, Villanova, UNLV, Cleveland State & Keiser	816

CAREER WINS AT ONE SCHOOL (DIVISION-I)

1.	^ Mike Krzyzewski, Duke	1,129
2.	^ Jim Boeheim, Syracuse	998
3.	Dean Smith, North Carolina	879
4.	Adolph Rupp, Kentucky	876
5.	Jim Phelan, Mount St. Mary's	830
6.	Ed Diddle, Western Kentucky	759
7.	Ray Meyer, DePaul	724
8.	Don Haskins, UTEP	719
9.	Rick Byrd, Belmont	713
10.	Denny Crum, Louisville	675

CAREER ACC WINS (REGULAR SEASON & TOURNAMENT)

1.	^ Mike Krzyzewski, Duke	535
2.	Dean Smith, North Carolina	422
3.	Roy Williams, North Carolina	240
4.	Gary Williams, Maryland	210
5.	^ Leonard Hamilton, Florida State	189
6.	^ Tony Bennett, Virginia	174
7.	Frank McGuire, North Carolina & South Carolina	160
8.	Bobby Cremins, Georgia Tech	149
9.	Lefty Driesell, Maryland	139
10.	Vic Bubas, Duke	128

MOST GAMES COACHED (MINIMUM 10 DIVISION-I SEASONS)

1.	^ Mike Krzyzewski, Army & Duke	1,569
2.	^ Jim Boeheim, Syracuse	1,424
3.	Jim Phelan, Mount St. Mary's	1,354
	^ Cliff Ellis, South Alabama, Clemson, Auburn & Coastal Carolina	1,354
5.	^ Jim Calhoun, Northeastern, Connecticut & St. Joseph's (Conn.)	1,317
6.	^ Bob Huggins, Walsh, Akron, Cincinnati, Kansas State & West Virginia	1,315
7.	Jerry Slocum, Nyack, Geneva, Gannon & Youngstown State	1,279
8.	Rollie Massimino, Stony Brook, Villanova, UNLV, Cleveland St. & Keiser	1,278
9.	Bob Knight, Army, Indiana & Texas Tech	1,273
10.	Rick Byrd, Maryville (Tenn.), Lincoln Memorial & Belmont	1,208

MOST 20+ WIN SEASONS

1.	^ Mike Krzyzewski, Army & Duke	37
2.	^ Jim Boeheim, Syracuse	34
3.	Dean Smith, North Carolina	30
4.	Bob Knight, Army, Indiana & Texas Tech	29
	Roy Williams, Kansas & North Carolina	29

MOST CONSECUTIVE 20+ WIN SEASONS BY ACTIVE COACHES

1.	Mike Krzyzewski, Duke (1997-2020)	24
	Bill Self, Tulsa (1999-2000), Illinois (2001-03), Kansas (2004-current)	24
3.	Mark Few, Gonzaga (2000-current)	23
4.	Randy Bennett, St. Mary's (2008-20)	13
5.	John Calipari, Memphis (2009), Kentucky (2010-20)	12

MOST 30+ WIN SEASONS

1.	^ Mike Krzyzewski, Duke	16
2.	Roy Williams, Kansas & North Carolina	12
3.	^ Bill Self, Oral Roberts, Tulsa, Illinois & Kansas	11
4.	^ John Calipari, Massachusetts, Memphis & Kentucky	10
5.	Jim Calhoun, Connecticut	8
	^ Mark Few, Gonzaga	8

INSPIRING GREATNESS

Coach K's leadership and accomplishments have inspired generations of Duke players to strive for heights rarely seen in college basketball.

Nine Duke players have combined to earn 11 National Player of the Year honors during Krzyzewski's tenure, an NCAA record for total NPOY honors by one coach.

From the time Johnny Dawkins claimed the Naismith Trophy in 1986, the list of Duke's National Players of the Year has grown to include Danny Ferry (1989), Christian Laettner (1992), Elton Brand (1999), Shane Battier (2001), Jason Williams (2001, 2002), J.J. Redick (2005, 2006), Marvin Bagley III (2018) and Zion Williamson (2019).

Battier and Williams shared the major awards in 2001 to become the first duo from the same team to both lay claim to National Player of the Year recognition. Williams became the seventh player in NCAA history to repeat National Player of the Year in 2002 and Redick became the eighth to do so when he garnered the honors in 2005 and 2006.

Coach K has also mentored a group of six players to an NCAA-record nine National Defensive Player of the Year awards during his tenure in Durham. The Blue Devils' nine honors are more than double the next-closest team in college basketball.

Krzyzewski protégés won the first two National Defensive Player of the Year awards, as Tommy Amaker earned the inaugural honor in 1987 and Billy King followed up in 1988. Grant Hill (1993) and Steve Wojciechowski (1998) added to the list before Battier joined Tim Duncan as the only players to win three consecutive National Defensive Player of the Year awards, garnering the trophy in 1999, 2000 and 2001.

Shelden Williams parlayed his dominant rebounding and shot-blocking prowess into NDPOY accolades in both 2005 and 2006, becoming one of just six players in the history of the award to win it multiple times.

Coach K also has a history-making track record with the youngest members of his program, tutoring a total of six players to National Freshman of the Year honors, including one in five of the last eight seasons.

Luol Deng was Duke's first National Freshman of the Year in 2004, followed by Jabari Parker and Jahliil Okafor in 2014 and 2015, respectively. With recent winners including Bagley (2018), Williamson (2019) and Vernon Carey Jr. (2020).



Five have earned the Wayman Tisdale Award presented by the USBWA, and three have garnered the NABC National Freshman of the Year honor. Duke's five honors are the most in the history of the Tisdale Award, which originated in 1989, while the Blue Devils own of three of the four NABC honors since the award's inception in 2017.

Producing All-Americans has become the norm at Duke under Coach K, who has mentored a group of 38 players who have combined to earn 52 All-America honors. He has coached an All-American in 33 of his 42 seasons at Duke, including in 14 of the last 15 seasons, including consensus second-team selection Paolo Banchemo this season.

In his time in Durham, Krzyzewski has coached 24 players who have been named consensus All-Americans a combined 31 times. A storied list of players who have earned consensus first-team All-America honors under Coach K includes Dawkins, Ferry, Laettner, Bobby Hurley, Hill, Chris Carrawell, Battier, Jason Williams, Redick, Nolan Smith and most recently Zion Williamson and RJ Barrett. Williamson and Barrett became the first freshman teammates in NCAA history to earn consensus first-team All-America honors.

Duke has accounted for the last three occurrences nationally of teammates earning consensus first-team All-America honors in the same season -- 2001 (Battier and Jason Williams), 2006 (Redick and Shelden Williams), 2019 (Barrett and Williamson).

Krzyzewski has coached 12 Duke players to a total of 14 ACC Player of the Year awards, led by two-time winners Ferry and Redick. Okafor made history in 2015 when he became the first freshman to collect ACC Player of the Year honors. Bagley became the second in 2018, followed by Williamson in 2019. Williamson also became the ACC's first freshman to be named the ACC Player of the Year and ACC Tournament MVP in the same season.

In 2020, Duke became the ACC's first program to seize the league's three top awards with Tre Jones as both the ACC Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year, and Carey as the Freshman of the Year.

Coach K has led 10 Duke players to ACC Freshman of the Year honors - including seven of the last nine in Parker (2014), Okafor (2015), Brandon Ingram (2016), Bagley (2018), Williamson (2019), Carey (2020) and Banchemo (2022). A total of five ACC Defensive Players of the Year have come under Coach K's watch with Shelden Williams winning in 2005 and 2006, DeMarcus Nelson in 2008, Tre Jones in 2020 and Mark Williams (2022).

Krzyzewski has proven to be the standard bearer in the coaching profession for attracting the most top-end talent, as he has enticed 84 McDonald's All-Americans to play for him at Duke - the most all-time by a coach. Duke has signed at least one McDonald's All-American in each of the last 38 years, the longest streak in the nation by 26 years.

Five Duke signees have claimed at least a share of MVP honors at the McDonald's All-American Game: Bobby Hurley (1989), Redick (2002), Josh McRoberts (2005), Okafor (2014) and Frank Jackson (2016).

Ricky Price (1994), Gerald Henderson (2006), Grayson Allen (2014), Jackson (2016) and Zion Williamson (2018) have each won the McDAAG dunk contest; Chris Collins (1992), Trajan Langdon (1994), Nate James (1996), Battier (1997), Chris Duhon (2000), Redick (2002), Ryan Kelly (2009), Rasheed Sulaimon (2012), Luke Kennard (2015) and Cam Reddish (2018) have won the three-point contest; Nolan Smith (2007), Tyus Jones (2014) and Jayson Tatum (2016) have each won the skills contest.

The Morgan Wootten Award is presented to the nation's top high school senior, and the Blue Devils' nine - all coming under Coach K - lead the nation.

RANKING AMONG THE BEST

Duke has been a fixture in the Associated Press poll during Coach K's career. Of the 1,437 games Krzyzewski has coached at Duke, 1,276 - 88.8 percent - have been as a ranked team. The Blue Devils are 1,039-237 (.814) as a ranked team under Coach K.

Duke has spent 127 weeks at No. 1 in the AP poll, 575 weeks in the top 10 and 668 weeks in the top 25 under Coach K, all of which lead active coaches. Three of the 10-longest rankings streaks in AP poll history have come at Duke under Krzyzewski's direction, including a 200-week streak from 1996-07 that stands as the third-longest in history.

Coach K has taken top-ranked Duke teams into games on 255 occasions and compiled a 219-36 (.859) record as the AP's No. 1 team, ranking first in poll history in both number of games and number of wins as coach of a top-ranked squad.

He has guided Duke to the top of the poll at least one time in a poll-record 21 different seasons, including this season. From 1999-02, Coach K's Duke teams finished No. 1 in the season's final AP poll an unprecedented four consecutive times. Since he first led the Blue Devils to the top of the poll in 1986, Coach K's Duke teams have finished the season ranked No. 1 eight times - more than double the next-best team in that timeframe.

Duke also achieved at least one No. 1 ranking in seven straight seasons from 1998-04, the second-longest streak in poll history.

NCAA TOURNAMENT/FINAL FOUR CHARTS

^ - active coach // Note: Records adjusted for vacated games // entering 2022 Final Four

MOST NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

1.	John Wooden, UCLA	10
2.	^ Mike Krzyzewski, Duke	5
3.	Adolph Rupp, Kentucky	4
4.	Bob Knight, Indiana	3
	Roy Williams, North Carolina	3
6.	Eight coaches (active: Jay Wright, Villanova)	2

MOST NCAA FINAL FOUR APPEARANCES

1.	^ Mike Krzyzewski, Duke	13
2.	John Wooden, UCLA	12
3.	Dean Smith, North Carolina	11
4.	Roy Williams, Kansas & North Carolina	9
5.	^ Tom Izzo, Michigan State	8
6.	Denny Crum, Louisville	6
	Adolph Rupp, Kentucky	6
8.	^ Jim Boeheim, Syracuse	5
	Bob Knight, Indiana	5
	Guy Lewis, Houston	5
	Lute Olson, Iowa & Arizona	5
	^ Rick Pitino, Providence, Kentucky & Louisville	5

HIGHEST NCAA TOURNAMENT WINNING PCT. (MIN. 20 WINS)

1.	John Wooden, UCLA	47	10	.825
2.	^ Mike Krzyzewski, Duke	101	30	.771
3.	Billy Donovan, Florida	35	12	.745
	Roy Williams, Kansas & North Carolina	79	27	.745
5.	^ John Calipari, Massachusetts, Memphis & Kentucky	47	18	.723
6.	Jim Calhoun, Northeastern & Connecticut	49	19	.721
7.	Dean Smith, North Carolina	65	27	.707
8.	^ Bill Self, Tulsa, Illinois & Kansas	49	21	.700
9.	^ Tom Izzo, Michigan State	53	23	.697
10.	Jerry Tarkanian, Fresno State, Long Beach State & UNLV	32	14	.696
	^ Rick Pitino, Boston U., Providence, Kentucky & Louisville	39	17	.696

NCAA TOURNAMENT WINS

1.	^ Mike Krzyzewski, Duke	101
2.	Roy Williams, Kansas & North Carolina	79
3.	Dean Smith, North Carolina	65
4.	^ Jim Boeheim, Syracuse	57
5.	^ Tom Izzo, Michigan State	53
	^ Bill Self, Tulsa, Illinois & Kansas	53
7.	Jim Calhoun, Northeastern & Connecticut	49
8.	John Wooden, UCLA	47
9.	Lute Olson, Iowa & Arizona	46
10.	Bob Knight, Indiana & Texas Tech	45

MOST NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES

1.	^ Mike Krzyzewski, Duke	36
2.	^ Jim Boeheim, Syracuse	35
3.	Roy Williams, Kansas & North Carolina	30
4.	Bob Knight, Indiana & Texas Tech	28
5.	Lute Olson, Iowa & Arizona	27
	Dean Smith, North Carolina	27
7.	^ Rick Barnes, Providence, Clemson, Texas & Tennessee	26
8.	Eddie Sutton, Creighton, Arkansas, Kentucky & Oklahoma State	25
	^ Bob Huggins, Akron, Cincinnati & West Virginia	25
9.	^ Tom Izzo, Michigan State	24
10.	Denny Crum, Louisville	23

CONSECUTIVE NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES

1.	^ Mike Krzyzewski, Duke (1996-19)	24
2.	Dean Smith, North Carolina (1975-1997)	23
	^ Tom Izzo, Michigan State (1998-current)	23
	^ Bill Self, Tulsa, Illinois & Kansas (1999-current)	23
5.	^ Mark Few, Gonzaga (2000-current)	22
6.	Roy Williams, Kansas & North Carolina (1990-2009)	20
7.	^ Rick Barnes, Clemson & Texas (1996-2012)	17
8.	Bob Knight, Indiana (1986-2000)	15
9.	^ Bob Huggins, Cincinnati (1992-2005)	14
	Lute Olson, Arizona (1985-1998)	14
	Tubby Smith, Tulsa, Georgia & Kentucky (1994-2007)	14
	John Thompson, Georgetown (1979-1992)	14

STRENGTH AT HOME

Cameron Indoor Stadium has always been a formidable mountain for visiting teams to climb, but that has taken on new meaning during Krzyzewski's time in Durham. The Blue Devils have an active streak of 490 consecutive sellouts at Cameron that dates back to Nov. 26, 1990, and stands as the longest in either college basketball or the NBA.

Coach K has accrued a 572-76 (.883) record and orchestrated 11 undefeated seasons at Cameron. His 500th victory at Duke's fabled home arena came in a victory over Pittsburgh on Feb. 4, 2017.

Krzyzewski's Duke teams have been particularly inhospitable to visiting non-conference teams since he arrived on campus. The Blue Devils have won 290 of their last 296 non-conference home games and are 305-11 (.965) versus non-conference teams at Cameron under Coach K, including a streak of 150 consecutive non-conference home wins that ended in 2019-20.

Each of the five-longest home winning streaks in Duke history have come during the Krzyzewski Era, including an ACC-record 46-game run from Jan. 13, 1997, to Feb. 9, 2000.

Given his accomplishments in Duke's home venue, it was only fitting that the university officially named Cameron Indoor Stadium's playing surface Coach K Court on Nov. 17, 2000.

NEXT-LEVEL PREPARATION

Under Coach K, the NBA Draft has become an annual rite of passage for Duke players into the highest level of professional basketball.

Krzyzewski has tutored 68 NBA Draft picks during his time at Duke, including a total of 42 first-round selections that leads all active coaches. Duke has had at least one player taken in 34 of the 41 NBA Drafts during the Krzyzewski Era.

Since the inception of the NBA Draft Lottery in 1985, Coach K and Duke have produced 28 lottery picks - a draft-record total for both a school and a coach. The feat is even more impressive when considering that the rest of the field had a four-year head start on Duke before Danny Ferry became the school's first lottery pick in 1989.

Coach K has placed 14 freshmen in the NBA Lottery, including at least one in six of the last eight drafts: Corey Maggette (1999), Deng (2004), Kyrie Irving (2011), Austin Rivers (2012), Parker (2014), Okafor (2015), Justise Winslow (2015), Brandon Ingram (2016), Jayson Tatum (2017), Bagley III (2018) and Wendell Carter, Jr. (2018), Williamson, Barrett and Cam Reddish (2019).

The NBA Draft experienced a first in 1999 courtesy of Coach K's Blue Devils as Brand (1st), Langdon (11th), Maggette (13th) and William Avery (14th) made Duke the first program to have four players selected in the first round of a single draft. Twice have two Coach K protégés joined rare company as Jason Williams (2nd) and Mike Dunleavy (3rd) in 2002 and Williamson (1st) and Barrett (3rd) in 2019 became just the second and third set of teammates all-time to be taken among the top three picks of an NBA Draft. With three of the top 10 picks in 2019, Duke became just the second college in Draft history to accomplish the feat.

Through the 2020-21 season, Coach K's former Duke players have accumulated more than \$2.5 billion in NBA contracts. Lottery selections who played for Krzyzewski at Duke have combined to earn nearly \$2 billion in contracts, an average of nearly \$70 million per individual.

FOCUS ON THE CLASSROOM

The term "student-athlete" is not one that is taken for granted in Coach K's Duke program. Krzyzewski's charges have combined to earn All-ACC Academic Team honors 81 times during his tenure, including at least one in each of the last 27 seasons.

The 2015 NCAA Championship featured a program-high five All-ACC Academic honorees. Quin Snyder, Amile Jefferson and Grayson Allen are the only players in Duke history to earn All-ACC Academic honors four times. Jefferson, a three-time captain, departed the university in 2017 with both a bachelor's and master's degrees.

Krzyzewski has had six players collect a total of nine CoSIDA Academic All-America honors, headlined by two-time first-team honorees Battier (2000, 2001) and Mason Plumlee (2012, 2013). Allen became the sixth in 2016 when he garnered second-team accolades, joining Greg Paulus, Mike Dunleavy and Quin Snyder.

In 2015, Battier became the first of Coach K's players to be inducted into the CoSIDA Academic All-America Hall of Fame.

Krzyzewski has been an executive-in-residence at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business since 2001 and helped found the Coach K Center on Leadership & Ethics (COLE).

RECOGNITION

Fittingly, Coach K has earned nearly every award imaginable. The crown jewel of that haul, however, came in 2001 when he was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

Since his enshrinement in Springfield, Mass., Krzyzewski has also been inducted into the Army Sports Hall of Fame (2009), the Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame (2010) and the Duke Athletics Hall of Fame (2011).

Coach K has been named National Coach of the Year by major organizations a dozen times in eight different seasons, most recently in 2001. In 2004, he was named the Claire Bee Coach of the Year, an award that honors the active Division I men's basketball coach who has made the most significant positive contribution to the sport during the preceding year.



MIKE KRZYZEWSKI & USA BASKETBALL EXPERIENCE

Mike Krzyzewski has been a driving force in the USA's international basketball development program. Here's a list of his international coaching and administrative experience:

Year	Team	Record	Medal
1979	USA Pan American Games Team Assistant Coach	9-0	Gold Medal
1983	USA Olympic Festival South Team Head Coach	3-1	Gold Medal
1984	USA Olympic Team Trials Assistant Coach		Not Applicable
1984	USA Olympic Team Special Assistant	8-0	Gold Medal
1987	USA World University Games Team Head Coach	7-1	Silver Medal
1990	USA Goodwill Games Team Head Coach	3-2	Silver Medal
1990	USA World Championship Team Head Coach	6-2	Bronze Medal
1992	USA Olympic Qualifying Team Assistant Coach	6-0	Gold Medal
1992	USA Olympic Team Assistant Coach - Barcelona Olympics	8-0	Gold Medal
2006	USA Senior National Team Head Coach - USA National Team Tour	5-0	
2006	USA Senior National Team Head Coach - FIBA World Championship	8-1	Bronze Medal
2007	USA Senior National Team Head Coach - FIBA Americas Championship	10-0	Gold Medal
2008	USA Senior National Team Head Coach - USA National Team Tour	5-0	
2008	USA Senior National Team Head Coach - Beijing Olympics	8-0	Gold Medal
2010	USA Senior National Team Head Coach - USA National Team Tour	4-0	
2010	USA Senior National Team Head Coach - FIBA World Championship	9-0	Gold Medal
2012	USA Senior National Team Head Coach - USA National Team Tour	5-0	
2012	USA Senior National Team Head Coach - London Olympics	8-0	Gold Medal
2014	USA Senior National Team Head Coach - USA National Team Tour	4-0	
2014	USA Senior National Team Head Coach - FIBA World Cup	9-0	Gold Medal
2016	USA Senior National Team Head Coach - Rio Olympics	8-0	Gold Medal
Totals	15 International Medal Competitions	133-7 (.950)	11 Gold / 2 Silver / 2 Bronze

He has been voted ACC Coach of the Year five times, most recently in 2000. His five ACC COY awards are the second-most in league history.

Coach K has also been the recipient of the Wayman Tisdale Humanitarian Award (2012) and the Lapchick Character Award (2015).

Numerous publications have singled out Coach K for his extraordinary leadership and accomplishments, beginning in 1992 when The Sporting News made him the first college coach to earn its Sportsman of the Year honor. In a 2001 joint venture, TIME and CNN dubbed Krzyzewski "America's Best Coach;" the outlets' criteria for the honor did not limit candidates to any sport or level of competition.

Coach K was named Sportsman of the Year by Sports Illustrated in 2011. He shared the cover with Pat Summitt, the late, legendary Tennessee women's basketball coach. In 2008, Nike honored Duke's longtime coach with the Michael Krzyzewski Fitness Center - a state-of-the-art, 47,000-square foot facility on Nike's campus in Portland.

In 2020, Make-A-Wish America presented the Chris Greicius Award to Coach K and Duke, recognizing the exceptional wish-granting support exemplified by his program in helping create life-changing wish experiences for children fighting critical illness. The Blue Devils, who have been grating Make-A-Wish wishes for over a decade, became the first collegiate program nationally to earn the honor.

Long known for his patriotism, Krzyzewski has received several awards in recognition of his service to the United States.

In 2005, he became the youngest recipient of the Distinguished Graduate Award at the United States Military Academy. He was also the recipient of the Marshall Medal in 2014, the highest award presented by the Association of the United States Army. The Marshall Medal is awarded annually to an individual who has exhibited selfless service to the United States of America.

Coach K has been named USA Basketball Coach of the Year seven times (2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016). He also received the United States Sports Academy's Amos Alonzo Stagg Coaching Award in 1992, 2009 and 2012.

REPRESENTING THE USA

While establishing Duke as one of college basketball's dynastic programs, Krzyzewski simultaneously spent more than a decade as one of the architects of the revitalization of USA Basketball. Following his appointment as head coach of the United States National Team on Oct. 26, 2005, Coach K presided over one of the golden eras of USA Basketball.

During his tenure at the helm of the program, the U.S. National Team amassed an extraordinary 88-1 record and claimed gold medals at the 2007 FIBA Americas Championship, 2008 Beijing Olympics, 2010 FIBA World Championship, 2012 London Olympics, 2014 FIBA World Cup and 2016 Rio Olympics, as well as a bronze medal at the 2006 FIBA World Championship. Coach K was 24-0 in the Olympics as head coach of the USMNT and his time at the helm ended with the team in the midst of a National Team-record 76-game winning streak that began in 2006.

When combined with his five NCAA championships, Krzyzewski's three Olympic gold medals and two World Cup golds give him a total of 10 major championships during his head coaching career. That total is tied for second-most all-time, just one behind the 11 (all NBA) championships won by Phil Jackson.

Coach K finished his tenure as U.S. National Team head coach with a flourish in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, defeating Serbia for the Olympic gold medal. With the win, he became the first coach - man or woman - to lead a country to three Olympic basketball gold medals - and did so consecutively.

The history made in Rio almost never was, as Coach K announced that he would not return as USMNT coach following the USA's record-setting performance to win the gold medal at the London Olympics in 2012. Jerry Colangelo's persistence paid off in May 2013 when Coach K announced that he would return for a third term.

Krzyzewski's first Olympics as head coach - the 2008 Beijing Games - was nearly as important for its perception-altering effect on the U.S. National Team as it was for the gold medal the squad brought home. The squad won over fans with its unselfishness on the court, patriotic support of Team USA as a whole and first-class demeanor throughout the tournament - all signature Coach K values.

The historic accomplishments of the Krzyzewski Era of USA Basketball also applied to the FIBA World Championship (later renamed the FIBA World Cup).

Coach K led the U.S. to the top of the podium at the 2010 World Championship to claim the Americans' first gold at the event since 1994. There was no drop-off when the 2014 event rolled around as Krzyzewski presided over a second consecutive world title for the U.S. With the repeat victory, the U.S. became only the third country to win back-to-back FIBA world titles since the event was initiated in 1950.

While Coach K's tenure at the helm of the U.S. National Team is one of the bright spots in USA Basketball history, his affiliation with the sport's governing body in the U.S. stretches back nearly four decades.

After getting his start in 1983 at the National Sports Festival - winning a gold medal - and the Pan Am Games, Krzyzewski was a special assistant to mentor Bob Knight on the 1984 Olympic Team that captured gold in Los Angeles.

Coach K was also an assistant on the "Dream Team," potentially the greatest team ever assembled and the gold medal-winning squad at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. In all, Krzyzewski was a member of five gold medal-winning Olympic coaching staffs during his international career and helped the United States to a 40-0 record in those tournaments.

Duke players have also had a prominent impact in the Olympics as 11 of Krzyzewski's former players have competed in the Games for six different countries, including the most recent 2020 Olympics in Tokyo where Jayson Tatum won gold with Team USA.

Six of Coach K's former players - Brand, Duhon, Irving, Laettner, Parker and Shelden Williams - have been named USA Basketball Male Athlete of the Year.

GIVING BACK

Krzyzewski has been diligently committed to public service, both locally and nationally, throughout his coaching career. He is currently serving on boards for, while also assuming vital roles with, the Duke Children's Hospital, the Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research, the NABC Foundation, the CEO Roundtable on Cancer and the Emily Krzyzewski Center.

On Jan. 18, 2014, former President and co-founder of C-Change George H.W. Bush traveled to Durham to recognize Krzyzewski for his personal commitment and leadership in working to eliminate cancer as a public health threat. Coach K followed President Bush as honorary co-chair of C-Change from 2006-15, when the organization reconstituted.

Coach K is on the board of the Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research and has been active in the foundation since its inception in 1993. He and his wife, Mickie, have hosted the V Foundation Napa Valley Wine Celebration a record 14 times, an event that has raised tens of millions of dollars for cancer research.

An honorary chairman of the Duke Children's Hospital, Coach K participates in the Children's Hospital Radiothon and has been active in past events such as the Duke Children's Miracle Network Telethon and the Duke Children's Classic.

Coach K's philanthropic activities also include the establishment and funding of the Emily Krzyzewski Center, a community center in Durham named in honor of his late mother. The Center's mission is to inspire economically disadvantaged students to dream big, act with character and purpose, strive for academic excellence and reach their highest potential as future citizen leaders.

In May 2018, Coach K and his wife Mickie announced their single-largest philanthropic gift, a \$3 million donation to the Emily K Center to kick start a \$15 million fundraising campaign for the Durham-based Center. The three-year campaign concluded on December 31, 2020, exceeding its goal by \$3.85 million.

In 2002, several former Duke stars, including Grant Hill, Laettner, Battier, Dunleavy and Ferry, returned to campus for the Duke All-Star Charity Hoopla, which helped raise significant funds for the Duke/Durham Neighborhood Partnership and the Emily K Center. Today, the K Academy - Duke's fantasy basketball camp - annually raises more than \$250,000 in support of the Center.



Coach K was recognized as the first winner of the NABC Literacy Champion Award in 2000, earning a \$10,000 donation from GTE (now Verizon) to support Duke Athletics' literacy program, Read with the Blue Devils.

The Duke University culture, its students and its staff are also an important part of Krzyzewski's life. The university recognized his vital role on campus in 1997 when it awarded him the Medal of Honor - Duke's highest honor - at the University Founders' Day Convocation.

In September 2001, he and Mickie created the Krzyzewski Family Scholarship Endowment for Duke students from the Carolinas. The \$100,000 scholarship, the result of the Krzyzewskis' gift and additional funds from the Duke Endowment of Charlotte, provides assistance to undergraduates from North and South Carolina.

During the fall of 2002, Coach K received an Honorary Alumnus Award from the Duke Medical Center for his contributions to the Duke Children's Health Center.

Coach K added another thread to his Duke legacy in 2016 when he was selected to give the commencement address to the university's graduating class.

Krzyzewski has co-authored a total of five books and has added the title of "best-selling author" to his already lengthy list of accomplishments.

His first venture as an author came with Duke Sports Hall of Famer Bill Brill and was entitled, "A Season is a Lifetime." The book chronicled the Blue Devils' 1992 national championship season.

Coach K has authored two books with Texas writer Don Phillips. The first, "Leading with the Heart," emphasized Krzyzewski's successful strategies for basketball, business and life. It was released in 2000 and reached the New York Times best-seller list.

He and Phillips teamed up again for "Five-Point Play," released in the fall of 2001. The book relived Duke's journey to the 2001 national title.

Coach K and his daughter, Jamie K. Spatola, have also authored two books together. The first, "Beyond Basketball: Coach K's Keywords for Success," was released in October 2006. Following the 2008 Olympics, the father and daughter collaborated on "The Gold Standard: Building a World-Class Team," which featured Coach K's guide to team building, illustrated with experiences from his three years coaching the team that would ultimately win Olympic gold.

Since 2005, Krzyzewski has hosted an hour-long radio show, "Basketball and Beyond with Coach K," on SiriusXM. The show, which runs weekly throughout the college basketball season, features Coach K interviewing successful people from various walks of life, including sports, pop culture, politics and more.

THE COACHING TREE

Sustained success under Coach K has resulted in coaching opportunities for several of his former players, as well as his former assistant coaches from both Duke and Army. More than 20 of Coach K's former players or assistants are currently either coaching or working in front office roles across professional and college basketball.

Ten of Coach K's former players or staff are currently Division I head coaches: Tommy Amaker (Harvard), Kenny Blakeney (Howard), Mike Brey (Notre Dame), Jeff Capel (Pittsburgh), Chris Collins (Northwestern), Johnny Dawkins (Central Florida), Bobby Hurley (Arizona State), Nate James (Austin Peay), Greg Paulus (Niagara) and Mike Schrage (Elon).

Quin Snyder is currently the head coach of the NBA's Utah Jazz, headlining a long list of former players, staff and managers that are connected to the NBA. That list also includes Grant Hill as part-owner of the Atlanta Hawks, Elton Brand as general manager of the Philadelphia 76ers and Trajan Langdon as general manager of the New Orleans Pelicans.

Krzyzewski has shown a firm commitment to taking care of his own, having at least three former Duke captains on his staff every season since 1996-97. The Blue Devils have won three NCAA titles, 12 ACC Tournament championships and eight ACC regular season crowns during that time.

The current staff of Scheyer (associate head coach), Chris Carrawell (associate head coach) and Nolan Smith (assistant coach) all held the captain role during their playing careers at Duke.

PRIOR TO DUKE

Coach K's disciplined, mentally tough teams can be seen as an extension of his own upbringing. Krzyzewski went to West Point and enrolled in the U.S. Military Academy to receive a quality education, play basketball and become an officer in the Army.

From 1969-74, Krzyzewski served his country, directing service teams for three years and serving a two-year stint as head coach at the U.S. Military Academy Prep School in Belvoir, Va. In 1974, he resigned from the Army having attained the rank of Captain.

When Coach K was just 26, Knight, his former coach at Army, offered him a graduate assistantship at Indiana University. That 1975 squad posted an 18-0 mark in the Big Ten and a 31-1 overall record.

Prior to his arrival at Duke in 1980, Krzyzewski spent five years building the program at his alma mater in West Point. He led the Cadets to one NIT berth, one ECAC playoff appearance and an overall record of 73-59.



KRZYZEWSKI'S COACHING/FRONT OFFICE TREE

As of October 2021

NBA HEAD COACH

Quin Snyder '89 Utah

NBA FRONT OFFICE

David Henderson '86 SCOUT Cleveland
 Danny Ferry '89 ADVISOR New Orleans
 Grant Hill '94 OWNER Atlanta
 Cherokee Parks '95 INTERN NBA
 Elton Brand '99 GENERAL MANAGER Philadelphia
 Trajan Langdon '99 GENERAL MANAGER New Orleans
 Shane Battier '01 CONSULTANT Miami
 Mike Dunleavy, Jr. '02 ASSISTANT GM Golden State
 \$ Nick Arison '03 CEO Miami
 \$ Charlie Rohlf '05 ASSOC VP/STATS TECHNOLOGY NBA
 \$ Amanda Green '06 VP/TEAM COUNSEL & STRATEGIC ALIGN Oklahoma City
 % Ken Catanella '06 ASSISTANT GM Sacramento
 %\$ Kevin Cullen '07 SENIOR DIR/OPS & TECH Washington
 \$ Brett Greenberg '08 ASSISTANT GM Washington
 Martynas Pocius '09 ASST DIR/PRO PERSONNEL Denver
 \$ Ian McKiernan '15 STRATEGY & ANALYTICS Washington

\$ Derek Rhodes '15 DIR/BUSINESS STRATEGY Miami
 \$ Ryan Kelly '16 MEDICAL STAFF Brooklyn
 \$ Brady Graber '17 GM, MEMPHIS HUSTLE Memphis
 \$ Shane Turner '18 OPERATIONS ASSISTANT Memphis
 \$ Michael Scheinert '20 ANALYTICS COOR Detroit

NBA ASSISTANT COACHES

Chip Engelland '83 San Antonio
 Antonio Lang '94 Cleveland
 Sheldon Williams '06 G-LEAGUE Atlanta
 Dave McClure '09 Memphis

COLLEGE HEAD COACHES

Johnny Dawkins '86 UCF
 Tommy Amaker '87 Harvard
 Bobby Hurley '93 Arizona State
 Kenny Blakeney '95 Howard
 Chris Collins '96 Northwestern
 Jeff Capel '97 Pittsburgh
 Nate James '01 Austin Peay

Greg Paulus '09 Niagara
 # Mike Brey Notre Dame
 * Mike Schrage Elon

COLLEGE ASSISTANT COACHES/STAFF

Chris Carrawell '00 Duke
 Jon Scheyer '10 Duke
 Nolan Smith '11 Duke
 Tyler Thornton '14 Howard
 %\$ Mike Sotsky '15 Harvard
 Amile Jefferson '16 Duke

OTHER LEAGUES

Todd Anderson '85 ASST COACH - PRO LEAGUE Qatar

- former assistant coach
 % - former director of basketball operations
 %\$ - former staff assistant
 \$ - former student manager
 Duke graduation year (or last year on roster) listed



COACH K QUICK FACTS

BORN	Michael William Krzyzewski	COACHING CAREER	Head Coach Service Teams, 1969-72	NCAA TITLES (5)	1991, 1992, 2001, 2010, 2015
	February 13, 1947 Chicago, Ill.		Head Coach, U.S.M.A. Prep School (Fort Belvoir, Va.), 1972-74		ACC REGULAR SEASON TITLES (13)
HIGH SCHOOL	Weber High School Chicago, Ill.	COACHING HONORS	Graduate Assistant Coach, Indiana University, 1974-75	ACC TOURNAMENT TITLES (15)	1986, 1988, 1992, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2017, 2019
			Head Coach, United States Military Academy, 1975-80		FAMILY
COLLEGE CAREER	Three-year letterman Army, 1967-69	COLLEGE DEGREE	Head Coach, Duke University, 1980-present	DAUGHTERS	
			United States National Team Head Coach, 2006-16		GRANDCHILDREN
COLLEGE HONORS	Team Captain, 1968-69 Second-Team All-NIT, 1969 North-South Game, 1969	MILITARY SERVICE	Head Coach, United States National Team - 2006-16 (88-1 record)		
			Army Officer, 1969-74 Resigned as Captain, 1974	USA Basketball National Coach of the Year - 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016	
			U.S. Head Coach, Olympics - 2008, 2012, 2016		
			U.S. Assistant Coach, Olympics - 1992		
			U.S. Head Coach, FIBA World Championship/World Cup - 2010, 2014		
			U.S. Head Coach, World Championships and Goodwill Games - 1990		
			National Coach of the Year - 1986, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001		
			NABC District Coach of the Year - 1977, 1984, 1992, 1994, 2011		
			ACC Coach of the Year - 1984, 1986, 1997, 1999, 2000		
			Claire Bee Coach of the Year - 2004		
			President, NABC - 1998-99		
			Naimith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame inductee - 2001		
			Named "America's Best Coach" by Time/CNN - 2001		
			Army Sports Hall of Fame inductee - 2009		
			Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame inductee - 2010		
			Duke Athletics Hall of Fame inductee - 2011		
			Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year - 2011		
			Wayman Tisdale Humanitarian Award - 2012		
			Lapchick Character Award - 2015		

March 18, 1980 – Mike Krzyzewski is introduced as Duke's head basketball coach.

Nov. 29, 1980 – Krzyzewski wins his first game as Duke's coach, 67-49 over Stetson.

Jan. 21, 1981 – A 56-47 win at N.C. State gives Krzyzewski his first victory against ACC competition. Gene Banks plays 40 minutes for Duke, scoring a game-high 23 points on 9-of-14 shooting.

Feb. 15, 1984 – Duke wins its first game as a ranked team under Coach K, 80-69 over Stetson, and gets its first 20-win season since 1980. David Henderson scores 18 points, making all six field-goal attempts and all six foul shots.

March 10, 1984 – A 77-75 victory over North Carolina, aided by four David Henderson free throws, gives Krzyzewski his first win over a top-ranked team and his first trip to the ACC Tournament title game.

Feb. 27, 1985 – Duke beats Clemson, 90-73, in Durham, to give Krzyzewski his first winning season in the ACC (8-6). Johnny Dawkins scores 19 points.

March 15, 1985 – A 75-62 victory over Pepperdine gives Krzyzewski his first victory in the NCAA Tournament. David Henderson scores 22 points and Johnny Dawkins nets 21.

Feb. 26, 1986 – Playing as the No. 1 team for the first time under Krzyzewski, Duke beats Clemson, 77-69, to set a school record for most victories in a season (28). Johnny Dawkins scores 27 points on 11-of-16 shooting.

March 2, 1986 – An 82-74 victory over North Carolina gives Duke its first ACC regular season title since 1966 and its first perfect home record (15-0) since 1978.

March 7, 1986 – Duke beats Wake Forest, 68-60, in the first round of the ACC Tournament to give Krzyzewski his first 30-win season.

March 9, 1986 – A 68-67 win over Georgia Tech gives Krzyzewski his first ACC Tournament championship.

March 23, 1986 – Duke beats Navy, 71-50, to send Krzyzewski to his first Final Four. Johnny Dawkins scores 28 points, and Duke overcomes a 23-point, 10-rebound effort by David Robinson.

March 29, 1986 – A 71-67 win over Kansas puts Krzyzewski in his first national championship game and makes Duke the first team in NCAA history to win 37 games in a season. The Blue Devils limit Kansas All-American Danny Manning to four points on 2-of-9 shooting.

March 31, 1986 – Louisville beats Duke, 72-69, to deny the Blue Devils the national championship. Duke finishes 37-3, setting school records for wins and winning percentage (.925).

March 13, 1988 – A 65-61 win over North Carolina gives Krzyzewski his second ACC Tournament title.

March 26, 1988 – Duke upsets No. 1 Temple, 63-53, to send Krzyzewski to his second Final Four. Kevin Strickland and Danny Ferry combine for 41 points. The Blue Devils limit the Owls to 28.6 percent shooting.

April 2, 1988 – Kansas hands Duke a 66-59 defeat in the national semifinals before a partisan Jayhawk crowd in Kansas City. The Blue Devils finish the year with a 28-7 record.

Nov. 19, 1988 – Duke opens a season as the nation's top-ranked team for the first time under Krzyzewski, beating Kentucky, 80-55.

March 26, 1989 – An 85-77 victory over Georgetown sends Duke to the Final Four for the second straight season.

April 1, 1989 – Seton Hall beats Duke in the national semis, 95-78, overcoming an 18-point first half deficit and 34 points by National Player of the Year Danny Ferry. Duke sets a school record for highest field-goal percentage for a season (.537).

Feb. 12, 1990 – A 102-67 rout of Stetson makes Krzyzewski the first Duke coach with seven consecutive 20-win seasons.

March 16, 1990 – Duke beats Richmond in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, 81-46, making Krzyzewski the Blue Devils' winningest coach with 227 victories. Coach K also gets his 300th career victory.

March 24, 1990 – Duke becomes the seventh school to earn three straight Final Four trips, beating Connecticut, 79-78, on a 15-foot shot at the buzzer by Christian Laettner.

March 31, 1990 – A 97-83 victory over Arkansas sends Krzyzewski into his second NCAA title game.

Feb. 27, 1991 – Duke beats Clemson, 79-62, to finish 16-0 at home and set a record for most home victories in a season.

March 3, 1991 – An 83-77 upset of North Carolina in Chapel Hill gives Krzyzewski his second regular season ACC championship. Bobby Hurley makes 4-of-6 three-point shots to finish with 18 points and tie Christian Laettner for high scoring honors.

March 24, 1991 – Duke's 78-61 victory over St. John's enables Coach K to join John Wooden as the only men to coach in four consecutive Final Fours.

March 30, 1991 – Duke upsets unbeaten UNLV, considered at the time the greatest team in college basketball history, 79-77, to advance to the NCAA championship for the fifth time and avenge its 1990 loss to the Rebels.

April 1, 1991 – Krzyzewski's 336th career victory gives him his first national title. Duke beats Kansas, 72-65. Christian Laettner is named the most outstanding player, scoring a game-high 18 points and going 12-for-12 from the foul line.

Feb. 1, 1992 – Duke sets a school record for most consecutive wins to open a season (17), beating Notre Dame, 100-71.

March 15, 1992 – A 94-74 victory over North Carolina gives Duke its third ACC Tournament title under Krzyzewski and avenges a 22-point loss to the Tar Heels in the 1991 title game.

March 28, 1992 – In perhaps the best college basketball game in history, Christian Laettner hits a buzzer-beating jumper on a pass from Grant Hill, and Duke gets a 104-103 overtime win over Kentucky to earn its fifth straight Final Four appearance.

April 6, 1992 – Duke beats Michigan, 71-51, in front of a record crowd of 50,379 to join UCLA as the only teams to repeat as national champions. The Blue Devils (34-2) become the first team since Indiana in 1976 to stay No. 1 from the preseason ranking through the postseason tournament.

Summer, 1992 – Krzyzewski is an assistant coach to Chuck Daly on the U.S. Olympic team featuring Michael Jordan, Larry Bird and Magic Johnson. Christian Laettner is the lone collegiate player on the "Dream Team," which wins the gold medal in Barcelona, Spain.

Dec. 7, 1992 – Duke's 103-72 home victory over Northeastern gives Krzyzewski his 300th win as Duke's coach, three games into his 13th season.

March 18, 1993 – Duke's 105-70 first round victory over Southern Illinois is the Blue Devils' 13th straight win in the NCAA Tournament – the second-longest streak in history.

March 20, 1993 – California ends Duke's run of five straight trips to the Final Four with an 82-77 win in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Dec. 22, 1993 – Krzyzewski gets his 400th career coaching victory, 79-76 over Iowa.

Jan. 10, 1994 – Duke beats Brown, 89-71, in Durham, to earn its 100th victory over a four-year span, then a school record.

March 2, 1994 – Duke beats Maryland in College Park, 73-69, to give Krzyzewski his fourth regular season ACC championship.

March 26, 1994 – Duke upsets Purdue, 69-60, to advance to the Final Four for the sixth time in seven years. Coach K moves into third place on the list of most Final Four appearances, trailing John Wooden (12) and Dean Smith (11).

April 2, 1994 – Playing where it had lost in the second round of the ACC Tournament five games earlier, Duke overcomes a 13-point deficit against Florida to advance to the NCAA title game with a 70-65 victory in Charlotte. Cherokee Parks' 11 points and 11 rebounds lead Duke to its fifth championship game under Coach K (fourth in five years).

April 4, 1994 – With President Clinton in attendance, Arkansas denies Duke its third championship in four years with a 76-72 victory. Grant Hill has 12 points and 14 rebounds in his last game for the Blue Devils, who go 28-6 for the season.

Nov. 29, 1995 – Duke beats UNC Greensboro, 71-57, to extend its school record for consecutive non-conference home wins to 95 games.

Feb. 27, 1997 – Duke beats Maryland, 81-69, in Durham, to give Krzyzewski his fifth regular season conference championship.

March 14, 1997 – Krzyzewski gets his 400th win at Duke, improving his record to 400-148 with a 71-68 triumph over Murray State in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Sept. 1997 – Duke recognizes Krzyzewski's leadership by awarding him its highest honor – the University Medal of Honor – for his many contributions to the school.

Nov. 26, 1997 – Duke upsets Arizona in the Maui Invitational, 95-87, to give Krzyzewski his fifth victory against top-ranked teams – the most by any active coach.

Feb. 28, 1998 – After watching Duke rally from a 17-point second half deficit, Krzyzewski gets his 500th coaching victory and his second straight ACC regular season championship with a 77-75 home win over North Carolina. Coach K becomes the 76th coach to win 500 games as the Devils finish unbeaten at home and become the first team to win 15 conference games in a season.

June 26, 1998 – Duke christens the Michael W. Krzyzewski Human Performance Lab. Working with the latest in high-tech instrumentation, a multidisciplinary team of orthopaedic surgeons and biomechanical engineers strive to better understand how muscles, bones, tendons and ligaments respond to the pressures of competition.

Feb. 20, 1999 – Duke ties a school record with its 36th straight home victory, a 92-65 rout of Clemson. The Blue Devils go unbeaten at home for the second straight year and fifth time under Krzyzewski.

Feb. 27, 1999 – Duke beats North Carolina by 20 points in Chapel Hill, 81-61, to become the first team to finish 16-0 in the ACC. The Blue Devils set a school record with their 24th straight victory and go unbeaten in the ACC for the first time since 1963.

March 7, 1999 – A 96-73 victory over North Carolina gives Krzyzewski his fourth ACC Tournament title. Duke wins its tournament games by an average margin of 25 points. The win caps a 19-0 ACC campaign for Duke.

March 19, 1999 – Duke beats Southwest Missouri State in the NCAA Tournament, 78-61, to post its 30th straight victory and school-record 67th win over two years. The Blue Devils win 35 games in a season for the second time under Krzyzewski.

March 21, 1999 – An 85-64 victory over Temple earns Duke its eighth Final Four trip under Krzyzewski.

March 27, 1999 – Duke beats Michigan State, 68-62, to advance to the national championship game for the sixth time under Krzyzewski, who improves his record in the NCAA Tournament to 48-13 to pass John Wooden for second place on the all-time list. The Devils improve to 37-1, tying their own NCAA record for most victories in a season.

March 29, 1999 – Connecticut stuns Duke, 77-74, in the national championship game. Though the Blue Devils fall shy of the title, they achieve school records for highest winning percentage over a two-year period (.920) and for a single season (.949).

June 30, 1999 – Duke becomes the first school in the history of the NBA Draft to have four players from the same team – Elton Brand, Trajan Langdon, Corey Maggette and William Avery – selected in the first round. Brand, who became the first player to be taken number one under Coach K, Langdon and Maggette were lottery picks.

Nov. 1999 – The Duke Basketball Legacy Fund is founded. The Legacy Fund currently has 62 partners making gifts of \$1 million or more to the program. The endowed fund will provide full support for one Duke player each year.

Jan. 22, 2000 – Duke gets a 75-61 win at Wake Forest, setting records with its 28th straight ACC regular season victory and 49th ACC regular season victory in a span of four years. The Blue Devils set a school record with their 15th straight ACC road win.

Feb. 9, 2000 – Maryland upsets Duke in Durham, 98-87, to end the Blue Devils' 31-game ACC regular-season winning streak, their 46-game home winning streak and their 26-game home winning streak against ACC teams.

March 4, 2000 – Duke beats North Carolina in Durham, 90-76, to give Krzyzewski his eighth ACC regular season title – marking only the second time the Blue Devils have won four straight regular season conference championships.

March 11, 2000 – Duke beats Wake Forest in the ACC Tournament semifinals, 82-73, to set a school record with its 119th victory over a four-year span. The Devils advance to the league championship game for the third year in a row and ninth time under Krzyzewski.

March 12, 2000 – Duke wins its second straight ACC title and fifth under Krzyzewski, beating Maryland, 81-68.

March 24, 2000 – Florida upsets Duke in the NCAA Tournament, 87-78. Though the Devils finish one victory shy of a 30-win season, they post the highest winning percentage over a four-year period in school history (.859; 122-20).

Nov. 17, 2000 – A 98-85 victory over Villanova in Durham gives Krzyzewski his 500th win as Duke's coach. He becomes just the third coach to win 500 games at one school in 21 seasons or fewer. Following the win, Duke unveils Coach K Court. The words Coach K Court appear in two squares at both ends of the fabled Cameron court.

March 4, 2001 – Duke beats North Carolina in Chapel Hill, 95-81, to become the first team to win at least a share of the ACC regular season title five years in a row.

March 11, 2001 – A 79-53 victory over UNC gives Krzyzewski coaching victory No. 600 and his sixth ACC championship.

March 24, 2001 – With a 79-69 victory over Southern Cal, Duke gives Krzyzewski his ninth trip to the Final Four and sets a school record for wins over a three-year period (99).

March 31, 2001 – Duke overcomes a record-setting 22-point first half deficit in a 95-84 victory over Maryland that sends Krzyzewski into his seventh national championship game. He becomes the first Duke coach to amass 100 wins in a span of just three seasons.

April 2, 2001 – Duke beats Arizona, 82-72, to make Krzyzewski the fourth coach to win three NCAA crowns. The Blue Devils become the second team since the NCAA Tournament expanded to 64 teams to win every tournament game by at least 10 points. Duke sets NCAA records for wins in a four-year period (133) and all-time NCAA Tournament winning percentage (76.8).

May 30, 2001 – In his first year of eligibility, Krzyzewski is voted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. He joins Temple's John Chaney and Texas Tech's Bob Knight as the only active college coaches to be enshrined.

Sept. 5, 2001 – Krzyzewski and his wife, Mickie, create the Krzyzewski Family Scholarship Endowment for Duke students from the Carolinas. The \$100,000 scholarship provides assistance to undergraduates from North and South Carolina.

Sept. 9, 2001 – Krzyzewski is named "America's Best Coach" – in any sport at any level – by CNN and *TIME* magazine.

Oct. 5, 2001 – Krzyzewski is inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame. His college coach, Bob Knight, is his presenter, and the pair share a tear-filled reunion in the Springfield Civic Center.

Nov. 14, 2001 – The 54-year-old Krzyzewski signs a lifetime contract with Duke.

Nov. 19, 2001 – Duke opens the 2001-02 season ranked No. 1 in the country, the fourth time under Krzyzewski that it has started a season as No. 1.

Jan. 31, 2002 – Duke beats North Carolina by 29 points, 87-58, UNC's worst loss in the Dean Smith Center. The Blue Devils become the first team to win four straight games in Chapel Hill, getting their highest margin of victory over the Tar Heels under Krzyzewski.

Feb. 24, 2002 – Duke rolls over St. John's on Coach K Court, 97-55, to give Krzyzewski his fifth straight 25-win season and 12th overall.

March 4, 2002 – Duke routs North Carolina on Coach K Court, 93-68, to finish unbeaten at home (13-0) for the sixth time under Krzyzewski.

March 10, 2002 – Duke becomes the first school to win the ACC Tournament four years in a row, beating N.C. State 91-61 for its seventh ACC championship under Krzyzewski.

March 14, 2002 – A No. 1 seed for an NCAA-record fifth straight year, Duke gets its seventh straight double-digit win in the NCAA Tournament, 84-37 over Winthrop. The Blue Devils give Krzyzewski his seventh 30-win season.

June 26, 2002 – Duke's Jason Williams (second) and Mike Dunleavy (third) become the second pair of teammates to be taken among the top three picks in an NBA Draft. The Blue Devil duo joined UCLA's Lew Alcindor and Lucious Allen, who went number one and three, in 1969. In addition, Carlos Boozer is chosen in the second round of the draft.

Jan. 8, 2003 – Duke ascends to the No. 1 ranking in the AP poll for the sixth consecutive season. That night, Duke topples Georgetown, 93-86, at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

March 16, 2003 – Duke earns its league-record fifth consecutive ACC Tournament championship with an 84-77 victory over N.C. State in Greensboro, N.C. Duke's Daniel Ewing was named MVP of the tournament.

Jan. 3, 2004 – The Blue Devils defeat Clemson, 73-54, on the road as Coach K earns his 600th victory at Duke. He reaches this milestone in 776 games, making him the fourth-fastest coach to reach 600 victories at one school. Only Kentucky's Adolph Rupp (704), UCLA's John Wooden (744), North Carolina's Dean Smith (773), Krzyzewski and Western Kentucky's Ed Diddle (790) reached 600 victories at one school in fewer than 800 games.

Jan. 21, 2004 – Following its win over No. 4 Wake Forest on Jan. 17, Duke travels to Maryland as the nation's No. 1 team for the seventh consecutive season, the second-longest such streak in NCAA history. After its 68-60 win, the Blue Devils hang on to the No. 1 ranking for four weeks during the 2003-04 season.

Feb. 26, 2004 – Duke extends its winning streak in Cameron Indoor Stadium to 41 games with a 97-63 victory over Valparaiso. The Blue Devils' 41-game home winning streak is the second-longest in ACC and school history behind Duke's 46-game streak from 1997-2000. It would be ended in its next contest vs. No. 19 Georgia Tech a week later.

March 28, 2004 – Duke outlasts Xavier, 66-63, to win the NCAA Atlanta Regional and advance to its 14th Final Four overall and 10th in the previous 19 seasons under Coach K.

July 1, 2004 – Director of Athletics Joe Alleva holds a press conference to announce that the LA Lakers have approached Krzyzewski about their vacant head coaching position.

July 5, 2004 – Krzyzewski announces that he has turned down the Lakers' offer to become head coach. "Duke has always taken up my whole heart," Coach K stated in a packed press conference that was aired live nationally.

Dec. 12, 2004 – With an 82-54 victory over Toledo in Cameron Indoor Stadium, Krzyzewski picks up his 700th career win. He becomes the second fastest coach to reach the milestone behind Bob Knight.

Jan. 5, 2005 – Duke defeats Princeton, 59-46, behind 21 points from J.J. Redick as the Blue Devils celebrate the 65th anniversary of Cameron Indoor Stadium. The game was played almost exactly 65 years to the day of the first game at Cameron, when Duke beat Princeton by a 36-27 count on January 6, 1940.

March 13, 2005 – Krzyzewski and the Blue Devils celebrate the 2005 ACC Tournament championship with a 69-64 win over Georgia Tech.

March 20, 2005 – Thanks to a 63-55 second round triumph over Mississippi State in Charlotte, Krzyzewski surpasses Dean Smith on the all-time NCAA Tournament victory chart with his 66th win.

Oct. 26, 2005 – Krzyzewski is named the head coach of the USA Basketball Men's Senior National Team program for 2006-08.

March 11, 2006 – With a 78-66 win over Wake Forest in the ACC Tournament semifinals at the Greensboro Coliseum, Krzyzewski posts his 750th career win.

March 12, 2006 – In his 1,000th game as a head coach, Krzyzewski guides Duke to a 78-76 win over Boston College in the ACC title game, claiming his 10th conference tournament crown.

Feb. 18, 2007 – Krzyzewski records his 700th victory as the Duke head coach with a 71-62 win over Georgia Tech in Cameron Indoor Stadium. He became just the eighth coach to post 700 victories at one school and was the second fastest to do so behind Adolph Rupp of Kentucky.

Sept. 2, 2007 – Coached by Krzyzewski, Team USA wins the FIBA Americas Championship gold medal with a 118-81 victory over Argentina. The USA goes 10-0 and wins by an average of 39.5 points per game. The gold medal win automatically qualifies the USA for a trip to the 2008 Olympic games in Beijing, China.

March 1, 2008 – Krzyzewski becomes the sixth Division I head coach to reach 800 career wins with an 87-86 win at N.C. State. He is the third fastest coach to reach 800 career victories.

Aug. 24, 2008 – With Krzyzewski at the helm, Team USA reclaims the gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics with a 118-107 victory over Spain. Krzyzewski guides the U.S. squad to a perfect 8-0 record in the Olympics as the team averaged 106 points per game while winning by an average margin of 27.9 points per contest.

March 15, 2009 – Duke captures its 11th ACC Championship under Krzyzewski and 17th overall with a 79-69 victory over Florida State in the ACC Tournament finals at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Ga. The 17 titles ties Duke for the most in ACC history with North Carolina.

July 21, 2009 – Krzyzewski is named the head coach of the USA Basketball Men's Senior National Team program for 2009-2012. He will become the first U.S. coach of multiple Olympic teams since Henry Iba, who won gold in 1964 and '68 and coached the team that lost the controversial 1972 gold-medal game to the Soviet Union.

Sept. 11, 2009 – Krzyzewski is inducted into the Army Sports Hall of Fame at a plaque unveiling ceremony held in the Kenna Hall of Army Sports inside the Kimsey Center.

Feb. 13, 2010 – Duke earns a 77-56 victory over Maryland in Krzyzewski's 1,000th game at Duke, which came in the 71st year of Cameron Indoor Stadium.

March 6, 2010 – With an 82-50 victory over North Carolina, the second largest win for Duke in the nation's biggest rivalry, the Blue Devils claim the 19th ACC regular season championship in school history and set a school record for home victories by finishing the season 17-0 in Cameron Indoor Stadium.

March 14, 2010 – The Blue Devils repeat as ACC Tournament Champions by defeating Georgia Tech, 65-61, at the Greensboro Coliseum. With the title Duke passed North Carolina for most ACC Championships with 18, including nine in the last 12 seasons.

March 28, 2010 – Duke defeats Baylor 78-71 in Houston to advance to the 11th NCAA Final Four under Krzyzewski. Nolan Smith pours in a career-high 29 points in front of 47,000 fans at Reliant Stadium.

April 5, 2010 – Krzyzewski wins his fourth NCAA Championship at Duke with a 61-59 win over Butler at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. Kyle Singler is named the Final Four Most Outstanding Player after recording 19 points and nine rebounds in the championship game. The four championships tie Krzyzewski with Adolph Rupp for second most all-time.

Sept. 12, 2010 – Team USA defeats host Turkey, 81-64, to win the gold medal at the 2010 FIBA World Championship. The U.S. team finishes the tournament 9-0 with a +24.9 margin of victory. Kevin Durant is named tournament MVP after averaging 22.8 points per game.

Sept. 15, 2010 – Krzyzewski is inducted into the Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame. Chicago City Council and Mayor Richard M. Daley also make Sept. 15 “Mike Krzyzewski Day” in Chicago.

Nov. 24, 2010 – Duke defeated No. 4 Kansas State, 82-68, for the O'Reilly Auto Parts CBE Classic championship and Krzyzewski's 800th win at Duke. He became the fifth coach to win at least 800 games at one school.

Dec. 29, 2010 – Krzyzewski passes Dean Smith of North Carolina into second on the NCAA all-time victories list, recording his 880th career win in a 108-62 contest at UNC Greensboro.

March 20, 2011 – The Blue Devils held on for a 73-71 victory over Michigan in the second round of the NCAA Tournament to hand Krzyzewski his 900th career win. He joined Bob Knight as the only two coaches with 900 or more career wins.

Sept. 9, 2011 – Krzyzewski is inducted into the Duke Athletics Hall of Fame. Coach K is joined in the Hall of Fame class by Ben Bennett (football), Jenny Chuasiriporn (golf), Bobby Hurley (basketball) and Vanessa Webb (tennis).

Nov. 15, 2011 – Duke defeats Michigan State, 74-69, at Madison Square Garden to give Krzyzewski an NCAA-record 903rd career coaching victory. Longtime mentor and previous record-holder Bob Knight calls the game for ESPN. Andre Dawkins makes six three-point field goals in a 26-point effort, while Seth Curry adds 20 points, seven rebounds, four assists and four steals in the win.

Dec. 2012 – Krzyzewski is named Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year. He shares the Dec. 12, 2011 SI cover with women's basketball coaching icon Pat Summitt.

Feb. 16, 2012 – Duke overcomes a 61-41 deficit with 11:33 to play in a 78-73 win over NC State. It was then the largest second-half margin Duke has overcome in a victory under Coach K.

April 16, 2012 – Krzyzewski is honored with the USBWA Wayman Tisdale Humanitarian Award. The Humanitarian Award honors an individual involved in college basketball who has made a significantly positive impact on society.

Aug. 2, 2012 – Team USA sets an Olympic scoring record in a 156-73 win over Nigeria in pool play. Krzyzewski's group also sets Olympic records for three-pointers (29, including 10 from Carmelo Anthony) and three-point percentage (.630) in the win.

Aug. 13, 2012 – Krzyzewski directs Team USA to a 107-100 win over Spain to claim the London Olympics gold medal. He closes out his tenure in charge of the USA Men's Senior National Team with a 50-game win streak, while becoming the first U.S. coach of multiple Olympic teams since the legendary Henry Iba, who won gold in 1964 and 1968 and coached the team that lost the controversial 1972 gold-medal game to the Soviet Union.

Dec. 19, 2012 – Krzyzewski is named co-recipient of the 2012 USA Basketball National Coach of the Year Award after leading the USA Men's National Team to the gold medal at the 2012 Olympics in London. The award is the fifth for Krzyzewski, who also received the honor in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2010.

March 5, 2013 – Duke tops Virginia Tech, 85-57, at Cameron Indoor Stadium to give Coach K his 880th career victory at Duke. Krzyzewski moves past former North Carolina head coach Dean Smith into second place all-time in wins at one school.

March 29, 2013 – The Blue Devils defeat Michigan State, 71-61, for their 30th win of the season. Coach K guides Duke to 30 or more wins in a season for an NCAA-record 13th time in his career.

May 23, 2013 – USA Basketball Chairman Jerry Colangelo announces that Hall of Fame basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski will return as head coach of the USA Basketball Men's National Team for the 2013-16 quadrennium.

June 12, 2013 – Krzyzewski receives the 2013 Dick Enberg Award, presented by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) at the fourth annual Capital One Academic All-America Hall of Fame Gala in Orlando, Fla.

Jan. 18, 2014 – The 41st President of the United States and co-founder/chairman of CEO Roundtable on Cancer, George H.W. Bush, traveled to Durham, N.C., to recognize Krzyzewski for his personal commitment and leadership in working toward eliminating cancer as a public health threat. Former president Bush witnessed Duke's 95-60 rout of NC State before recognizing Coach K for his efforts and greeting the Duke team in the locker room following the victory.

Jan. 25, 2014 – Duke tops Florida State, 78-56, at Cameron Indoor Stadium to give Krzyzewski his 900th career victory at Duke, joining Syracuse's Jim Boeheim as the only other Division I head coach to collect 900 victories at one school.

Sept. 14, 2014 – Krzyzewski leads the U.S. Men's Senior National Team to a 129-92 win over Serbia in the gold medal game of the 2014 FIBA World Cup in Spain. Former Duke standout Kyrie Irving is named tournament MVP, while Team USA extends its win streak to 63 consecutive games under Coach K.

Dec. 18, 2014 – Krzyzewski is named USA Basketball Co-Coach of the Year. It was an unprecedented sixth such honor for Coach K (2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014).

Jan. 25, 2015 – Krzyzewski becomes the first Division I men's basketball coach to win 1,000 games as Duke defeats St. John's, 77-68, at Madison Square Garden. The Blue Devils went on an 18-2 run down the stretch to put Coach K in four figures on his first try.

Feb. 4, 2015 – Duke outlasts Georgia Tech, 72-66, at Cameron Indoor Stadium to give Krzyzewski his ACC-record 423rd league victory. With the win, Krzyzewski surpassed former North Carolina coach Dean Smith as the winningest in ACC play.

April 6, 2015 – Krzyzewski captures his fifth NCAA Championship at Duke with a 68-63 win over Wisconsin in Indianapolis - also the site of the Blue Devils' 1991 and 2010 national crowns. Tyus Jones was named Final Four Most Outstanding Player after scoring a game-high 23 points in the championship game, shooting 7-of-13 from the floor and converting all seven of his free throw attempts. Krzyzewski's fifth national title moved him past Adolph Rupp for second-most all-time.

Feb. 20, 2016 – Krzyzewski coaches his 1,355th career game to become the NCAA's all-time leader in games coached. He surpasses the record of 1,354 held by Jim Phelan, who coached for 49 years at Mt. St. Mary's.

Aug. 21, 2016 – Krzyzewski closes his tenure as U.S. National Team head coach in style, as the U.S. defeats Serbia, 96-66, to claim the gold medal at the Rio Olympics. Krzyzewski finishes his tenure with an 88-1 record, winning a U.S.-record 76 straight games to finish his National Team career. He becomes the first coach in either men's or women's basketball to lead a country to three consecutive Olympic gold medals.

March 11, 2017 – Duke defeats Notre Dame, 75-69, to become the first team to win four games in four days to claim the ACC Tournament title. It was Duke's record 20th ACC championship, and its record 14th under Krzyzewski. He finished the tournament with a record 61 ACC Tournament victories.

November 11, 2017 – Duke defeats Utah Valley, 99-69, as Coach K becomes the first Division-I men's coach to win 1,000 games at one school.

December 6, 2017 – Nike names a new building on its campus in Portland after Coach K -- the 47,000-square foot Michael Krzyzewski Fitness Center.

May 30, 2018 – Coach K and wife, Mickie, announce their personal commitment of \$3 million toward a \$15 million fundraising campaign for the Emily K Center -- Coach K's largest, single philanthropic contribution ever.

February 12, 2019 – -- Down 23 points with 9:55 remaining in the game, No. 2 Duke pulls off the second-biggest comeback in school history -- and the biggest under Coach K -- stunning No. 16 Louisville, 71-69, on its home court. Cam Reddish, who scored 16 of his 22 in the second half, hit a tying 3-pointer with 1:28 left and the go-ahead free throws with 14 seconds remaining.

March 16, 2019 – Duke beats Florida State, 73-63, in the ACC Championship game to give Krzyzewski his 15th conference tournament title and the program's 21st, extending ACC records for both. Zion Williamson was named the Tournament MVP, becoming the first freshman in conference history to be named ACC Player of the Year and Tournament MVP in the same season.

February 8, 2020 – In one of the most remarkable games in the great history of the Duke-North Carolina rivalry freshman Wendell Moore Jr., tips in the game-winner at the buzzer in overtime for a 98-96 victory that stuns the Dean Smith Center crowd. Moore's tip of Tre Jones' missed jumper finally ends a game that saw Duke rally from 13 down in the final 4+ minutes of regulation. Jones forced overtime, as the sophomore hit a contested jumper at the regulation horn after corraling his own intentionally-missed free throw.

October 29, 2020 – Make-A-Wish America presents the Chris Greicius Award to Coach K and the Duke men's basketball program, recognizing the exceptional wish-granting support exemplified by the Blue Devils in helping create life-changing wish experiences for children fighting critical illness. Duke become the first collegiate program nationally to earn the honor.

December 31, 2020 – The Emily K Center announced the completion of its three-year Game Changer comprehensive fundraising campaign. Goaled at \$15 million, the campaign surpassed that by more than \$3 million, raising \$18.85 million by the campaign's completion.

June 2, 2021 – Coach K announces that the 2021-22 season will be his final year of coaching, ahead of his 47th season overall as a head coach and 42nd at Duke. In addition, Duke also announces Jon Scheyer as the next head coach, succeeding Krzyzewski for the 2022-23 season.

Nov. 11, 2021 – Coach K won his 1,100th game as Duke's head coach, defeating Campbell at Cameron Indoor Stadium, 67-56.

March 1, 2022 – Duke clinched the ACC regular season title by defeating Pittsburgh, 86-56. It marked the 13th regular season title under Coach K.

March 20, 2022 – Beating Michigan State, 85-76, in the NCAA Tournament Second Round in Greenville, S.C., the Blue Devils advanced to Sweet 16 and marked the 1,200th career win for Coach K.

March 24, 2022 – Coach K won his 100th career NCAA Tournament game by defeating Texas Tech in the Sweet 16 in San Francisco.

March 26, 2022 – Duke's victory over Arkansas in the West Regional Final advanced the Blue Devils to the Final Four, allowing Coach K to break a tie with John Wooden for most Final Four appearances with 13.



Jon Scheyer

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH
NINTH SEASON AT DUKE
DUKE, 2010

Former Duke All-American Jon Scheyer has served on Mike Krzyzewski's staff since the 2013-14 season. Scheyer's role with the Blue Devils during his time on staff has been elevated from Special Assistant to Assistant Coach to his most recent promotion as Associate Head Coach following the 2017-18 campaign.

On June 2, 2021, it was announced that Scheyer would succeed Krzyzewski as the Duke men's basketball head coach beginning in the 2022-23 season.

Scheyer, who helped spark the Blue Devils to two ACC championships and the 2010 NCAA title as a player from 2007-10, has helped Duke compile a 219-61 (.782) record, a national championship (2015), two Final Fours (2015, 2022) and two ACC Tournament crowns (2017, 2019) during his time as an assistant or associate head coach.

The Northbrook, Ill., native has been integral in the recruiting and development of several young Duke stars since joining the staff. Preparing for his first season as head coach, Scheyer has already landed the nation's No. 1-ranked recruiting class for the 2022-23 campaign.

He helped mentor Tyus Jones in Duke's 2015 national title season, as the Blue Devils finished the year ranked third nationally in adjusted offensive efficiency. Jones was named the Final Four Most Outstanding Player in Indianapolis and was a first-round pick in the 2015 NBA Draft after just one college season.

In 2017, Scheyer helped mold Luke Kennard into a consensus All-American after a breakout sophomore season that saw him rank second in the ACC in scoring and three-point field goal percentage. He also helped develop Frank Jackson into one of the most dynamic young guards in the country during the 2016-17 campaign.

Kennard and Jackson were selected 12th and 31st overall, respectively, in the 2017 NBA Draft.

After Grayson Allen finished his career in 2018 as the 12th-leading scorer in Duke history with 1,996 points, he was drafted in the first round by the Utah Jazz. Allen joined Scheyer as two of just five Blue Devils in history with 1,900 or more points, 400 or more rebounds and 400 or more assists (Grant Hill, Danny Ferry, Johnny Dawkins).

The 2019 campaign saw Tyus' brother Tre enjoy a breakout year as a freshman by setting the program's single-season record for assist-to-turnover ratio (3.62), while establishing himself as one of the nation's premier defensive players. Jones' classmate, RJ Barrett, finished his remarkable freshman season at Duke as a consensus first-team All-American, the USA Today National Player of the Year, and the overall No. 3 selection in the NBA Draft.

Barrett broke a myriad of program and ACC records, including both the Duke and conference freshman scoring record with 860 points. His 860 points were surpassed on the program's single-season scoring list by only J.J. Redick's 964 points as a senior in 2006. Barrett averaged 22.6 points and was the only major conference player in 2018-19 to score 13+ points in every game of the season.

Under Scheyer's guidance, Tre Jones parlayed his phenomenal freshman season into a decorated sophomore campaign that ended with him as the 2020 ACC Player of the Year, the ACC Defensive Player of the Year, and an All-American. After two seasons as the starting point guard, Jones declared for the NBA Draft, leaving Duke as the program's career record-holder in assist-to-turnover ratio (2.88) and ranking third in assists per game (5.8).

Throughout the 2021-22 season, Scheyer has worked closely with ACC Freshman of the Year and consensus second-team All-American Paolo Banchero. He has also helped guide second-team All-ACC pick Wendell Moore Jr., into performing as one of the nation's most complete players, as Moore is the only player in the NCAA shooting .500+ from the field, .400+ from three-point range and averaging 5.0+ rebounds and 4.0+ assists.

Twice during the 2021-22 regular season -- at Wake Forest on Jan. 12 and in the second half versus Wake on Feb. 15 -- Scheyer stepped in as the acting head coach. In his increased role, he helped the Blue Devils win the ACC regular season title for the first time since 2010 before advancing to the Final Four for the 17th time in program history.

JON SCHEYER QUICK FACTS

Birthdate	August 24, 1987
High School	Glenbrook North, Northbrook, Ill.
College Career	Four-year letterman, Duke, 2007-2010
College Degree	B.A., History, Duke, 2010
College Honors	Co-captain, 2009, 2010 Consensus Second Team All-America, 2010 All-NCAA Final Four Team, 2010 First Team All-ACC, 2010 NCAA Tournament All-South Region, 2010 ACC Tournament MVP, 2009 All-Preseason NIT, 2009 First Team ACC All-Tournament, 2009, 2010
Coaching Career	Special Assistant, Duke, 2013-14 Assistant Coach, Duke, 2014-18 Associate Head Coach, 2018-present



As a senior in 2010, Scheyer averaged 18.2 points, 4.9 assists and 1.6 steals per game from the point guard position to spark Duke to a 35-5 record and its fourth national championship. He was a consensus second-team All-American and a first-team All-ACC pick in his final season after starting all 40 contests and scoring in double figures in all but two games on the year.

Scheyer was named MVP of the ACC Tournament as a junior in 2009, averaging 21.7 points and 4.0 rebounds as Duke took home the title.

He was a McDonald's and Parade All-American as a senior at Glenbrook North High School in 2006. Already recognized as an elite scorer, his legend grew when he scored 21 points in 75 seconds at the Proviso West Holiday Tournament as a senior. He closed his career as the fourth-leading scorer in Illinois high school basketball history with 3,034 points. He is the only player in Illinois history to rank in the state's career top 10 in points, assists and steals.

A two-time Gatorade Illinois Player of the Year, Scheyer was named to the 100 Legends of Illinois Basketball in 2007.

Following his graduation from Duke in 2010, Scheyer played professionally with the Rio Grande Valley Vipers in the NBA D League and overseas with Maccabi Tel Aviv and Gran Canaria.

In August 2020, it was announced that Scheyer would be the head coach for the United States men's basketball team that will compete in the 21st Maccabiah to be held in Israel in 2022. Traditionally held every four years, the Games have grown to include nearly 10,000 Jewish athletes from more than 75 countries competing in 40 sports, making it the third largest international sporting event in the world following only the Olympics and the FIFA World Cup.

Scheyer married the former Marcelle Provencal in May 2017. The couple have two young children, a girl named Noa, born in January 2018 and a boy named Jett, born in August 2019. They have a third child on the way.

JON SCHEYER'S DUKE CAREER

CAREER HIGHS		CAREER STATISTICS																	
Points	36 vs. Gardner-Webb, 12/15/09	SEASON	GP-GS	MP	FG-FGA	PCT.	3PT-A	PCT.	FT-FTA	PCT.	REB.	AVG.	PF-DQ	AS	TO	BS	ST	TP	AVG.
Rebounds	12 vs. Pittsburgh, 12/20/07	2006-07	33-32	1112	113-284	.398	61-167	.365	115-136	.846	110	3.3	57-1	61	52	5	39	402	12.2
Assists	11 vs. Penn., 12/31/09	2007-08	34-1	963	115-259	.444	47-121	.388	120-135	.889	134	3.9	56-0	83	37	9	46	397	11.7
Steals	5, four times, last vs. Virginia, 2/28/10	2008-09	37-35	1214	146-368	.397	79-205	.385	179-214	.836	134	3.6	62-0	102	57	6	58	550	14.9
3-PT FG	7 vs. Gardner-Webb, 12/15/09	2009-10	40-40	1470	212-531	.399	110-287	.383	194-221	.878	144	3.6	54-0	194	65	10	65	728	18.2
Free Throws	13, two times, last vs. FSU, 3/15/09	Total	144-108	4759	586-1,442	.406	297-780	.381	608-706	.861	522	3.6	229-1	440	211	30	208	2,077	14.4



Chris Carrawell

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH
FOURTH SEASON AT DUKE
DUKE, 2000

Former Duke All-American Chris Carrawell has served on Mike Krzyzewski's staff since March 2018, when he returned to his alma mater as Assistant Coach. On June 15, 2021, his promotion to Associate Head Coach was announced.

In the 2021-22 season -- Carrawell's first in his current role -- he helped Duke win the ACC regular season title outright before advancing to the program's 17th NCAA Final Four. Working primarily with the Blue Devils' frontcourt personnel, he has been directly involved in the development of ACC Defensive Player of the Year Mark Williams. Williams has put together a remarkable sophomore campaign, leading the ACC and ranking in the top-10 nationally in blocked shots. He is also the nation's only player shooting 70 percent from the field and 70 percent from the free throw line (minimum 150 field goals).

Carrawell rejoined the Blue Devils after a four-year stint as Assistant Coach at Marquette University under his Duke teammate Steve Wojciechowski. The 2000 ACC Player of the Year and a first-team All-America selection, Carrawell played for the Blue Devils from 1996 to 2000. He was a senior captain.

In his first three seasons on the staff, Duke went 70-23, reaching the Elite Eight and claiming the program's 21st ACC Tournament title in 2019. Among the nation's highest scoring teams in 2018-19, the Blue Devils were led by consensus first-team All-Americans Zion Williamson and RJ Barrett, who among their many accomplishments, became the first freshman teammates in NCAA history to each average 20+ points for a season.

The following season in 2019-20, Carrawell aided in the development of Tre Jones, who was named both ACC Player of the Year and ACC Defensive Player of the Year.

As a player at Duke, Carrawell was a two-time All-ACC selection. He is tied for 32nd on the all-time scoring list at Duke with 1,455 career points and also ranks 15th in school history with 0.8 blocks per game and tied for eighth with 116 overall wins. Duke dominated the ACC during Carrawell's career, as his 66 conference victories are the second-most by a Blue Devil.

CHRIS CARRAWELL QUICK FACTS

Birthdate	November 25, 1977
High School	Cardinal Ritter College Prep, St. Louis, Mo.
College Career	Four-year letterman, Duke, 1996-2000
College Degree	B.A., Sociology, Duke, 2000
College Honors	Captain, 2000 ACC Player of the Year, 2000 Consensus First Team All-America, 2000 Two-time All-ACC, 1999, 2000 Swett-Baylin Team MVP, 2000
Coaching Career	Assistant Coach, Springfield Armor (NBA G-League), 2011-14 Assistant Coach, Marquette, 2014-18 Assistant Coach, Duke, 2018-21 Associate Head Coach, Duke, 2021-present

With Carrawell on the squad, Duke won a pair of ACC Tournament titles and reached the 1999 Final Four by tying a school record for wins (37-2).

The native of St. Louis, Mo., Carrawell arrived at Marquette after serving three years as an assistant coach with the Springfield Armor, an affiliate of the Brooklyn Nets, of the NBA Development League. He worked under Bob MacKinnon the first two seasons before Doug Overton took over the squad in 2013-14.

Prior to working with the Armor, Carrawell served in a variety of roles at his alma mater. He was the Assistant Video Coordinator/Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach in 2010-11 and Graduate Assistant/Head Team Manager from 2008-10, after being hired in 2007-08 as the Duke Athletics Outreach Coordinator. He also briefly worked with the Duke women's basketball team before his departure to pro coaching.

A second round draft pick by the NBA's San Antonio Spurs, Carrawell played overseas after graduating from Duke. He last played in Holland in 2007 where his team finished second after losing in the championship finals.

Carrawell is married to his wife Keisha and is the father of two boys, Caleb and Christian. His son Caleb is a redshirt freshman at Austin Peay, playing for former Blue Devil Nate James.



CHRIS CARRAWELL'S DUKE CAREER

CAREER HIGHS

Points	30 vs. NC State, 1/19/00
Rebounds	10, 3x, last vs. Florida State, 1/16/00
Assists	8, 2x, last vs. William & Mary, 1/2/00
Steals	4, vs. North Carolina, 3/4/00
Free Throws	12, 2x, last vs. NC State, 2/22/00

CAREER STATISTICS

SEASON	GP-GS	MP	FG-FGA	PCT.	3PT-A	PCT.	FT-FTA	PCT.	REB.	AVG.	PF-DQ	AS	TO	BS	ST	TP	AVG.
1996-97	31-12	503	72-125	.576	0-2	.000	27-47	.574	97	3.1	39-0	34	29	21	22	171	5.5
1997-98	32-10	710	121-251	.482	14-38	.368	66-103	.641	117	3.7	38-0	35	49	23	19	322	10.1
1998-99	39-39	1116	144-317	.454	19-55	.345	79-137	.577	188	4.9	71-1	130	84	34	30	386	9.9
1999-00	34-34	1212	205-422	.486	29-77	.377	137-176	.778	206	6.1	58-0	110	69	36	34	576	16.9
Totals	136-95	3541	542-1115	.486	62-172	.360	309-463	.667	608	4.5	206-1	309	231	114	105	1455	10.8



THE STEVE & JUDY PAGLIUCA ASSISTANT COACHING POSITION

Nolan Smith

ASSISTANT COACH
SEVENTH SEASON AT DUKE
DUKE, 2011

Former Duke All-American Nolan Smith joined the Blue Devils' men's basketball staff in February 2016. He spent two seasons as the team's special assistant before his promotion to director of basketball operations & player development in March 2018. Smith was promoted again in April 2021 to assistant coach.

In his first season on the coaching staff, Smith helped the Blue Devils claim the ACC regular season title outright with a 16-4 mark in conference play. After advancing to the championship game of the ACC Tournament, Duke won four straight games in the NCAA Tournament to punch its ticket to the Final Four for the 17th time in program history.

A consensus first-team All-American and ACC Player of the Year in 2011, Smith helped lead Duke to three consecutive ACC championships (2009-11) and the 2010 NCAA title during his tenure as a student-athlete.

He was a two-time All-ACC selection (2010-11) and was named ACC Tournament MVP as a senior in 2011. Smith led the ACC in scoring in his final season and his 764 points that year still rank as the ninth-best total in program history.

In helping propel Duke to its fourth national championship in 2010, Smith was named Most Outstanding Player at the NCAA South Regional in Houston and earned a place on the All-Final Four Team after the Blue Devils cut down the nets in Indianapolis.

The Upper Marlboro, Md., native currently ranks 17th on Duke's career scoring chart, having amassed 1,911 points from 2008-11. He played in 121 victories in a Duke uniform to rank fifth in program history and sixth in ACC history, and his 143 games played are tied for the eighth-most in Duke annals. He served as a team captain as a senior in 2011.

During his tenure as a student-athlete, Duke went 65-2 (.970) at Cameron Indoor Stadium to set program records for both home wins and winning percentage in a four-year period.

Smith won an international gold medal with the U.S. at the 2006 FIBA Americas U18 Championship, averaging 9.0 points and 3.5 assists per game.

Following his graduation, Smith was selected by the Portland Trail Blazers with the 21st overall pick in the 2011 NBA Draft.

In the summer of 2016, Smith was named the North Carolina state ambassador for Teen Cancer America. TCA is an organization designed to help bridge the gap between pediatric and adult oncology care. Smith serves as an ambassador alongside celebrities such as The Band Perry, Eddie Vedder and Joan Jett for the organization that was founded by rock icons Roger Daltrey and Pete Townshend of The Who.

In addition to his work with TCA, Smith continues to use his platform in basketball for the benefit of others. Active for quite some time in the Durham community in raising awareness of social justice issues, Smith was named a George H.W. Bush Points of Light Inspiration honoree in the summer of 2020. He was also recognized as the Tar Heel of the Month in October 2020 by the Raleigh News & Observer, awarded to a citizen that has made significant contributions to North Carolina and the region.

In July 2018, Smith was one of 11 from Division I basketball named to the Teamworks Basketball Leadership Committee. The committee, comprised of the most forward-thinking Teamworks' partners from around the country, will converge to help shape the future of athlete engagement and drive the development of best practices throughout the athletics industry.

Smith and his wife Cheyna have a young daughter, Camryn, and a young son, Derek.

NOLAN SMITH QUICK FACTS

Birthdate	July 25, 1988
High School	Oak Hill Academy, Mouth of Wilson, Va.
College Career	Four-year letterman, Duke, 2007-2011
College Degree	B.A., African & African American Studies, Duke, 2011
College Honors	Co-captain, 2011 Consensus First Team All-America, 2011 ACC Player of the Year, 2011 ACC Tournament MVP, 2011 First Team ACC All-Tournament, 2010, 2011 All-NCAA Final Four Team, 2010 South Regional Most Outstanding Player, 2010 Two-time All-ACC, 2010, 2011 ACC All-Defensive Team, 2011 Swett-Baylin Team MVP, 2010, 2011
Coaching Career	Special Assistant, Duke, 2016-18 Director of Basketball Operations & Player Dev., Duke, 2018-21 Assistant Coach, Duke, 2021-present



NOLAN SMITH'S DUKE CAREER

CAREER HIGHS

Points	34 vs. North Carolina, 2/9/11
Rebounds	9 vs. Marquette, 11/22/10
Assists	10, 2x, last vs. North Carolina, 3/13/11
Steals	6 vs. Florida State, 1/12/11
3-Pt FG	5 vs. Miami, 2/17/10
Free Throws	13 vs. Butler, 12/4/10

CAREER STATISTICS

SEASON	GP-GS	MP	FG-FGA	PCT.	3PT-A	PCT.	FT-FTA	PCT.	REB.	AVG.	PF-DQ	AS	TO	BS	ST	TP	AVG.
2007-08	34-1	500	70-150	.467	22-57	.386	40-52	.769	52	1.5	58-0	45	49	5	18	202	5.9
2008-09	34-21	734	98-230	.426	27-78	.346	62-73	.849	74	2.2	70-1	58	55	2	32	285	8.4
2009-10	38-38	1349	239-542	.441	60-153	.392	122-159	.767	106	2.8	66-0	114	69	9	45	660	17.4
2010-11	37-37	1259	260-568	.458	57-163	.350	187-230	.813	166	4.5	72-10	189	118	3	45	764	20.6
Totals	143-97	3842	667-1490	.448	166-451	.368	411-514	.800	398	2.8	266-11	406	291	19	140	1911	13.4



Amile Jefferson
 DIRECTOR OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT
 FIRST SEASON AT DUKE
 DUKE, 2016

Former Duke men's basketball captain Amile Jefferson returned to the program as the team's Director of Player Development in July 2021.

Jefferson rejoined the Blue Devils after a four-year professional playing career that included time with the NBA G-League's Iowa Wolves (2017-18), Orlando Magic (2018-20), Boston Celtics (2020) and the Turkish Basketball Super League's Galatasaray (2020-21).

As a five-year letter winner, a national champion and three-time team captain at Duke from 2012-17, Jefferson played in a program-record 150 games with 103 starts, averaging 7.2 points and 6.3 rebounds per contest. He played in 67 home victories (most in program history) and 124 total victories (third most in program history), while his .971 home winning percentage (67-2) ranks as the second best among any Duke player.

Off the court, Jefferson remains the only player in Duke history to be named to the All-ACC Academic Team four times. He served as a team captain for three seasons - becoming the only Blue Devil in the Coach K era to do so - and was a finalist for the Senior CLASS Award in 2016-17. He earned his undergraduate degree in history from Duke in 2016 and received a master's degree from Duke's Divinity School in 2017.



R.J. Hunter
 DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
 FIFTH SEASON AT DUKE
 ARKANSAS, 2012

Roderick (R.J.) Hunter was promoted to Director of Operations for the men's basketball program in August 2021. He has been at Duke since the 2017-18 season, first as Video Coordinator with women's basketball before moving to the men's staff in October 2019 as Assistant Director of Operations and Video Analyst.

Prior to Duke, Hunter served in a similar position for the women's basketball team at University of the Pacific. He began his collegiate basketball career with the University of San Francisco women's basketball team, as the Assistant Video Coordinator.

Hunter earned his Bachelor's Degree in Recreation & Sport Management, with a minor in Communication, from the University of Arkansas in 2012. He would go on to earn his Master's Degree in Sport Management from the University of San Francisco in 2015. He was born and raised in Little Rock, Ark.



2021-22 DUKE MEN'S BASKETBALL MANAGERS

Back Row (left to right): Andrew Weatherman, Davis Beischer, Holden Buchanan, Casen Pierce, Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski, Eric Szczepanik, Miles Cooperman, Luke Klores, Preseton Sharkey.
 Front Row (left to right): Dillon Geller, Julia Bateman, Kai Simojo, Chris Simmons, Grayson Scherer, Leo Nicastro.

**RECORDS
&
NCAA
TOURNAMENT**

Individual Honors

NATIONAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

List by Player

Dick Groat	6	1951
Dick Groat	13	1952
Art Heyman	1, 3, 6, 12, 13, 14	1963
Johnny Dawkins	7	1986
Danny Ferry	3, 7, 13, 14	1989
Christian Laettner	1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15	1992
Elton Brand	1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15	1999
Shane Battier	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15	2001
Jason Williams	8	2001
Jason Williams	1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15	2002
J.J. Redick	9	2005
J.J. Redick	1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15	2006
Marvin Bagley III	2	2018
Zion Williamson	1, 2, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15	2019

Duke recognizes the following Player of the Year honors: Associated Press, Basketball Times, Basketball Weekly, CBS/Chevrolet, ESPN, Helms, Naismith, NABC, Rupp, Scripps-Howard, Sports Illustrated, The Sporting News, UPI, USBWA, Wooden.

The NCAA currently recognizes the following: Associated Press, Basketball Times, Naismith, NABC, USBWA, Wooden.

Now defunct, or no longer presented: Basketball Weekly, CBS/Chevrolet, Helms, Rupp, Scripps-Howard, UPI.

NATIONAL DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Tommy Amaker	1987
Billy King	1988
Grant Hill	1993
Steve Wojciechowski	1998
Shane Battier	1999
Shane Battier	2000
Shane Battier	2001
Shelden Williams	2005
Shelden Williams	2006

As selected by the NABC

NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR

Bill Foster	5	1978
Mike Krzyzewski	1, 2, 7	1986
Mike Krzyzewski	4	1989
Mike Krzyzewski	5	1991
Mike Krzyzewski	4, 6	1992
Mike Krzyzewski	1	1997
Mike Krzyzewski	4, 5	1999
Mike Krzyzewski	2	2000
Mike Krzyzewski	8	2001
Mike Krzyzewski	3	2004

Coach of the Year honors selected by Basketball Times, CBS/Chevrolet, Claire Bee, Naismith, NABC, The Sporting News, UPI, Victor Awards.

NATIONAL FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

Luol Deng	1	2004
Jabari Parker	1	2014
Jahlil Okafor	1	2015
Marvin Bagley III	2, 3	2018
Zion Williamson	1, 2, 3	2019
Vernon Carey Jr.	1, 2	2020

As selected by the USBWA, NABC, Basketball Times

JERRY WEST AWARD

RJ Barrett	2019
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Top shooting guard as selected by the Hall of Fame

KARL MALONE AWARD

Zion Williamson	2019
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Top power forward as selected by the Hall of Fame

PETE NEWELL BIG MAN AWARD

Mason Plumlee	2013
Jahlil Okafor	2015
Marvin Bagley III	2018

As selected by the NABC

CHIP HILTON AWARD

Shane Battier	2001
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Senior with high personal character as selected by the NABC; award discontinued in 2011

SENIOR CLASS AWARD

Shane Battier	2001
J.J. Redick	2006

GOOD WORKS TEAM

Tyler Thornton	2013
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As selected by the NABC

JAMES E. SULLIVAN AWARD

J.J. Redick	2005
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Nation's best amateur athlete; presented by the AAU

ESPY AWARD

Christian Laettner	1993
Bobby Hurley	1994
Grant Hill	1995
Elton Brand	2000

Best player in men's college basketball; discontinued in 2001

ALL-AMERICA

Bill Werber	1930
Jim Thompson	1934
Bill Mock	1940
Ed Koffenberger	1946
Ed Koffenberger (2nd)	1947
Dick Groat (2nd)	1951
Dick Groat (1st)	1952
Art Heyman	1961
Art Heyman (2nd)	1962
Art Heyman (1st)	1963
Jeff Mullins	1963
Jeff Mullins (2nd)	1964
Jack Marin (2nd)	1966
Bob Verga (2nd)	1966
Bob Verga (1st)	1967
Mike Lewis	1968
Randy Denton	1971
Mike Gminski	1978
Jim Spanarkel	1978
Jim Spanarkel (2nd)	1979
Gene Banks	1979
Mike Gminski (1st)	1979
Mike Gminski (2nd)	1980
Gene Banks	1981
Johnny Dawkins (1st)	1985
Johnny Dawkins (1st)	1986
Mark Alarie	1986
Tommy Amaker	1987
Danny Ferry (2nd)	1988
Danny Ferry (1st)	1989
Christian Laettner	1990
Christian Laettner (2nd)	1991
Christian Laettner (1st)	1992
Grant Hill	1992
Bobby Hurley	1992
Grant Hill (2nd)	1993
Bobby Hurley (1st)	1993
Grant Hill (1st)	1994
Trajan Langdon	1998
Roshown McLeod	1998
Elton Brand (1st)	1999
Trajan Langdon (2nd)	1999
Shane Battier (2nd)	2000
Chris Carrawell (1st)	2000
Shane Battier (1st)	2001
Jason Williams (1st)	2001
Carlos Boozer	2002
Mike Dunleavy (2nd)	2002
Jason Williams (1st)	2002
Chris Duhon	2004
J.J. Redick	2004
Shelden Williams	2004
J.J. Redick (1st)	2005
Shelden Williams	2005
J.J. Redick (1st)	2006
Shelden Williams (1st)	2006
DeMarcus Nelson	2008
Gerald Henderson	2009
Jon Scheyer (2nd)	2010
Kyle Singler	2011
Nolan Smith (1st)	2011
Austin Rivers	2012
Seth Curry	2013
Mason Plumlee (2nd)	2013
Jabari Parker (1st)	2014
Jahlil Okafor (1st)	2015
Quinn Cook	2015
Grayson Allen	2016
Luke Kennard (2nd)	2017
Marvin Bagley III (1st)	2018
RJ Barrett (1st)	2019
Zion Williamson (1st)	2019
Vernon Carey Jr. (2nd)	2020
Tre Jones	2020
Paolo Banchero (2nd)	2022

Note: Consensus All-America selections are listed in parentheses; honorable mention selections are not listed.

FRESHMEN NAMED ALL-AMERICA

Bill Mock	1940
Austin Rivers	2012
Jabari Parker (1st)	2014
Jahlil Okafor (1st)	2015
Marvin Bagley III (1st)	2018
Zion Williamson (1st)	2019
RJ Barrett (1st)	2019
Vernon Carey Jr. (2nd)	2020
Paolo Banchero (2nd)	2022

Note: Consensus All-America selections are listed in parentheses; honorable mention selections are not listed.

NCAA POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Bob Fleischer	1975
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ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA

Jay Buckley	1963
Jay Buckley	1964
Dick DeVenzio	1971
Gary Melchionni (2nd)	1972
Bob Fleischer (2nd)	1974
Bob Fleischer	1975
Mike Gminski (1st)	1978
Jim Spanarkel (1st)	1978
Mike Gminski (1st)	1979
Jim Spanarkel (1st)	1979
Mike Gminski	1980
Quin Snyder (2nd)	1989
Shane Battier (1st)	2000
Shane Battier (2nd)	2001
Mike Dunleavy (2nd)	2002
Greg Paulus (3rd)	2008
Greg Paulus (3rd)	2009
Mason Plumlee (1st)	2012
Mason Plumlee (1st)	2013
Grayson Allen (2nd)	2016

As selected by CoSIDA

ACC PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Art Heyman	1963
Jeff Mullins	1964
Steve Vacendak	1966
Mike Gminski	1979
Danny Ferry	1988
Danny Ferry	1989
Christian Laettner	1992
Grant Hill	1994
Elton Brand	1999
Chris Carrawell	2000
Shane Battier	2001
J.J. Redick	2005
J.J. Redick	2006
Nolan Smith	2011
Jahlil Okafor	2015
Marvin Bagley III	2018
Zion Williamson	2019
Tre Jones	2020

ACC DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Shelden Williams	2005
Shelden Williams	2006
DeMarcus Nelson	2008
Tre Jones	2020
Mark Williams	2022

ACC MOST IMPROVED PLAYER

Grayson Allen (co)	2016
Matthew Hurt	2021

ACC COACH OF THE YEAR

Harold Bradley	1959
Vic Bubas	1963
Vic Bubas	1964
Vic Bubas	1966
Bill Foster	1978
Mike Krzyzewski	1984
Mike Krzyzewski	1986
Mike Krzyzewski	1997
Mike Krzyzewski	1999
Mike Krzyzewski	2000

ACC FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

Jim Spanarkel	1976
Mike Gminski	1977
Gene Banks	1978
Chris Duhon	2001
Kyle Singler	2008
Austin Rivers	2012
Jabari Parker	2014
Jahlil Okafor	2015
Brandon Ingram	2016
Marvin Bagley III	2018
Zion Williamson	2019
Vernon Carey Jr.	2020
Paolo Banchero	2022

ACC 50TH ANNIVERSARY TEAM

Shane Battier	2003
Elton Brand	2003
Johnny Dawkins	2003
Danny Ferry	2003
Mike Gminski	2003
Art Heyman	2003
Grant Hill	2003
Christian Laettner	2003
Jeff Mullins	2003
Jason Williams	2003

Selected in 2003; Duke had 11 of the 50 players selected.

ALL-ACC*

Rudy D'Emilio (1st)	1954
Joe Belmont (2nd)	1954
Ronnie Mayer (2nd)	1954
Ronnie Mayer (1st)	1955
Joe Belmont (2nd)	1955
Joe Belmont (1st)	1956
Ronnie Mayer (2nd)	1956
Jim Newcome (2nd)	1957
Jim Newcome (1st)	1958
Bucky Allen (2nd)	1958
Paul Schmidt (2nd)	1958
Carroll Youngkin (1st)	1959
Howard Hurt (2nd)	1959
Howard Hurt (2nd)	1960
Art Heyman (1st)	1961
Howard Hurt (2nd)	1961
Art Heyman (1st)	1962
Jeff Mullins (1st)	1962
Art Heyman (1st)	1963
Jeff Mullins (1st)	1963
Jeff Mullins (1st)	1964
Jay Buckley (2nd)	1964
Buzzy Harrison (2nd)	1964
Hack Tison (2nd)	1964
Jack Marin (1st)	1965
Bob Verga (1st)	1965
Steve Vacendak (2nd)	1965
Jack Marin (1st)	1966
Bob Verga (1st)	1966
Steve Vacendak (2nd)	1966
Bob Verga (1st)	1967
Mike Lewis (2nd)	1967
Mike Lewis (1st)	1968
Randy Denton (2nd)	1969
Randy Denton (2nd)	1970
Randy Denton (1st)	1971
Gary Melchionni (2nd)	1972
Alan Shaw (2nd)	1972
Gary Melchionni (1st)	1973
Chris Redding (2nd)	1973
Bob Fleisher (2nd)	1975
Tate Armstrong (1st)	1976
Jim Spanarkel (2nd)	1977
Mike Gminski (1st)	1978
Jim Spanarkel (1st)	1978
Gene Banks (2nd)	1978
Mike Gminski (1st)	1979
Jim Spanarkel (1st)	1979
Gene Banks (2nd)	1979
Mike Gminski (1st)	1980
Gene Banks (2nd)	1980
Gene Banks (1st)	1981
Vince Taylor (1st)	1982
Johnny Dawkins (2nd)	1983
Mark Alarie (1st)	1984
Johnny Dawkins (2nd)	1984
Johnny Dawkins (1st)	1985
Mark Alarie (2nd)	1985

Mark Alarie (1st)	1986	Vernon Carey Jr. (1st)	2020	Luke Kennard	2017	Elton Brand (1st)	1999
Johnny Dawkins (1st)	1986	Tre Jones (1st)	2020	Zion Williamson	2019	Shane Battier (2nd)	1999
Tommy Amaker (2nd)	1987	Matthew Hurt (1st)	2021			Corey Maggette (2nd)	1999
Danny Ferry (2nd)	1987	Paolo Banchemo (1st)	2022	ACC ALL-TOURNAMENT		Shane Battier (1st)	2000
Danny Ferry (1st)	1988	Wendell Moore Jr. (2nd)	2022	Rudy D'Emilio (2nd)	1954	Chris Carrawell (1st)	2000
Danny Ferry (1st)	1989	Mark Williams (3rd)	2022	Bernie Janicki (2nd)	1954	Jason Williams (1st)	2000
Phil Henderson (2nd)	1990	AJ Griffin (hm)	2022	Ronnie Mayer (1st)	1955	Carlos Boozer (2nd)	2000
Christian Laettner (2nd)	1990	<i>* All-ACC teams were selected by media only from 1954-2012. From 2013-16, All-ACC teams were named by both the coaches and media. Beginning in 2017, All-ACC teams were unified under a voting panel that includes both coaches and media.</i>		Joe Belmont (2nd)	1955	Mike Dunleavy (2nd)	2000
Alaa Abdelnaby (3rd)	1990			Ronnie Mayer (2nd)	1956	Nate James (2nd)	2000
Christian Laettner (1st)	1991			Bucky Allen (2nd)	1958	Shane Battier (1st)	2001
Thomas Hill (3rd)	1991			Bobby Joe Harris (2nd)	1958	Mike Dunleavy (1st)	2001
Bobby Hurley (3rd)	1991			Bob Vernon (2nd)	1958	Jason Williams (1st)	2001
Christian Laettner (1st)	1992	ALL-SOUTHERN CONFERENCE		Howard Hurt (2nd)	1959	Nate James (2nd)	2001
Grant Hill (2nd)	1992	Bill Werber	1929	Carroll Youngkin (2nd)	1959	Carlos Boozer (1st)	2002
Bobby Hurley (2nd)	1992	Harry Councilor	1930	Howard Hurt (1st)	1960	Mike Dunleavy (1st)	2002
Thomas Hill (3rd)	1992	Bill Werber	1930	Doug Kistler (1st)	1960	Jason Williams (1st)	2002
Grant Hill (1st)	1993	Jim Thompson	1933	John Frye (2nd)	1960	Chris Duhon (2nd)	2002
Bobby Hurley (1st)	1993	Herb Thompson	1934	Carroll Youngkin (2nd)	1960	Daniel Ewing (1st)	2003
Thomas Hill (3rd)	1993	Jim Thompson	1934	John Frye (1st)	1961	Dahntay Jones (2nd)	2003
Grant Hill (1st)	1994	Ed Swindell	1939	Art Heyman (1st)	1961	J.J. Redick (2nd)	2003
Cherokee Parks (2nd)	1994	Bill Mock	1940	Carroll Youngkin (2nd)	1961	Chris Duhon (1st)	2004
Antonio Lang (3rd)	1994	Chuck Holley	1941	Art Heyman (1st)	1962	Daniel Ewing (1st)	2004
Cherokee Parks (2nd)	1995	Ray Spuhler	1941	Jeff Mullins (1st)	1962	Shelden Williams (1st)	2004
Chris Collins (2nd)	1996	Cy Vasek	1941	Art Heyman (1st)	1963	Luol Deng (2nd)	2004
Jeff Capel (3rd)	1996	Bill McCahan	1942	Jeff Mullins (1st)	1963	Daniel Ewing (1st)	2005
Ricky Price (3rd)	1996	Ray Spuhler	1942	Jay Buckley (2nd)	1963	J.J. Redick (1st)	2005
Trajan Langdon (1st)	1997	Bob Gantt	1943	Buzzy Harrison (2nd)	1963	Shelden Williams (1st)	2005
Steve Wojciechowski (2nd)	1997	John Seward	1943	Jay Buckley (1st)	1964	J.J. Redick (1st)	2006
Trajan Langdon (1st)	1998	Gordon Carver	1944	Jeff Mullins (1st)	1964	Shelden Williams (1st)	2006
Roshown McLeod (1st)	1998	Bill Wright	1944	Danny Ferguson (2nd)	1964	Josh McRoberts (2nd)	2006
Steve Wojciechowski (3rd)	1998	Dan Buckley	1945	Hack Tison (2nd)	1964	Greg Paulus (2nd)	2006
Elton Brand (1st)	1999	Gordon Carver	1945	Steve Vacendak (1st)	1965	Gerald Henderson (1st)	2009
Trajan Langdon (1st)	1999	Ed Koffenberger	1946	Bob Verga (1st)	1965	Jon Scheyer (1st)	2009
William Avery (2nd)	1999	John Seward	1946	Jack Marin (2nd)	1965	Kyle Singler (1st)	2009
Shane Battier (3rd)	1999	Dick Whiting	1946	Mike Lewis (1st)	1966	Jon Scheyer (1st)	2010
Chris Carrawell (3rd)	1999	Ed Koffenberger	1947	Steve Vacendak (1st)	1966	Nolan Smith (1st)	2010
Shane Battier (1st)	2000	Corren Youmans	1948	Bob Verga (1st)	1966	Kyle Singler (1st)	2010
Chris Carrawell (1st)	2000	Corren Youmans	1949	Jack Marin (2nd)	1966	Kyle Singler (1st)	2011
Jason Williams (3rd)	2000	Corren Youmans	1950	Bob Riedy (2nd)	1966	Nolan Smith (1st)	2011
Shane Battier (1st)	2001	Dick Groat	1951	Bob Verga (1st)	1967	Seth Curry (2nd)	2011
Jason Williams (1st)	2001	Dick Groat	1952	Mike Lewis (2nd)	1967	Miles Plumlee (2nd)	2011
Nate James (3rd)	2001			Mike Lewis (2nd)	1968	Austin Rivers (2nd)	2012
Jason Williams (1st)	2002	TWO-TIME FIRST TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE		Dick DeVenizio (1st)	1969	Rodney Hood (2nd)	2014
Carlos Boozer (1st)	2002	Bill Werber	SOCOM 1929, 30	Steve Vandenberg (1st)	1969	Amile Jefferson (2nd)	2014
Mike Dunleavy (1st)	2002	Jim Thompson	SOCOM 1933, 34	Dave Golden (2nd)	1969	Jabari Parker (1st)	2014
Dahntay Jones (1st)	2003	Ray Spuhler	SOCOM 1941, 42	Gary Melchionni (2nd)	1972	Jahlil Okafor (2nd)	2015
Chris Duhon (3rd)	2003	John Seward	SOCOM 1943, 46	Tate Armstrong (1st)	1976	Grayson Allen (2nd)	2016
J.J. Redick (3rd)	2003	Gordon Carver	SOCOM 1944, 45	Mike Gmnski (2nd)	1977	Grayson Allen (2nd)	2017
Chris Duhon (1st)	2004	Ed Koffenberger	SOCOM 1946, 47	Jim Spanarkel (2nd)	1977	Frank Jackson (2nd)	2017
J.J. Redick (2nd)	2004	Dick Groat	SOCOM 1951, 52	Gene Banks (1st)	1978	Amile Jefferson (2nd)	2017
Shelden Williams (2nd)	2004	Jack Marin	ACC 1965, 66	Mike Gmnski (1st)	1978	Luke Kennard (1st)	2017
Luol Deng (3rd)	2004	Jim Spanarkel	ACC 1978, 79	Jim Spanarkel (1st)	1978	Jayson Tatum (1st)	2017
J.J. Redick (1st)	2005	Mark Alarie	ACC 1984, 86	Kenny Dennard (2nd)	1978	Marvin Bagley III (1st)	2018
Shelden Williams (1st)	2005	Johnny Dawkins	ACC 1985, 86	Mike Gmnski (1st)	1979	RJ Barrett (1st)	2019
Daniel Ewing (3rd)	2005	Danny Ferry	ACC 1988, 89	Jim Spanarkel (1st)	1979	Tre Jones (2nd)	2019
J.J. Redick (1st)	2006	Christian Laettner	ACC 1991, 92	Gene Banks (1st)	1980	Zion Williamson (1st)	2019
Shelden Williams (1st)	2006	Grant Hill	ACC 1993, 94	Mike Gmnski (1st)	1980	Mark Williams (2nd)	2021
Josh McRoberts (2nd)	2007	Shane Battier	ACC 2000, 01	Vince Taylor (2nd)	1980	Paolo Banchemo (1st)	2022
DeMarcus Nelson (1st)	2008	Jason Williams	ACC 2001, 02	Mark Alarie (1st)	1984	Wendell Moore Jr. (1st)	2022
Greg Paulus (3rd)	2008	J.J. Redick	ACC 2005, 06	Johnny Dawkins (1st)	1984		
Kyle Singler (3rd)	2008	Shelden Williams	ACC 2005, 06	Johnny Dawkins (1st)	1985	ALL-ACC ACADEMIC	
Gerald Henderson (1st)	2009	Kyle Singler	ACC 2010, 11	Jay Bilas (2nd)	1985	Jay Buckley	1963
Kyle Singler (2nd)	2009			Mark Alarie (1st)	1986	Buzzy Harrison	1963
Jon Scheyer (1st)	2010	THREE-TIME FIRST TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE		Johnny Dawkins (1st)	1986	Jay Buckley	1964
Kyle Singler (1st)	2010	Corren Youmans	SOCOM 1948, 49, 50	David Henderson (1st)	1986	Buzzy Harrison	1964
Nolan Smith (2nd)	2010	Art Heyman	ACC 1961, 62, 63	Robert Brickey (1st)	1988	Denny Fuerguson	1965
Kyle Singler (1st)	2011	Jeff Mullins	ACC 1962, 63, 64	Danny Ferry (1st)	1988	Jack Marin	1966
Nolan Smith (1st)	2011	Bob Verga	ACC 1965, 66, 67	Quin Snyder (2nd)	1988	Dick DeVenizio	1969
Austin Rivers (1st)	2012	Mike Gmnski	ACC 1978, 79, 80	Danny Ferry (1st)	1989	Rick Katherman	1969
Seth Curry (3rd)	2012	Trajan Langdon	ACC 1997, 98, 99	Phil Henderson (1st)	1989	Dick DeVenizio	1970
Mason Plumlee (3rd)	2012			Christian Laettner (2nd)	1989	Rick Katherman	1970
Mason Plumlee (1st coaches/1st media)	2013	ACC TOURNAMENT MVP		Phil Henderson (1st)	1990	Dick DeVenizio	1971
Seth Curry (1st coaches/2nd media)	2013	Doug Kistler	1960	Christian Laettner (2nd)	1990	Gary Melchionni	1972
Quinn Cook (3rd media)	2013	Art Heyman	1963	Christian Laettner (1st)	1991	Bob Fleischer	1974
Rodney Hood (2nd coaches/2nd media)	2014	Jeff Mullins	1964	Grant Hill (2nd)	1991	Bob Fleischer	1975
Jabari Parker (1st coaches/1st media)	2014	Steve Vacendak	1966	Greg Koubek (2nd)	1991	Terry Chii	1976
Quinn Cook (2nd coaches/2nd media)	2015	Jim Spanarkel	1978	Brian Davis (1st)	1992	Steve Gray	1977
Tyus Jones (3rd coaches/3rd media)	2015	Johnny Dawkins	1986	Bobby Hurley (1st)	1992	Mike Gmnski	1978
Jahlil Okafor (1st coaches/1st media)	2015	Danny Ferry	1988	Christian Laettner (1st)	1992	Jim Spanarkel	1978
Grayson Allen (1st coaches/1st media)	2016	Christian Laettner	1992	Grant Hill (2nd)	1992	Mike Gmnski	1979
Brandon Ingram (2nd coaches/2nd media)	2016	Elton Brand	1999	Grant Hill (2nd)	1994	Jim Spanarkel	1979
Luke Kennard (1st)	2017	Jason Williams	2000	Cherokee Parks (2nd)	1994	Bob Bender	1980
Jayson Tatum (3rd)	2017	Shane Battier	2001	Trajan Langdon (1st)	1998	Mike Gmnski	1980
Marvin Bagley III (1st)	2018	Carlos Boozer	2002	Roshown McLeod (1st)	1998	Chip Engelland	1983
Wendell Carter Jr. (2nd)	2018	Daniel Ewing	2003	Chris Carrawell (2nd)	1998	Mark Alarie	1986
Grayson Allen (3rd)	2018	J.J. Redick	2005	William Avery (1st)	1999	Quin Snyder	1987
RJ Barrett (1st)	2019	J.J. Redick	2006			Quin Snyder	1988
Zion Williamson (1st)	2019	Jon Scheyer	2009			Danny Ferry	1989
Tre Jones (hm)	2019	Kyle Singler	2010			Quin Snyder	1989
Cam Reddish (hm)	2019	Nolan Smith	2011			Bill McCaffrey	1991

Thomas Hill	1993
Antonio Lang	1993
Chris Collins	1995
Erik Meek	1995
Steve Wojciechowski	1995
Matt Christensen	1996
Taymon Domzalski	1996
Todd Singleton	1996
Jeff Capel	1997
Trajan Langdon	1997
Carmen Wallace	1997
Steve Wojciechowski	1997
Shane Battier	1998
Mike Chappell	1998
Taymon Domzalski	1998
Trajan Langdon	1998
Taymon Domzalski	1999
Trajan Langdon	1999
Shane Battier	2000
Mike Dunleavy	2000
Shane Battier	2001
Matt Christensen	2001
Mike Dunleavy	2001
Mike Dunleavy	2002
Dahntay Jones	2002
Jason Williams	2002
Nick Horvath	2003
Chris Duhon	2004
Nick Horvath	2004
Lee Melchionni	2005
J.J. Redick	2005
Greg Paulus	2006
Martynas Pocius	2006
Martynas Pocius	2007
Greg Paulus	2008
Brian Zoubek	2008
Greg Paulus	2009
Brian Zoubek	2009
Ryan Kelly	2010
Brian Zoubek	2010
Ryan Kelly	2011
Mason Plumlee	2011
Kyle Singler	2011
Michael Gbinije	2012
Mason Plumlee	2012
Amile Jefferson	2013
Ryan Kelly	2013
Mason Plumlee	2013
Rasheed Sulaimon	2013
Rodney Hood	2014
Amile Jefferson	2014
Jabari Parker	2014
Grayson Allen	2015
Amile Jefferson	2015
Tyus Jones	2015
Marshall Plumlee	2015
Justise Winslow	2015
Grayson Allen	2016
Chase Jeter	2016
Amile Jefferson	2016
Grayson Allen	2017
Chase Jeter	2017
Grayson Allen	2018
Marvin Bagley III	2018
Jack White	2019
Wendell Moore Jr.	2020
Jack White	2020
Jaemyn Brakefield	2021
Wendell Moore Jr.	2021
DJ Steward	2021
Mark Williams	2021

ACC ALL-DEFENSIVE TEAM

Steve Wojciechowski (c)	1997
Shane Battier (c)	1998
Steve Wojciechowski (c)	1998
Chris Carrawell (c)	1999
Shane Battier (m, c)	1999
Chris Carrawell (m, c)	2000
Shane Battier (m, c)	2000
Nate James (c)	2001
Shane Battier (m, c)	2001
Mike Dunleavy (m)	2002
Chris Duhon (m, c)	2002
Dahntay Jones (c)	2002
Dahntay Jones (m, c)	2003
Chris Duhon (m, c)	2004
Shelden Williams (m, c)	2004
Shelden Williams (m, c)	2005

Shelden Williams (m, c)	2006
Josh McRoberts (m)	2007
DeMarcus Nelson (c)	2007
DeMarcus Nelson (m, c)	2008
Gerald Henderson (m, c)	2009
Lance Thomas (m, c)	2010
Nolan Smith (m, c)	2011
Mason Plumlee (c)	2013
Matt Jones	2017
Tre Jones	2019
Zion Williamson	2019
Tre Jones	2020
Jordan Goldwire	2021
Wendell Moore Jr.	2022
Mark Williams	2022

m - media; c - coaches

ALL-ACC FRESHMAN TEAM

Chris Collins	1993
Taymon Domzalski	1996
Chris Carrawell	1997
Shane Battier	1998
Corey Maggette	1999
Jason Williams	2000
Carlos Boozer	2000
Chris Duhon	2001
J.J. Redick	2003
Luol Deng	2004
DeMarcus Nelson	2005
Greg Paulus	2006
Josh McRoberts	2006
Jon Scheyer	2007
Kyle Singler	2008
Austin Rivers	2012
Rasheed Sulaimon (m,c)	2013
Jabari Parker (m,c)	2014
Tyus Jones (m,c)	2015
Jahlil Okafor (m,c)	2015
Justise Winslow (m,c)	2015
Brandon Ingram (m,c)	2016
Jayson Tatum	2017
Marvin Bagley III	2018
Wendell Carter Jr.	2018
RJ Barrett	2019
Tre Jones	2019
Zion Williamson	2019
Vernon Carey Jr.	2020
Cassius Stanley	2020
DJ Steward	2021
Paolo Banchemo	2022
AJ Griffin	2022
Trevor Keels	2022

m - media; c - coaches

DISTRICT PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Mike Gminski	1979
Christian Laettner	1991
Christian Laettner	1992
Chris Carrawell	2000
Shane Battier	2001
Jason Williams	2002
Chris Duhon	2004
J.J. Redick	2006
Nolan Smith	2011
Mason Plumlee	2013
Jabari Parker	2014
Jahlil Okafor	2015
Marvin Bagley III	2018
Zion Williamson	2019
Vernon Carey Jr.	2020
Matthew Hurt	2021

USBWA

ALL-DISTRICT TEAM

Dick Groat	1951
Dick Groat	1952
Rudy D'Emilio	1954
Ronnie Mayer	1956
Art Heyman	1961
Art Heyman	1962
Jeff Mullins	1962
Art Heyman	1963
Jeff Mullins	1963
Jeff Mullins	1964
Hack Tison	1964
Jack Marin	1965
Bob Verga	1965

Jack Marin	1966
Bob Verga	1966
Mike Lewis	1966
Bob Verga	1967
Mike Lewis	1967
Mike Lewis	1968
Randy Denton	1970
Randy Denton	1971
Tate Armstrong	1976
Tate Armstrong	1977
Mike Gminski	1978
Jim Spanarkel	1978
Mike Gminski	1979
Jim Spanarkel	1979
Gene Banks	1979
Mike Gminski	1980
Gene Banks	1980
Gene Banks	1981
Vince Taylor	1982
Johnny Dawkins	1983
Johnny Dawkins	1984
Mark Alarie	1984
Johnny Dawkins	1985
Mark Alarie	1985
Johnny Dawkins	1986
Mark Alarie	1986
Danny Ferry	1987
Tommy Amaker	1987
Danny Ferry	1988
Kevin Strickland	1988
Danny Ferry	1989
Christian Laettner	1990
Phil Henderson	1990
Christian Laettner	1991
Christian Laettner	1992
Bobby Hurley	1992
Grant Hill	1992
Bobby Hurley	1993
Grant Hill	1993
Grant Hill	1994
Cherokee Parks	1995
Trajan Langdon	1997
Trajan Langdon	1998
Roshown McLeod	1998
Elton Brand	1999
Trajan Langdon	1999
Will Avery	1999
Chris Carrawell	2000
Shane Battier	2000
Jason Williams	2000
Jason Williams	2001
Shane Battier	2001
Jason Williams	2002
Mike Dunleavy	2002
Carlos Boozer	2002
Dante Jones	2003
Loul Deng	2004
Chris Duhon	2004
J.J. Redick	2004
Shelden Williams	2004
J.J. Redick	2005
Shelden Williams	2005
J.J. Redick	2006
Shelden Williams	2006
Josh McRoberts	2007
DeMarcus Nelson	2008
Kyle Singler	2008
Gerald Henderson	2009
Kyle Singler	2009
Jon Scheyer	2010
Kyle Singler	2010
Nolan Smith	2010
Kyle Singler	2011
Nolan Smith	2011
Seth Curry	2012
Mason Plumlee	2012
Austin Rivers	2012
Seth Curry	2013
Mason Plumlee	2013
Rodney Hood	2014
Jabari Parker	2014
Quinn Cook	2015
Tyus Jones	2015
Jahlil Okafor	2015
Justise Winslow	2015
Grayson Allen	2016
Brandon Ingram	2016
Luke Kennard	2016

Luke Kennard	2017
Jayson Tatum	2017
Grayson Allen	2018
Marvin Bagley III	2018
Wendell Carter Jr.	2018
RJ Barrett	2019
Zion Williamson	2019
Vernon Carey Jr.	2020
Tre Jones	2020
Matthew Hurt	2021
Paolo Banchemo	2022
Wendell Moore Jr.	2022
Mark Williams	2022

USBWA¹, NABC²

DISTRICT COACH OF THE YEAR

Bill Foster	1978
Mike Krzyzewski	1984
Mike Krzyzewski	1986
Mike Krzyzewski	1992
Mike Krzyzewski	1994
Mike Krzyzewski	1999
Mike Krzyzewski	2000
Mike Krzyzewski	2008
Mike Krzyzewski	2011
Mike Krzyzewski	2013

USBWA¹, NABC²

ALL-NCAA FINAL FOUR TEAM

* Art Heyman	1963
Jeff Mullins	1964
Jack Marin	1966
Mike Gminski	1978
Jim Spanarkel	1978
Mark Alarie	1986
Tommy Amaker	1986
Johnny Dawkins	1986
Danny Ferry	1989
Phil Henderson	1990
Bobby Hurley	1991
* Christian Laettner	1991
Billy McCaffrey	1991
Grant Hill	1992
* Bobby Hurley	1992
Christian Laettner	1992
Grant Hill	1994
Antonio Lang	1994
Elton Brand	1999
Trajan Langdon	1999
* Shane Battier	2001
Mike Dunleavy	2001
Jason Williams	2001
* Kyle Singler	2010
Nolan Smith	2010
Jon Scheyer	2010
Grayson Allen	2015
* Tyus Jones	2015
Justise Winslow	2015

** - Named Most Outstanding Player*

ALL-NCAA EAST REGIONAL

Art Heyman	1963
Jeff Mullins	1963
* Jeff Mullins	1964
Steve Vacendak	1964
Jack Marin	1966
Steve Vacendak	1966
* Bob Verga	1966
Gene Banks	1978
Mike Gminski	1978
* Jim Spanarkel	1978
Mark Alarie	1986
* Johnny Dawkins	1986
* Danny Ferry	1988
Billy King	1988
Kevin Strickland	1988
* Danny Ferry	1989
Phil Henderson	1989
Christian Laettner	1989
Alaa Abdelnaby	1990
Phil Henderson	1990
* Christian Laettner	1990
Bobby Hurley	1992
* Christian Laettner	1992
William Avery	1999
Elton Brand	1999
* Trajan Langdon	1999
Shane Battier	2000

Shane Battier	2001
* Jason Williams	2001
RJ Barrett	2019
Zion Williamson	2019

* - Named Most Outstanding Player

ALL-NCAA SOUTH REGIONAL

Mike Gminski	1980
Jeff Capel	1994
* Grant Hill	1994
Cherokee Parks	1994
Trajan Langdon	1998
Roshown McLeod	1998
* Luol Deng	2004
Shelden Williams	2004
* Nolan Smith	2010
Jon Scheyer	2010
Matt Jones	2015
* Tyus Jones	2015
Justise Winslow	2015

* - Named Most Outstanding Player

ALL-NCAA MIDWEST REGIONAL

Tommy Amaker	1987
Thomas Hill	1991
* Bobby Hurley	1991
Christian Laettner	1991
Seth Curry	2013
Mason Plumlee	2013
Marvin Bagley III	2018
Trevon Duval	2018
Gary Trent Jr.	2018

* - Named Most Outstanding Player

ALL-NCAA WEST REGIONAL

Brandon Ingram	2016
* Paolo Banchero	2022
Jeremy Roach	2022
Mark Williams	2022

* - Named Most Outstanding Player

ALL-NIT

Randy Denton	1971
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2K EMPIRE CLASSIC ALL-TOURNAMENT

Chris Carrawell	1999
* Kyle Singler	2008
Gerald Henderson	2008
* Grayson Allen	2015
Derryck Thornton	2015
* Vernon Carey Jr.	2019
Tre Jones	2019
Cassius Stanley	2019

* - Named Most Valuable Player

BATTLE 4 ATLANTIS ALL-TOURNAMENT

* Quinn Cook	2012
Mason Plumlee	2012

* - Named Most Valuable Player

BIG FOUR ALL-TOURNAMENT

Randy Denton	1970
Richie O'Connor	1971
Gary Melchionni	1972
Chris Redding	1972
Bob Fleischer	1973
Bob Fleischer	1974
Jim Spanarkel	1977
* Mike Gminski	1978
Jim Spanarkel	1978
* Mike Gminski	1979
Gene Banks	1979

* - Named Most Valuable Player

CAROLINA CLASSIC ALL-TOURNAMENT

Bob Fleischer	1974
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CBE CLASSIC ALL-TOURNAMENT

DeMarcus Nelson	2006
* Kyrie Irving	2010
Mason Plumlee	2010

* - Named Most Valuable Player

COACHES VS. CANCER CLASSIC ALL-TOURNAMENT

* Quinn Cook	2014
Jahlil Okafor	2014
Justise Winslow	2014

* - Named Most Valuable Player

ECAC HOLIDAY FESTIVAL ALL-TOURNAMENT

Jim Spanarkel	1978
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FIESTA BOWL CLASSIC ALL-TOURNAMENT

Kevin Strickland	1987
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GREAT ALASKA SHOOTOUT ALL-TOURNAMENT

Chris Collins	1995
Jeff Capel	1995
Ricky Price	1995
* William Avery	1998
Trajan Langdon	1998
Elton Brand	1998
Chris Duhon	2003
Luol Deng	2003

* - Named Most Valuable Player

HALL OF FAME TIP-OFF ALL-TOURNAMENT

Amile Jefferson	2016
* Luke Kennard	2016

* - Named Most Valuable Player

INDUSTRIAL NATIONAL CLASSIC ALL-TOURNAMENT

* Mike Gminski	1979
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* - Named Most Valuable Player

IRON DUKE CLASSIC ALL-TOURNAMENT

* Gene Banks	1980
Tom Emma	1980
Vince Taylor	1980
Chip Engelland	1981
Vince Taylor	1981

* - Named Most Valuable Player

MAUI INVITATIONAL ALL-TOURNAMENT

* Bobby Hurley	1992
* Steve Wojciechowski	1997
* Mike Dunleavy	2001
Jason Williams	2001
DeMarcus Nelson	2007
* Kyle Singler	2007
Austin Rivers	2011
* Ryan Kelly	2011
RJ Barrett	2018
Tre Jones	2018

* - Named Most Valuable Player

All-Tournament Teams began in 2000

NIT SEASON TIPOFF ALL-TOURNAMENT

* David Henderson	1985
Mark Alarie	1985
Johnny Dawkins	1985
Trajan Langdon	1996
* Carlos Boozer	2000
Jason Williams	2000
J.J. Redick	2005
* Shelden Williams	2005
Jon Scheyer	2009
* Nolan Smith	2009
Rodney Hood	2013
Jabari Parker	2013

* - Named Most Valuable Player

PK80 INVITATIONAL ALL-TOURNAMENT

* Marvin Bagley III	2018
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* - Named Most Valuable Player

RAINBOW CLASSIC ALL-TOURNAMENT

Phil Henderson	1989
Bobby Hurley	1989
Christian Laettner	1989

SUGAR BOWL ALL-TOURNAMENT

Randy Denton	1968
* Gene Banks	1980
Kenny Dennard	1980

* - Named Most Valuable Player

TIP-OFF CLASSIC ALL-TOURNAMENT

* Danny Ferry	1988
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* - Named Most Valuable Player

TROJAN-BUD LIGHT CLASSIC ALL-TOURNAMENT

* Johnny Dawkins	1984
David Henderson	1984

* - Named Most Valuable Player

Team Honors

Note: No awards selected for the 2020-21 season

SWETT-BAYLIN AWARD

Given to the most valuable player as selected by the team. Established by Dr. George Baylin in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Francis Swett. Dr. Swett was a Duke faculty member and ardent basketball fan.

Dick Groat	1952
Rudy D'Emilio	1953
Bernie Janicki	1954
Ronnie Mayer	1955
Joe Belmont	1956
Bobby Joe Harris	1957
Paul Schmidt	1958
Howard Hurt	1959
Doug Kistler	1960
Art Heyman	1961
Art Heyman	1962
Art Heyman	1963
Jeff Mullins	1964
Denny Ferguson	1965
Jack Marin	1966
Steve Vacendak	1966
Bob Varga	1967
Mike Lewis	1968
Fred Lind	1969
Randy Denton	1970
Randy Denton	1971
Alan Shaw	1972
Gary Melchionni	1973
Bob Fleischer	1974
Bob Fleischer	1975
Tate Armstrong	1976
Tate Armstrong	1977
Jim Spanarkel	1977
Gene Banks	1978
Mike Gminski	1978
Jim Spanarkel	1978
Mike Gminski	1979
Jim Spanarkel	1979
Gene Banks	1980
Mike Gminski	1980
Gene Banks	1981
Kenny Dennard	1981
Vince Taylor	1982
Johnny Dawkins	1983
Mark Alarie	1984
Johnny Dawkins	1984
Johnny Dawkins	1985
Johnny Dawkins	1986
Tommy Amaker	1987
Danny Ferry	1987
Danny Ferry	1988
Danny Ferry	1989
Phil Henderson	1990
Christian Laettner	1990
Bobby Hurley	1991
Christian Laettner	1991
Bobby Hurley	1992
Christian Laettner	1992
Bobby Hurley	1993
Grant Hill	1994
Erik Meek	1995
Cherokee Parks	1995
Chris Collins	1996
Steve Wojciechowski	1997
Roshown McLeod	1998
Elton Brand	1999
Trajan Langdon	1999
Shane Battier	2000
Chris Carrawell	2000
Shane Battier	2001
Jason Williams	2001
Jason Williams	2002
Mike Dunleavy	2002
Dahntay Jones	2003
Chris Duhon	2004
Daniel Ewing	2005
J.J. Redick	2005
Shelden Williams	2005
J.J. Redick	2006
Shelden Williams	2006
Josh McRoberts	2007
DeMarcus Nelson	2007
DeMarcus Nelson	2008
Gerald Henderson	2009
Jon Scheyer	2009
Kyle Singler	2009

Jon Scheyer	2010
Kyle Singler	2010
Nolan Smith	2010
Lance Thomas	2010
Brian Zoubek	2010
Kyle Singler	2011
Nolan Smith	2011
Seth Curry	2013
Ryan Kelly	2013
Mason Plumlee	2013
Jabari Parker	2014
Quinn Cook	2015
Jahlil Okafor	2015
Grayson Allen	2016
Brandon Ingram	2016
Luke Kennard	2017
Jayson Tatum	2017
Marvin Bagley III	2018
RJ Barrett	2019
Zion Williamson	2019
Vernon Carey Jr.	2020
Tre Jones	2020

GLENN E. "TED" MANN JR. AWARD

Presented by Kappa Sigma fraternity to the player voted by his teammates as contributing the most to team morale. The award is dedicated to the memory of Ted Mann Jr., a member of the Duke basketball team who died in a swimming accident on September 12, 1964, just prior to his senior year at Duke.

Ron Herbster	1965
Jim Liccardo	1966
Stuart McKaig	1967
Tim Kolodziej	1968
Steve Vandenberg	1969
Don Blackman	1970
Alan Shaw	1971
Pat Dougherty	1972
Pete Kramer	1973
Terry Chili	1974
Terry Chili	1975
Dave O'Connell	1976
Scott Goetsch	1977
Bruce Bell	1978
Scott Goetsch	1979
Jim Corrigan	1980
Jim Suddath	1981
Todd Anderson	1982
Mike Tissaw	1983
Richard Ford	1984
Todd Anderson	1985
Billy King	1986
Robert Brickey	1987
John Smith	1988
John Smith	1989
Brian Davis	1990
Brian Davis	1991
Antonio Lang	1992
Marty Clark	1993
Marty Clark	1994
Steve Wojciechowski	1995
Steve Wojciechowski	1996
Justin Caldbeck	1997
Jay Heaps	1997
Todd Singleton	1997
Todd Singleton	1998
Nate James	1999
Mike Dunleavy	2000
Dahntay Jones	2001
J.D. Simpson	2001
Daniel Ewing	2002
Andre Buckner	2003
Sean Dockery	2004
Lee Melchionni	2005
Patrick Johnson	2006
David McClure	2007
Jon Scheyer	2008
Elliot Williams	2009
Miles Plumlee	2010
Tyler Thornton	2011
Josh Hairston	2012
Tyler Thornton	2013
Tyler Thornton	2014
Marshall Plumlee	2015
Harry Giles	2017
Antonio Vrankovic	2017
Justin Robinson	2018
Antonio Vrankovic	2019
Justin Robinson	2020

THE PAGLIUCA FAMILY COACHES' AWARD

Presented to the player exemplifying the commitment and values of Duke Basketball while displaying overall improvement as selected by the coaching staff.

Ricky Price	1998
Chris Carrawell	1999
Nate James	2000
Nate James	2001
Matt Christensen	2002
Daniel Ewing	2003
Nick Horvath	2004
Patrick Davidson	2005
Patrick Johnson	2005
Ross Perkins	2006
Joe Pagliuca	2007
Gerald Henderson	2008
Lance Thomas	2009
Nolan Smith	2010
Ryan Kelly	2011
Tyler Thornton	2012
Seth Curry	2013
Rodney Hood	2014
Matt Jones	2015
Marshall Plumlee	2016
Frank Jackson	2017
Marques Bolden	2018
Javin DeLaurier	2018
Javin DeLaurier	2019
Jordan Goldwire	2020

DR. DERYL HART AWARD

Presented to the team's top scholar-athlete.

Terry Chili	1976
Rick Mainwaring	1977
Steve Gray	1978
Mike Gminski	1979
Mike Gminski	1980
Jim Suddath	1981
Chip Engelland	1982
Chip Engelland	1983
Jay Bryan	1984
Jay Bryan	1985
Mark Alarie	1986
Quin Snyder	1987
Quin Snyder	1988
Quin Snyder	1989
Crawford Palmer	1990
Crawford Palmer	1991
Bobby Hurley	1992
Thomas Hill	1993
Antonio Lang	1994
Erik Meek	1995
Trajan Langdon	1996
Taymon Domzalski	1997
Trajan Langdon	1998
Shane Battier	1999
Shane Battier	2000
Shane Battier	2001
Matt Christensen	2002
Nick Horvath	2003
Nick Horvath	2004
Joe Pagliuca	2005
Joe Pagliuca	2006
Joe Pagliuca	2007
Greg Paulus	2008
Greg Paulus	2009
Brian Zoubek	2010
Mason Plumlee	2011
Mason Plumlee	2012
Mason Plumlee	2013
Amile Jefferson	2014
Amile Jefferson	2015
Grayson Allen	2016
Grayson Allen	2017
Amile Jefferson	2017
Grayson Allen	2018
Jack White	2019
Jack White	2020

TRUE BLUE AWARD

Presented to the player who takes the most charges in a season (no longer presented)

David Henderson	1984
Dan Meagher	1985
Billy King	1986
Billy King	1987
Billy King	1988
Danny Ferry	1989
Bobby Hurley	1990
Brian Davis	1991
Brian Davis	1992

Bobby Hurley	1993
Cherokee Parks	1994
Eric Meek	1995
Greg Newton	1996
Carmen Wallace	1997
Steve Wojciechowski	1997
Shane Battier	1998
Shane Battier	1999
Shane Battier	2000
Shane Battier	2001
Mike Dunleavy	2002
Dahntay Jones	2003
Shavlik Randolph	2004
Shavlik Randolph	2005
J.J. Redick	2006
Greg Paulus	2007
Kyle Singler	2008
Gerald Henderson	2009
Brian Zoubek	2010
Lance Thomas	2010
Ryan Kelly	2011
Ryan Kelly	2012
Josh Hairston	2013
Tyler Thornton	2014
Tyus Jones	2015

BEST DEFENSIVE PLAYER AWARD

Steve Wojciechowski	1997
Shane Battier	1998
Steve Wojciechowski	1998
Shane Battier	1999
Chris Carrawell	1999
Shane Battier	2000
Chris Carrawell	2000
Shane Battier	2001
Chris Duhon	2001
Dahntay Jones	2002
Casey Sanders	2003
Chris Duhon	2004
Shelden Williams	2005
Shelden Williams	2006
DeMarcus Nelson	2007
DeMarcus Nelson	2008
Gerald Henderson	2009
Kyle Singler	2010
Lance Thomas	2010
Kyle Singler	2011
Tyler Thornton	2012
Ryan Kelly	2013
Rodney Hood	2014
Justise Winslow	2015
Matt Jones	2017
Wendell Carter Jr.	2018
Tre Jones	2019
Jordan Goldwire	2020
Tre Jones	2020

BILL KRZYZEWSKI CAPTAINS' AWARD

Presented to the team captains.

Jeff Capel	1997
Greg Newton	1997
Carmen Wallace	1997
Trajan Langdon	1998
Roshown McLeod	1998
Steve Wojciechowski	1998
Trajan Langdon	1999
Shane Battier	2000
Chris Carrawell	2000
Nate James	2000
Shane Battier	2001
Nate James	2001
J.D. Simpson	2001
Carlos Boozer	2002
Mike Dunleavy	2002
Jason Williams	2002
Chris Duhon	2003
Nick Horvath	2003
Dahntay Jones	2003
Chris Duhon	2004
Daniel Ewing	2004
Nick Horvath	2004
Daniel Ewing	2005
Reggie Love	2005
J.J. Redick	2005
Sean Dockery	2006
Lee Melchionni	2006
J.J. Redick	2006
Shelden Williams	2006
Josh McRoberts	2007
DeMarcus Nelson	2007
Greg Paulus	2007
DeMarcus Nelson	2008

Gerald Henderson	2009
Greg Paulus	2009
Jon Scheyer	2009
Jon Scheyer	2010
Lance Thomas	2010
Nolan Smith	2011
Kyle Singler	2011
Miles Plumlee	2012
Seth Curry	2013
Ryan Kelly	2013
Mason Plumlee	2013
Dahntay Jones	2014
Rodney Hood	2014
Tyler Thornton	2014
Quinn Cook	2015
Amile Jefferson	2015
Matt Jones	2016
Amile Jefferson	2016
Marshall Plumlee	2016
Amile Jefferson	2017
Matt Jones	2017
Grayson Allen	2018
Javin DeLaurier	2019
Jack White	2019
Javin DeLaurier	2020
Tre Jones	2020
Justin Robinson	2020
Jack White	2020

GOPAL VARADHAN SENIOR MANAGER AWARD

Presented to the team's top upperclassman manager.

Kirsten Green	1997
Lee Rashman	1997
Luci Pitzer	1998
Glenn Toomayan	1999
Josh Berger	2000
Kenny King	2000
Kevin Marchetti	2000
Anne Wilson	2000
Wynter Galindez	2001
Lisa Kalich	2001
Shaun Rogers	2002
Nick Arison	2003
Max Perkins	2004
Brian DeStefano	2005
Mike Egan	2005
Josh Makaron	2005
Mike Morrell	2005
Charlie Rohlf	2005
Thayer Swallen	2005
Amanda Green	2006
Kevin Cullen	2007
Chris Lauten	2007
Scott Naturman	2007
Chris Lauten	2008
Joey McMahon	2009
Griffin Tormey	2009
Eric Skeffington	2010
Sarah Helfer	2011
Pat Thompson	2011
John McGinty	2012
Kyle Mumma	2012
Kate Wheelock	2012
John McGinty	2013
Kyle Mumma	2013
Kate Wheelock	2013
Scott Lamson	2014
Jamie Stark	2014
Ian McKiernan	2015
Derek Rhodes	2015
Mike Stosky	2015
Graham Vehovec	2015
Ryan Kelly	2016
Alessandro Sant'Albano	2016
Alex Blutman	2017
Drew Goldstein	2017
Jon Payne	2017
Michael Karamardian	2018
Zach Marcus	2018
Zack Spiera	2018
Shane Turner	2018
David Karamardian	2019
Mike McAloon	2019
Ronald Dombroski	2020
Neb Tibebu	2020
Michael Scheinert	2020
Jack Tauber	2020

Hall of Fame Inductees

NASMITH MEMORIAL BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

Mike Krzyzewski	2001
Hubert "Hubie" Brown ^	2005
Grant Hill	2018

^ Duke assistant coach

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

Mike Krzyzewski	2006
Chuck Daly ^	2006
Dick Groat	2007
Charles "Lefty" Driesell *	2007
Christian Laettner	2010
Grant Hill	2014
Jason Williams	2017
Shane Battier	2019

^ Duke assistant coach

* lettered at Duke in 1953-54, but enshrined based on coaching merit

COSIDA ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA HALL OF FAME

Mike Gminski	2006
Shane Battier	2015

NORTH CAROLINA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Eddie Cameron	1969
Vic Bubas	1975
Jeff Mullins	1983
Jack Marin	1998
Mike Krzyzewski	2000
Mike Gminski	2003
Randy Denton	2014
Steve Vacendak	2017



DUKE ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

Eddie Cameron	1975
Dick Groat	1975
Bill Werber	1975
Vic Bubas	1977
Art Heyman	1978
Jack Marin	1978
Jeff Mullins	1978
Harry Councilor	1979
Ed Koffenberger	1980
Bob Gantt	1981
Gordon Carver	1984
Bob Verga	1984
Mike Lewis	1985
Steve Vacendak	1986
Gerry Gerard	1987
Jim Spanarkel	1990
Randy Denton	1991
Bernie Janicki	1992
Charles "Lefty" Driesell	1993
Gene Banks	1994
Johnny Dawkins	1996
Mike Gminski	1996
Mark Alarie	1999
Tommy Amaker	2001
Danny Ferry	2004
Christian Laettner	2007
Bobby Hurley	2011
Mike Krzyzewski	2011
Jason Williams	2013
Shane Battier	2016
Grant Hill	2016
Elton Brand	2018
Shelden Williams	2018

NCAA Tournament Results

1955 | EAST REGIONAL

First Round 3/8 New York, N.Y. Villanova L 73-74 22 - Tobin

1960 | EAST REGIONAL

First Round 3/8 New York, N.Y. Princeton W 84-60 26 - Kistler
 Reg. Semifinal 3/11 Charlotte, N.C. St. Joseph's W 58-56 22 - Youngkin
 Reg. Final 3/12 Charlotte, N.C. New York Univ. L 59-74 20 - Kistler

1963 | EAST REGIONAL

Reg. Semifinal 3/15 College Park, Md. New York Univ. W 81-76 25 - Mullins
 Reg. Final 3/16 College Park, Md. St. Joseph's W 73-59 24 - Mullins
 Nat. Semifinal 3/22 Louisville, Ky. Loyola Chicago L 75-94 29 - Heyman
 Nat. Consol. 3/23 Louisville, Ky. Oregon State W 85-63 22 - Heyman

1964 | EAST REGIONAL

Reg. Semifinal 3/13 Raleigh, N.C. Villanova W 87-73 43 - Mullins
 Reg. Final 3/14 Raleigh, N.C. Connecticut W 101-54 30 - Mullins
 Nat. Semifinal 3/20 Kansas City, Mo. Michigan W 91-80 25 - Buckley
 Nat. Final 3/21 Kansas City, Mo. UCLA L 83-98 22 - Mullins

1966 | EAST REGIONAL

Reg. Semifinal 3/11 Raleigh, N.C. St. Joseph's W 76-74 22 - Verga
 Reg. Final 3/12 Raleigh, N.C. Syracuse W 91-81 22 - Marin
 Nat. Semifinal 3/18 College Park, Md. Kentucky L 79-83 29 - Marin
 Nat. Consol. 3/19 College Park, Md. Utah W 79-77 23 - Marin

1978 | EAST REGIONAL

First Round 3/12 Charlotte, N.C. Rhode Island W 63-62 25 - Gminski
 Reg. Semifinal 3/17 Providence, R.I. Pennsylvania W 84-80 21 - two players
 Reg. Final 3/19 Providence, R.I. Villanova W 90-72 23 - Spankrel
 Nat. Semifinal 3/25 St. Louis, Mo. Notre Dame W 90-86 29 - Gminski
 Nat. Final 3/27 St. Louis, Mo. Kentucky L 88-94 22 - Banks

1979 | EAST REGIONAL SEED: #2

Second Round 3/11 Raleigh, N.C. St. John's^{10E} L 78-80 24 - Banks

1980 | MIDEAST REGIONAL SEED: #4

Second Round 3/8 W. Lafayette, Ind. Pennsylvania^{12ME} W 52-42 19 - Gminski
 Reg. Semifinal 3/13 Lexington, Ky. Kentucky^{1ME} W 55-54 17 - Gminski
 Reg. Final 3/15 Lexington, Ky. Purdue^{6ME} L 60-68 17 - Gminski

1984 | WEST REGIONAL SEED: #3

Second Round 3/18 Pullman, Wash. Washington^{6W} L 78-80 22 - Dawkins

1985 | MIDWEST REGIONAL SEED: #3

First Round 3/15 Houston, Texas Pepperdine^{14MW} W 75-62 22 - Henderson
 Second Round 3/17 Houston, Texas Boston College^{13MW} L 73-74 18 - Dawkins

1986 | EAST REGIONAL SEED: #1

First Round 3/13 Greensboro, N.C. Mississippi Valley St.^{16E} W 85-78 27 - Dawkins
 Second Round 3/15 Greensboro, N.C. Old Dominion^{9E} W 89-61 25 - Dawkins
 Reg. Semifinal 3/21 E. Rutherford, N.J. DePaul^{12E} W 74-67 25 - Dawkins
 Reg. Final 3/23 E. Rutherford, N.J. Navy^{7E} W 71-50 28 - Dawkins
 Nat. Semifinal 3/29 Dallas, Texas Kansas^{10W} W 71-67 24 - Dawkins
 Nat. Final 3/31 Dallas, Texas Louisville^{2W} L 69-72 24 - Dawkins

1987 | MIDWEST REGIONAL SEED: #5

First Round 3/12 Indianapolis, Ind. Texas A&M^{12MW} W 58-51 20 - Strickland
 Second Round 3/14 Indianapolis, Ind. Xavier^{13MW} W 65-60 20 - Amaker
 Reg. Semifinal 3/20 Cincinnati, Ohio Indiana^{11W} L 82-88 23 - Amaker

1988 | EAST REGIONAL SEED: #2

First Round 3/17 Chapel Hill, N.C. Boston U.^{15E} W 85-69 21 - Ferry
 Second Round 3/19 Chapel Hill, N.C. SMU^{7E} W 94-79 31 - Strickland
 Reg. Semifinal 3/24 E. Rutherford, N.J. Rhode Island^{1E} W 73-72 17 - Ferry
 Reg. Final 3/26 E. Rutherford, N.J. Temple^{6E} W 63-53 21 - Strickland
 Nat. Semifinal 4/2 Kansas City, Mo. Kansas^{6MW} L 59-66 19 - Ferry

1989 | EAST REGIONAL SEED: #2

First Round 3/16 Greensboro, N.C. South Carolina State^{15E} W 90-69 22 - Henderson
 Second Round 3/18 Greensboro, N.C. West Virginia^{1E} W 70-63 20 - Ferry
 Reg. Semifinal 3/24 E. Rutherford, N.J. Minnesota^{1E} W 87-70 21 - two players
 Reg. Final 3/26 E. Rutherford, N.J. Georgetown^{1E} W 85-77 24 - Laettner
 Nat. Semifinal 4/1 Seattle, Wash. Seton Hall^{11W} L 78-95 34 - Ferry

1990 | EAST REGIONAL SEED: #3

First Round 3/16 Atlanta, Ga. Richmond^{14E} W 81-46 22 - Abdelnaby
 Second Round 3/18 Atlanta, Ga. St. John's^{14E} W 76-72 22 - Brickey
 Reg. Semifinal 3/22 E. Rutherford, N.J. UCLA^{1E} W 90-81 28 - Henderson
 Reg. Final 3/24 E. Rutherford, N.J. Connecticut^{1E} W 79-78 27 - Abdelnaby
 Nat. Semifinal 3/31 Denver, Colo. Arkansas^{14W} W 97-83 28 - Henderson
 Nat. Final 4/2 Denver, Colo. UNLV^{11W} L 73-103 21 - Henderson

1991 | MIDWEST REGIONAL SEED: #2 | NATIONAL CHAMPION

First Round 3/14 Minneapolis, Minn. Louisiana-Monroe^{19MW} W 102-73 22 - Laettner
 Second Round 3/16 Minneapolis, Minn. Iowa^{11W} W 85-70 19 - Laettner
 Reg. Semifinal 3/22 Pontiac, Mich. Connecticut^{11MW} W 81-67 19 - Laettner
 Reg. Final 3/24 Pontiac, Mich. St. John's^{4MW} W 78-61 20 - Hurley
 Nat. Semifinal 3/30 Indianapolis, Ind. UNLV^{11W} W 79-77 28 - Laettner
 Nat. Final 4/1 Indianapolis, Ind. Kansas^{15E} W 72-65 18 - Laettner

1992 | EAST REGIONAL SEED: #1 | NATIONAL CHAMPION

First Round 3/19 Greensboro, N.C. Campbell^{16E} W 82-56 22 - Laettner
 Second Round 3/21 Greensboro, N.C. Iowa^{9E} W 75-62 21 - Davis
 Reg. Semifinal 3/26 Philadelphia, Pa. Seton Hall^{14E} W 81-69 16 - two players
 Reg. Final 3/28 Philadelphia, Pa. Kentucky (ot)^{1E} W 104-103 31 - Laettner
 Nat. Semifinal 4/4 Minneapolis, Minn. Indiana^{2W} W 81-78 26 - Hurley
 Nat. Final 4/6 Minneapolis, Minn. Michigan^{15E} W 71-51 19 - Laettner

1993 | MIDWEST REGIONAL SEED: #3

First Round 3/18 Chicago, Ill. Southern Illinois^{14MW} W 105-70 25 - Hurley
 Second Round 3/20 Chicago, Ill. California^{6MW} L 77-82 32 - Hurley

1994 | SOUTHEAST REGIONAL SEED: #2

First Round 3/18 St. Petersburg, Fla. Texas Southern^{15SE} W 82-70 20 - Collins
 Second Round 3/20 St. Petersburg, Fla. Michigan State^{15E} W 85-74 25 - Hill
 Reg. Semifinal 3/24 Knoxville, Tenn. Marquette^{15SE} W 59-49 22 - Hill
 Reg. Final 3/26 Knoxville, Tenn. Purdue^{15E} W 69-60 19 - two players
 Nat. Semifinal 4/2 Charlotte, N.C. Florida^{1E} W 70-65 25 - Hill
 Nat. Final 4/4 Charlotte, N.C. Arkansas^{11W} L 72-76 15 - Lang

1996 | SOUTHEAST REGIONAL SEED: #8

First Round 3/14 Indianapolis, Ind. Eastern Michigan^{15E} L 60-75 15 - two players

1997 | SOUTHEAST REGIONAL SEED: #2

First Round 3/14 Charlotte, N.C. Murray State^{15SE} W 71-68 25 - Capel
 Second Round 3/16 Charlotte, N.C. Providence^{10SE} L 87-98 26 - Capel

1998 | SOUTH REGIONAL SEED: #1

First Round 3/13 Lexington, Ky. Radford^{16S} W 99-63 23 - McLeod
 Second Round 3/15 Lexington, Ky. Oklahoma State^{8S} W 79-73 22 - McLeod
 Reg. Semifinal 3/20 St. Petersburg, Fla. Syracuse^{15S} W 80-67 20 - Brand
 Reg. Final 3/22 St. Petersburg, Fla. Kentucky^{25S} L 84-86 19 - McLeod

1999 | EAST REGIONAL SEED: #1

First Round 3/12 Charlotte, N.C. Florida A&M^{16E} W 99-58 17 - Brand
 Second Round 3/14 Charlotte, N.C. Tulsa^{9E} W 97-56 19 - Avery
 Reg. Semifinal 3/19 E. Rutherford, N.J. Missouri State^{12E} W 78-61 24 - Langdon
 Reg. Final 3/21 E. Rutherford, N.J. Temple^{16E} W 85-64 23 - Langdon
 Nat. Semifinal 3/27 St. Petersburg, Fla. Michigan State^{11W} W 68-62 18 - Brand
 Nat. Final 3/29 St. Petersburg, Fla. Connecticut^{11W} L 74-77 25 - Langdon

2000 | EAST REGIONAL SEED: #1

First Round 3/17 Winston-Salem, N.C. Lamar^{16E} W 82-55 18 - Williams
 Second Round 3/19 Winston-Salem, N.C. Kansas^{9E} W 69-64 21 - Battier
 Reg. Semifinal 3/24 Syracuse, N.Y. Florida^{15E} L 78-87 20 - Battier

2001 | EAST REGIONAL SEED: #1 | NATIONAL CHAMPION

First Round 3/15 Greensboro, N.C. Monmouth^{16E} W 95-52 22 - Williams
 Second Round 3/17 Greensboro, N.C. Missouri^{19E} W 94-81 31 - Williams
 Reg. Semifinal 3/22 Philadelphia, Pa. UCLA^{14E} W 76-63 34 - Williams
 Reg. Final 3/24 Philadelphia, Pa. Southern Cal^{16E} W 79-69 28 - Williams
 Nat. Semifinal 3/31 Minneapolis, Minn. Maryland^{11W} W 95-84 25 - Battier
 Nat. Final 4/2 Minneapolis, Minn. Arizona^{21W} W 82-72 21 - Dunleavy

2002 | SOUTH REGIONAL SEED: #1

First Round 3/14 Greenville, S.C. Winthrop^{16S} W 84-37 19 - two players
 Second Round 3/16 Greenville, S.C. Notre Dame^{15S} W 84-77 18 - two players
 Reg. Semifinal 3/21 Lexington, Ky. Indiana^{15S} L 73-74 19 - Boozer

2003 | WEST REGIONAL SEED: #3

First Round 3/20 Salt Lake City, Utah Colorado State^{14W} W 67-57 23 - Jones
 Second Round 3/22 Salt Lake City, Utah Central Michigan^{11W} W 86-60 28 - Jones
 Reg. Semifinal 3/27 Anaheim, Calif. Kansas^{21W} L 65-69 23 - Jones

2004 | ATLANTA (SOUTH) REGIONAL SEED: #1

First Round 3/18 Raleigh, N.C. Alabama State^{16S} W 96-61 20 - Randolph
 Second Round 3/20 Raleigh, N.C. Seton Hall^{16S} W 90-62 21 - Redick
 Reg. Semifinal 3/26 Atlanta, Ga. Illinois^{14S} W 72-62 18 - Deng
 Reg. Final 3/28 Atlanta, Ga. Xavier^{7S} W 66-63 19 - Deng
 Nat. Semifinal 4/3 San Antonio, Texas Connecticut^{21W} L 78-79 16 - Deng

2005 | AUSTIN (SOUTH) REGIONAL SEED: #1

First Round 3/18 Charlotte, N.C. Delaware State^{16S} W 57-46 14 - Williams
 Second Round 3/20 Charlotte, N.C. Mississippi State^{15S} W 63-55 22 - Ewing
 Reg. Semifinal 3/26 Austin, Texas Michigan State^{15S} L 68-78 19 - Williams

NCAA Tournament Results

2006 | ATLANTA (SOUTH) REGIONAL SEED: #1

First Round	3/16	Greensboro, N.C.	Southern ^{65S}	W	70-54	29 - two players
Second Round	3/18	Greensboro, N.C.	George Washington ^{85S}	W	74-61	20 - Redick
Reg. Semifinal	3/23	Atlanta, Ga.	LSU ^{45S}	L	54-62	23 - Williams

2007 | BUFFALO (WEST) REGIONAL SEED: #6

First Round	3/15	Buffalo, N.Y.	VCU TM	L	77-79	25 - Paulus
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2008 | WEST REGIONAL SEED: #2

First Round	3/20	Washington, D.C.	Belmont ^{5W}	W	71-70	21 - Henderson
Second Round	3/22	Washington, D.C.	West Virginia TM	L	67-73	18 - Henderson

2009 | EAST REGIONAL SEED: #2

First Round	3/19	Greensboro, N.C.	Binghamton ^{5E}	W	86-62	15 - Scheyer
Second Round	3/21	Greensboro, N.C.	Texas ^{7E}	W	74-69	24 - Henderson
Reg. Semifinal	3/26	Boston, Mass.	Villanova ^{3E}	L	54-77	15 - Singler

2010 | SOUTH REGIONAL SEED: #1 | NATIONAL CHAMPION

First Round	3/19	Jacksonville, Fla.	Arkansas Pine-Bluff ^{65S}	W	74-44	22 - Singler
Second Round	3/21	Jacksonville, Fla.	California ^{85S}	W	68-53	20 - Smith
Reg. Semifinal	3/26	Houston, Texas	Purdue ^{45S}	W	70-57	24 - Singler
Reg. Final	3/28	Houston, Texas	Baylor ^{35S}	W	78-71	29 - Smith
Nat. Semifinal	4/3	Indianapolis, Ind.	West Virginia ^{3E}	W	78-57	23 - Scheyer
Nat. Final	4/5	Indianapolis, Ind.	Butler ^{5W}	W	61-59	19 - Singler

2011 | WEST REGIONAL SEED: #1

Second Round	3/18	Charlotte, N.C.	Hampton ^{6W}	W	87-45	14 - Irving
Third Round	3/20	Charlotte, N.C.	Michigan ^{8W}	W	73-71	24 - Smith
Reg. Semifinal	3/24	Anaheim, Calif.	Arizona ^{3W}	L	77-93	28 - Irving

2012 | SOUTH REGIONAL SEED: #2

Second Round	3/16	Greensboro, N.C.	Lehigh ^{55S}	L	70-75	19 - two players
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2013 | MIDWEST REGIONAL SEED: #2

Second Round	3/22	Philadelphia, Pa.	Albany ^{5MW}	W	73-61	26 - Curry
Third Round	3/24	Philadelphia, Pa.	Creighton ^{7MW}	W	66-50	21 - Sulaimon
Reg. Semifinal	3/29	Indianapolis, Ind.	Michigan State ^{3MW}	W	71-61	29 - Curry
Reg. Final	3/31	Indianapolis, Ind.	Louisville ^{1MW}	L	63-85	17 - Plumlee

2014 | MIDWEST REGIONAL SEED: #3

Second Round	3/21	Raleigh, N.C.	Mercer ^{4MW}	L	71-78	23 - Cook
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2015 | SOUTH REGIONAL SEED: #1 | NATIONAL CHAMPION

Second Round	3/20	Charlotte, N.C.	Robert Morris ^{65S}	W	85-56	22 - Cook
Third Round	3/22	Charlotte, N.C.	San Diego State ^{85S}	W	68-49	26 - Okafor
Reg. Semifinal	3/27	Houston, Texas	Utah ^{55S}	W	63-57	21 - Winslow
Reg. Final	3/29	Houston, Texas	Gonzaga ^{25S}	W	66-52	16 - two players
Nat. Semifinal	4/4	Indianapolis, Ind.	Michigan State ^{7E}	W	81-61	19 - Winslow
Nat. Final	4/6	Indianapolis, Ind.	Wisconsin TM	W	68-63	23 - T. Jones

2016 | WEST REGIONAL SEED: #4

First Round	3/17	Providence, R.I.	UNC Wilmington ^{3W}	W	93-85	23 - two players
Second Round	3/19	Providence, R.I.	Yale ^{2W}	W	71-64	29 - Allen
Reg. Semifinal	3/24	Anaheim, Calif.	Oregon TM	L	68-82	24 - Ingram

2017 | EAST REGIONAL SEED: #2

First Round	3/17	Greenville, S.C.	Troy ^{5E}	W	87-65	21 - Allen
Second Round	3/19	Greenville, S.C.	South Carolina ^{7E}	L	81-88	20 - Allen

2018 | MIDWEST REGIONAL SEED: #2

First Round	3/15	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Iona ^{5MW}	W	89-67	22 - Bagley
Second Round	3/17	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Rhode Island ^{2MW}	W	87-62	22 - Bagley
Reg. Semifinal	3/23	Omaha, Neb.	Syracuse ^{1MW}	W	69-65	22 - Bagley
Reg. Final	3/25	Omaha, Neb.	Kansas ^{1MW}	Lot	65-69	20 - Duval

2019 | EAST REGIONAL SEED: #1

First Round	3/24	Columbia, S.C.	North Dakota State ^{6E}	W	85-62	26 - Barrett
Second Round	3/26	Columbia, S.C.	UCF ^{9E}	W	77-76	32 - Williamson
Reg. Semifinal	3/29	Washington, D.C.	Virginia Tech ^{4E}	W	75-73	23 - Williamson
Reg. Final	3/31	Washington, D.C.	Michigan State ^{2E}	L	67-68	24 - Williamson

2020

The 2020 NCAA Tournament was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic

2022 | WEST REGIONAL SEED: #2

First Round	3/18	Greenville, S.C.	Cal State Fullerton ^{5W}	W	78-61	17 - Banchemo
Second Round	3/20	Greenville, S.C.	Michigan State TM	W	85-76	19 - Banchemo
Reg. Semifinal	3/24	San Francisco, Calif.	Texas Tech ^{3W}	W	78-73	22 - Banchemo
Reg. Final	3/26	San Francisco, Calif.	Arkansas ^{4W}	W	78-69	18 - Griffin



Tyus Jones earned Final Four Most Outstanding Player honors in 2015 after scoring a game-high 23 points in the championship game.

NCAA Tournament Breakdown

DUKE VS. OPPONENTS IN THE NCAA TOURNAMENT

Alabama State	1-0
Albany	1-0
Arizona	1-1
Arkansas	2-1
Arkansas Pine-Bluff	1-0
Baylor	1-0
Belmont	1-0
Binghamton	1-0
Boston College	0-1
Boston University	1-0
Butler	1-0
California	1-1
Cal State Fullerton	1-0
Campbell	1-0
UCF	1-0
Central Michigan	1-0
Colorado State	1-0
Connecticut	3-2
Creighton	1-0
Delaware State	1-0
DePaul	1-0
Eastern Michigan	0-1
Florida	1-1
Florida A&M	1-0
George Washington	1-0
Georgetown	1-0
Gonzaga	1-0
Hampton	1-0
Illinois	1-0
Indiana	1-2
Iona	1-0
Iowa	2-0
Kansas	3-3
Kentucky	2-3
Lamar	1-0
Lehigh	0-1
Louisiana-Monroe	1-0
LSU	0-1
Louisville	0-2
Loyola-Chicago	0-1
Marquette	1-0
Maryland	1-0
Mercer	0-1
Michigan	3-0
Michigan State	5-2
Minnesota	1-0
Mississippi State	1-0
Mississippi Valley State	1-0
Missouri	1-0
Missouri State	1-0
Monmouth	1-0
Murray State	1-0
Navy	1-0
UNLV	1-1
New York Univ.	1-1
North Carolina	0-0
North Dakota State	1-0
Notre Dame	2-0
Oklahoma State	1-0
Old Dominion	1-0
Oregon	0-1
Oregon State	1-0
Pennsylvania	2-0

DUKE VS. CONFERENCES IN THE NCAA TOURNAMENT

America East	3-0
American	1-0
Atlantic Coast	3-0
Atlantic 10	8-0
A-Sun	1-1
Big East	10-8
Big Eight	2-1
Big South	3-0
Big Ten	16-5
Big 12	6-2
Big West	2-1
Colonial	3-1
East Coast	3-0
ECAC	1-0
Great Midwest	1-0
Horizon League	2-0
Independents	6-4
Ivy League	4-0
MAAC	1-0
Metro	0-1
Texas	1-0
Mid-American	1-1

Mideastern	4-0
Missouri Valley	3-0
Mountain West	2-0
Northeast	2-0
Ohio Valley	1-0
Patriot	0-1
Pac-12	7-5
Southeastern	6-7
Southwest	3-0
Southwestern Athletic	5-0
Summit	1-0
Sun Belt	2-0
West Coast	2-0
Western Athletic	2-0
Yankee	1-0

Note: Conference based on what league opponent was in at the time of the game

DUKE RECORD BY STATE IN THE NCAA TOURNAMENT

California	2-3
Colorado	1-1
District of Columbia	2-2
Florida	6-2
Georgia	4-1
Houston	2-0
Illinois	1-1
Indiana	10-2
Kentucky	4-3
Louisiana	0-0
Maryland	3-1
Michigan	2-0
Minnesota	6-0
Missouri	2-3
Nebraska	1-1
New Jersey	10-0
New York	1-3

North Carolina	34-6
Ohio	0-1
Pennsylvania	8-0
Rhode Island	4-0
South Carolina	7-1
Tennessee	2-0
Texas	6-4
Utah	2-0
Washington	0-2

DUKE IN THE NCAA TOURNAMENT

NCAA Tournament Appearances	44th in 2022
National Championships	5
Championship Game Appearances	11
Final Four Appearances	17th in 2022
Elite Eight Appearances	23rd in 2022
Sweet 16 Appearances	28th in 2022
Times Advanced in NCAA Tournament	37
Overall NCAA Tournament Record	118-38 (.756)
As an at-large bid	51-19 (.729)
As an automatic bid	67-19 (.779)
NCAA Record under Krzyzewski	101-30 (.771)

AS A PARTICIPANT (INCLUDES FINAL FOUR GAMES)

Out of East Region	58-16 (.783)
Out of South Region*	25-6 (.807)
Out of Southeast Region	6-3 (.667)
Out of Mideast Region	2-1 (.667)
Out of Midwest Region	16-6 (.727)
Out of West Region	11-6 (.647)

* - will consider the 2004/2006 Atlanta Region and the 2005 Austin Region the South Region

BY DECADE

1950-59	0-1 (.000)
1960-69	11-4 (.733)
1970-79	4-2 (.667)
1980-89	18-7 (.720)
1990-99	32-7 (.821)
2000-09	23-9 (.719)
2010-19	26-8 (.765)
2020-present	4-0 (1.000)

NCAA APPEARANCES (44)

1955, 1960, 1963, 1964, 1966, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022

* The 2020 NCAA Tournament was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic

NCAA TITLES (5)

1991, 1992, 2001, 2010, 2015

TITLE GAME APPEARANCES (11)

1964, 1978, 1986, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1999, 2001, 2010, 2015

FINAL FOUR APPEARANCES (17)

1963, 1964, 1966, 1978, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2010, 2015, 2022

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (17)

1963 (East), 1964 (East), 1966 (East), 1978 (East), 1986 (East), 1988 (East), 1989 (East), 1990 (East), 1991 (Midwest), 1992 (East), 1994 (Southeast), 1999 (East), 2001 (East), 2004 (Atlanta/South), 2010 (South), 2015 (South), 2022 (West)

ELITE EIGHT APPEARANCES (23)

1960, 1963, 1964, 1966, 1978, 1980, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2022

SWEET 16 APPEARANCES (28)

1978, 1980, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2022

Sweet 16 records begin in 1975

TIMES AS A NUMBER ONE SEED (14)

1986	5-1
1992	6-0
1998	3-1
1999	5-1
2000	2-1
2001	6-0
2002	2-1
2004	4-1
2005	2-1
2006	2-1
2010	6-0
2011	2-1
2015	6-0
2019	3-1
14 Times	54-10 (.844)

DUKE NCAA TOURNAMENT SEED GRID

Opp.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Total
1	3-1	5-4	2-0	5-1	3-4	3-0	3-0	9-0	5-0	--	--	2-0	--	--	--	14-0	54-10
2	4-3	--	4-2	2-0	--	1-1	8-2	--	--	0-2	4-0	--	--	--	11-1	--	34-11
3	1-1	0-1	--	1-0	--	1-2	1-0	--	--	--	1-1	--	--	4-1	--	--	9-6
4	1-1	--	--	--	--	0-1	--	--	--	--	--	2-0	1-0	--	--	--	4-2
5	0-1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-0	1-0	--	--	--	2-1
6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0-1	--	--	--	--	--	0-1
7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0-0
8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0-1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0-1
Totals	9-7	5-5	6-2	8-1	3-4	5-4	12-2	9-0	5-1	0-2	5-2	5-0	2-0	4-1	11-1	14-0	103-31

NCAA seeding process began in 1979

NCAA Tournament Records - Game

TEAM

MOST POINTS SCORED

Duke	vs. Southern Illinois, 3/18/1993	105
Opp	2x; last by Kentucky, 3/28/1992	103

FEWEST POINTS SCORED

Duke	vs. Pennsylvania, 3/8/1980	52
Opp	by Winthrop, 3/14/2002	37

LARGEST VICTORY MARGIN

Duke	vs. Connecticut, 3/14/1964	[101-54] 47
	vs. Winthrop, 3/14/2002	[84-37] 47
Opp	by UNLV, 4/2/1990	[103-73] 30

LARGEST HALFTIME MARGIN

Duke	vs. Winthrop, 3/14/2002	[52-15] 37
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MOST FIELD GOALS MADE

Duke	2x; last vs. Louisiana-Monroe, 3/14/1991	43
Opp	by Kentucky, 3/27/1978	39

MOST FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS

Duke	vs. Loyola-Chicago, 3/22/1963	82
Opp	by Oregon State, 3/23/1963	87

HIGHEST FIELD GOAL PCT.

Duke	vs. Southern Illinois, 3/18/1993	[36-57] .632
Opp	by Washington, 3/18/1984	[31-44] .705

FEWEST FIELD GOALS MADE

Duke	2x; last vs. Villanova, 3/26/2009	16
Opp	2x; by Creighton, 3/24/2013	16

FEWEST FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS

Duke	vs. Texas A&M, 3/12/1987	36
Opp	by Mercer, 3/21/2014	45

MOST 3-POINT FIELD GOALS

Duke	vs. Monmouth, 3/15/2001	18
Opp	vs. Kansas, 3/25/2018	13

MOST 3-POINT ATTEMPTS

Duke	vs. Monmouth, 3/15/2001	38
Opp	vs. Kansas, 3/25/2018	36

HIGHEST 3-POINT PCT.

Duke	vs. Southern Illinois, 3/18/1993	[14-19] .737
Opp	by Arizona, 3/24/2011	[9-15] .600

MOST FREE THROWS MADE

Duke	vs. Seton Hall, 3/20/2004	34
Opp	by South Carolina, 3/19/2017	27

MOST FREE THROW ATTEMPTS

Duke	vs. UNC Wilmington, 3/17/2016	43
Opp	by Villanova, 3/8/1955	42

HIGHEST FREE THROW PCT.

Duke	vs. Michigan State, 3/29/2013	[24-26] .923
	vs. Mercer, 3/21/2014	[12-13] .923
Opp	by Arkansas, 3/26/2022	[11-11] 1.000

Minimum 10 free throws attempted

MOST REBOUNDS

Duke	vs. Connecticut, 3/14/1964	60
Opp	by Oregon State, 3/23/1963	54

MOST ASSISTS

Duke	vs. Robert Morris, 3/20/2015	28
Opp	by UCLA, 3/21/1964	22

MOST STEALS

Duke	4x; last vs. UCLA, 3/22/2001	17
Opp	by UNLV, 4/2/1990	16

MOST BLOCKED SHOTS

Duke	vs. Temple, 3/26/1988	11
Opp	by Iowa, 3/21/1992	10

INDIVIDUAL

POINTS

1.	Jeff Mullins vs. Villanova, 3/13/1964	43
2.	Danny Ferry vs. Seton Hall, 4/1/1989	34
	Jason Williams vs. UCLA, 3/22/2001	34
4.	Bobby Hurley vs. California, 3/20/1993	32
	Zion Williamson vs. UCF, 3/24/2019	32
6.	Kevin Strickland vs. SMU, 3/19/1988	31
	Christian Laettner vs. Kentucky, 3/28/1992	31
	Jason Williams vs. Missouri, 3/17/2001	31

FIELD GOALS MADE

1.	Jeff Mullins vs. Villanova, 3/13/1964	19
2.	Jeff Mullins vs. Connecticut, 3/14/1964	14
3.	Mike Gminski vs. Notre Dame, 3/25/1978	13
	Johnny Dawkins vs. Navy, 3/23/1986	13
	Danny Ferry vs. Seton Hall, 4/1/1989	13

FIELD GOALS ATTEMPTED

1.	Art Heyman vs. Loyola-Chicago, 3/22/1963	30
2.	Danny Ferry vs. Seton Hall, 4/1/1989	29
3.	Jeff Mullins vs. Villanova, 3/13/1964	28
4.	Jack Marin vs. Utah, 3/19/1966	26
	Jason Williams vs. Southern Cal, 3/24/2001	26

FIELD GOAL PCT.

1.	Christian Laettner vs. Kentucky, 3/28/1992	[10-10] 1.000
2.	Marshall Plumlee vs. UNC Wilmington, 3/17/2016	[9-10] .900
3.	Johnny Dawkins vs. Old Dominion, 3/15/1986	[10-12] .833
4.	Mason Plumlee vs. Albany, 3/22/2013	[9-11] .818
	Jahlil Okafor vs. Robert Morris, 3/20/2015	[9-11] .818

Minimum 10 field goal attempts

3-POINT FIELD GOALS MADE

1.	Quinn Cook vs. Mercer, 3/21/2014	7
2.	Phil Henderson vs. UCLA, 3/22/1990	6
	Bobby Hurley vs. Indiana, 4/4/1992	6
	Bobby Hurley vs. Southern Illinois, 3/18/1993	6
	Bobby Hurley vs. California, 3/20/1993	6
	Jason Williams vs. UCLA, 3/22/2001	6
	Jason Williams vs. Monmouth, 3/15/2001	6
	Seth Curry vs. Michigan State, 3/29/2013	6
	Quinn Cook vs. Robert Morris, 3/20/2015	6

3-POINT FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS

1.	Bobby Hurley vs. California, 3/20/1993	18
2.	Jason Williams vs. UCLA, 3/22/2001	13
3.	Jason Williams vs. Missouri, 3/17/2001	12
	J.J. Redick vs. Alabama State, 3/18/2004	12
	Rasheed Sulaimon vs. Mercer, 3/21/2014	12

3-POINT FIELD GOAL PCT.

1.	Bobby Hurley vs. Southern Illinois, 3/18/1993	[6-7] .857
2.	Trajan Langdon vs. Temple, 3/21/1999	[5-6] .833
3.	Jeff Capel vs. Providence, 3/16/1997	[4-5] .800
	Trevon Duval vs. Iowa, 3/15/2018	[4-5] .800
5.	J.J. Redick vs. Central Michigan, 3/22/2003	[5-7] .714
	Grayson Allen vs. Yale, 3/19/2016	[5-7] .714
	Tre Jones vs. Virginia Tech, 3/29/2019	[5-7] .714

Minimum five three-point field goal attempts

FREE THROWS MADE

1.	Grayson Allen vs. UNC Wilmington, 3/17/2016	15
2.	Jim Spanarkel vs. Notre Dame, 3/25/1978	12
	Christian Laettner vs. Kansas, 4/1/1991	12
	Shane Battier vs. Missouri, 3/17/2001	12
	Rasheed Sulaimon vs. Michigan State, 3/29/2013	12

FREE THROWS ATTEMPTED

1.	Grayson Allen vs. UNC Wilmington, 3/17/2016	17
2.	Art Heyman vs. St. Joseph's, 3/16/1963	15
3.	Art Heyman vs. New York, 3/15/1963	14
	David Henderson vs. Pepperdine, 3/15/1985	14
	Shelden Williams vs. Delaware State, 3/18/2005	14
	Rasheed Sulaimon vs. Michigan State, 3/29/2013	14

FREE THROW PCT.

1.	Jim Spanarkel vs. Notre Dame, 3/25/1978	[12-12] 1.000
	Christian Laettner vs. Kansas, 4/1/1991	[12-12] 1.000
	Christian Laettner vs. Kentucky, 3/28/1992	[10-10] 1.000
	Shelden Williams vs. George Washington, 3/18/2006	[9-9] 1.000
	Jon Scheyer vs. West Virginia, 3/22/2008	[9-9] 1.000
	Bobby Hurley vs. California, 3/20/1993	[8-8] 1.000
	Luke Kennard vs. South Carolina, 3/19/2017	[8-8] 1.000

Minimum eight made free throws

REBOUNDS

1.	Jay Buckley vs. St. Joseph's, 3/16/1963	18
	Shelden Williams vs. Southern, 3/16/2006	18
3.	Jay Buckley vs. New York Univ., 3/15/1963	16
4.	Mike Lewis vs. St. Joseph's, 3/11/1966	15
	Jack Marin vs. St. Joseph's, 3/11/1966	15
	Elton Brand vs. Michigan State, 3/27/1999	15
	Shelden Williams vs. Mississippi State, 3/20/2005	15
	Amile Jefferson vs. South Carolina, 3/19/2017	15

ASSISTS

1.	Quinn Snyder vs. SMU, 3/19/1988	12
2.	Quinn Cook vs. Albany, 3/22/2013	11
	RJ Barrett vs. Virginia Tech, 3/29/2019	11
4.	Bobby Hurley vs. Campbell, 3/19/1992	10
	Bobby Hurley vs. Kentucky, 3/28/1992	10
6.	Chris Duhon vs. Monmouth, 3/15/2001	9
	Jason Williams vs. Missouri, 3/17/2001	9
	Grayson Allen vs. Iowa, 3/15/2018	9

STEALS

1.	Grant Hill vs. California, 3/20/1993	8
2.	Tommy Amaker vs. Old Dominion, 3/15/1986	7
	Tommy Amaker vs. Louisville, 3/31/1986	7
4.	Phil Henderson vs. Richmond, 3/16/1990	6
	Grant Hill vs. Iowa, 3/16/1991	6
	Chris Duhon vs. Central Michigan, 3/22/03	6

BLOCKED SHOTS

1.	Shane Battier vs. Kansas, 3/19/2000	8
2.	Mike Gminski vs. Pennsylvania, 3/17/1978	7
	Shelden Williams vs. George Washington, 3/18/2006	7
4.	Amile Jefferson vs. South Carolina, 3/19/2017	6
5.	Cherokee Parks vs. Marquette, 3/24/1994	5
	Elton Brand vs. Missouri State, 3/19/1999	5
	Casey Sanders vs. Colorado State, 3/20/2003	5
	Casey Sanders vs. Kansas, 3/27/2003	5
	Shelden Williams vs. Xavier, 3/28/04	5
	Josh McRoberts vs. VCU, 3/15/2007	5
	Marshall Plumlee vs. Yale, 3/19/2016	5
	Mark Williams vs. Cal State Fullerton, 3/18/22	5
	Mark Williams vs. Michigan State, 3/20/2022	5

MINUTES PLAYED

1.	Bobby Hurley vs. Kentucky, 3/28/1992	45
	Grayson Allen vs. Kansas, 3/25/2018	45
3.	Gary Trent, Jr. vs. Kansas, 3/25/2018	44
	Marvin Bagley III vs. Kansas, 3/25/2018	44
5.	Bobby Hurley vs. Connecticut, 3/24/1990	43
	Christian Laettner vs. Kentucky, 3/28/1992	43
	Trevon Duval vs. Kansas, 3/25/2018	43

NCAA Tournament Records - Career

POINTS

Rk	Player, Years	Pts
1.	Christian Laettner, 1989-92	407
2.	Shane Battier, 1998-01	278
3.	Danny Ferry, 1986-89 Grant Hill, 1991-94	269
5.	Jason Williams, 2000-02	243
6.	Bobby Hurley, 1990-93	239
7.	Phil Henderson, 1988-91	233
8.	J.J. Redick, 2003-06	223
9.	Johnny Dawkins, 1983-86	214
10.	Kyle Singler, 2008-11	209

SCORING AVERAGE

Rk	Name, Years	G	Pts	Avg
1.	Jeff Mullins, 1962-64	8	200	25.0
2.	Johnny Dawkins, 1983-86	9	214	23.8
3.	Jason Williams, 2000-02	12	243	20.3
4.	Mike Gminski, 1977-80	9	178	19.8
5.	Christian Laettner, 1989-92	23	407	17.7
6.	Gene Banks, 1978-80	9	153	17.0
7.	Roshown McLeod, 1997-98	6	97	16.2
8.	J.J. Redick, 2003-06 Mark Alarie, 1983-86	14	223	15.9
10.	Jack Marin, 1964-66	8	122	15.3

Minimum 6 games played

FIELD GOALS MADE

Rk	Player, Years	FG
1.	Christian Laettner, 1989-92	128
2.	Grant Hill, 1991-94	103
3.	Danny Ferry, 1986-89	101
4.	Shane Battier, 1998-01	88
5.	Phil Henderson, 1988-91 Johnny Dawkins, 1983-86	86

FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS

Rk	Player, Years	FGA
1.	Danny Ferry, 1986-89	218
2.	Christian Laettner, 1989-92	213
3.	Jason Williams, 2000-02	207
4.	Grant Hill, 1991-94	196
5.	Phil Henderson, 1988-90	193

FIELD GOAL PCT.

Rk	Name, Years	FG	FGA	Pct
1.	Mason Plumlee, 2010-13	46	65	.708
2.	Kenny Dennard, 1978-80	28	43	.651
3.	Carlos Boozer, 2000-02	47	75	.627
4.	Elton Brand, 1998-99	55	88	.625
5.	Alaa Abdelnaby, 1987-90	63	102	.618
6.	Christian Laettner, 1989-92	128	213	.601

Minimum 25 field goals made

3-POINT FIELD GOALS MADE

Rk	Player, Years	3FG
1.	Bobby Hurley, 1990-93	42
2.	J.J. Redick, 2003-06	39
3.	Jason Williams, 2000-02	36
4.	Trajan Langdon, 1995-99 Daniel Ewing, 2002-05	28

3-POINT FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS

Rk	Player, Years	3FGA
1.	J.J. Redick, 2003-06	115
2.	Jason Williams, 2000-02	112
3.	Bobby Hurley, 1990-93	96
4.	Shane Battier, 1998-01	73
5.	Grayson Allen, 2015-18	71

3-POINT FIELD GOAL PCT.

Rk	Name, Years	3FG	3FGA	Pct
1.	William Avery, 1998-99	20	37	.541
2.	Jeff Capel, 1994-97	19	38	.500
3.	Daniel Ewing, 2002-05	28	61	.459
4.	Bobby Hurley, 1990-93	42	96	.438
5.	Kyle Singler, 2008-11	25	61	.410
6.	Chris Collins, 1993-96 Trajan Langdon, 1995-97 Nolan Smith, 2008-11 Seth Curry, 2011-13	16	40	.400

Minimum 15 three-point field goals made

FREE THROWS MADE

Rk	Player, Years	FT
1.	Christian Laettner, 1989-92	142
2.	Shane Battier, 1998-01	75
3.	Shelden Williams, 2003-06	67
4.	Bobby Hurley, 1990-93	59
5.	Danny Ferry, 1986-89	57

FREE THROWS ATTEMPTED

Rk	Player, Years	FTA
1.	Christian Laettner, 1989-92	167
2.	Shane Battier, 1998-01	91
3.	Shelden Williams, 2003-06	86
4.	Grant Hill, 1991-94	83
5.	Brian Davis, 1989-92	82

FREE THROW PCT.

Rk	Name, Years	FT	FTA	Pct
1.	Mark Alarie, 1983-86	37	43	.860
2.	Mike Gminski, 1977-80 J.J. Redick, 2003-06	36	42	.857
4.	Christian Laettner, 1989-92	142	167	.850
5.	Grayson Allen, 2015-18	51	61	.836

Minimum 35 free throws made

REBOUNDS (SINCE 1973)

Rk	Player, Years	Reb
1.	Christian Laettner, 1989-92	169
2.	Shelden Williams, 2003-06	144
3.	Shane Battier, 1998-01	135
4.	Grant Hill, 1991-94	134
5.	Danny Ferry, 1986-89	131

REBOUND AVERAGE

Rk	Name, Years	G	Reb	Avg
1.	Jay Buckley, 1962-64	8	95	11.9
2.	Shelden Williams, 2003-06	14	144	10.3
3.	Elton Brand, 1998-99	10	86	8.6
4.	Gene Banks, 1978-81	9	76	8.4
5.	Mike Gminski, 1977-80 Mark Alarie, 1983-86	9	75	8.3

ASSISTS

Rk	Player, Years	Ast
1.	Bobby Hurley, 1990-93	145
2.	Grant Hill, 1991-94	86
3.	Chris Duhon, 2001-04	79
4.	Quin Snyder, 1986-89	69
5.	Jason Williams, 2000-02	66

ASSISTS PER GAME

Rk	Name, Years	G	Ast	Avg
1.	Bobby Hurley, 1990-93	20	145	7.3
2.	Jason Williams, 2000-02	12	66	5.5
3.	Quinn Cook, 2015	5	26	5.2
4.	Tommy Amaker, 1984-87	12	57	4.8
5.	Chris Duhon, 2001-04	17	79	4.7
6.	Quin Snyder, 1986-89 Grant Hill, 1991-94	16	69	4.3
		20	86	4.3

BLOCKED SHOTS

Rk	Player, Years	Blk
1.	Shane Battier, 1998-01	42
2.	Shelden Williams, 2003-06	41
3.	Cherokee Parks, 1992-95	25
4.	Grant Hill, 1991-94 Casey Sanders, 2000-03	23

BLOCKED SHOTS PER GAME

Rk	Name, Years	G	Blk	Avg
1.	Shelden Williams, 2003-06	14	41	2.9
2.	Mike Gminski, 1977-80	9	22	2.4
3.	Shane Battier, 1998-01	19	42	2.2
4.	Cherokee Parks, 1992-95	14	25	1.8
5.	Elton Brand, 1998-99	10	17	1.7

STEALS

Rk	Player, Years	St
1.	Grant Hill, 1991-94	39
2.	Chris Duhon, 2001-04	38
3.	Tommy Amaker, 1984-87	36
4.	Christian Laettner, Duke, 1989-92 Bobby Hurley, 1990-93	32

STEALS PER GAME

Rk	Name, Years	G	Stl	Avg
1.	Tommy Amaker, 1984-89	12	36	3.0
2.	Jason Williams, 2000-03	12	31	2.6
3.	Chris Duhon, 2001-04	17	38	2.2
4.	Grant Hill, 1991-94	20	39	2.0
5.	Daniel Ewing, 2002-05	14	27	1.9

GAMES PLAYED

Rk	Player, Years	GP
1.	Christian Laettner, 1989-92	23
2.	Greg Koubek, 1988-91 Brian Davis, 1989-92	22
4.	Thomas Hill, 1990-93 Bobby Hurley, 1990-93 Grant Hill, 1991-94 Antonio Lang, 1991-94	20

GAMES STARTED

Rk	Player, Years	GS
1.	Christian Laettner, 1989-92	23
2.	Bobby Hurley, 1990-93	20
3.	Chris Duhon, 2001-04	17
4.	Robert Brickey, 1987-90	16
5.	Grant Hill, 1991-94 Chris Carrawell, 1997-00 Shane Battier, 1998-01	15

1991 NCAA Champions

From the beginning, the goal was clear: win the national championship.

Head coach Mike Krzyzewski made no bones about it as he began his 11th season at Duke University. He told his 13 players, assembling in the locker room for the first time in September, that it was their goal.

Leading up to the glory-filled 1990-1991 season were many anxious moments, including a 30-point loss to UNLV at the 1990 NCAA championship game, Krzyzewski being wooed by the Boston Celtics, and a tiring summer which had Coach K leading the USA team (with Christian Laettner and Bobby Hurley) to medal-winning performances at the Goodwill Games and the World Championships.

All of those were memories and lessons as the 1990-91 schedule got underway at the Dodge NIT in mid-November.

Duke rushed out to two quick and decisive victories in Cameron Indoor Stadium. The Blue Devils then headed to the Big Apple and Madison Square Garden, where they faced fellow 1990 Final Four member Arkansas, whom the Blue Devils had defeated to earn a trip to the championship game. This time the Razorbacks turned back Duke and advanced to the title game with a 98-88 win.

The month of December featured a road loss to Georgetown in the ACC/Big East Challenge and a key road victory at 11th-ranked Oklahoma, which snapped the Sooners long home court winning streak. Duke triumphed 90-85 and finished the month with a 10-2 record.

The opening day of the ACC slate had the Blue Devils traveling to 18th-ranked Virginia. The Cavaliers crushed Duke, 81-64, making it time for a re-commitment to the season by the Blue Devils.

Freshman Grant Hill broke his nose at a late night practice session, which caused him to miss the next three ACC games. Duke won all three of those games, thanks in part to the emergence of sophomore Thomas Hill. The 6-4 guard/forward had 22 points in an 89-67 win over Wake Forest and then added 20 more against fifth-ranked North Carolina five days later in Duke's 74-60 victory over the Tar Heels.

The ACC regular season championship came down to the final game against the chief rival - North Carolina. The eighth-ranked Blue Devils hustled out to a 20-point margin in the early parts of the second half. The fourth-ranked Tar Heels came back but could never catch Duke as the Blue Devils posted an 83-77 victory.

A week later, the two squads met again in the ACC Tournament championship game. This time, Carolina triumphed, 96-74, to hand Duke a decisive loss and leave the Blue Devils with a 26-7 record heading into the NCAA Tournament.

It was apparent early that the Blue Devils meant business in their chance to go to Indianapolis. Duke disposed of Northeast Louisiana, Iowa and Connecticut with little resistance leading up to the Midwest Regional title game against Big East member St. John's. Pacing the victory, Hurley earned MVP honors in the region with 20 points in the title game and a remarkable 6.75:1 assist-turnover ratio in the four NCAA games.



Up first in the Final Four was UNLV, a team with a 34-0 record that had rarely been challenged. The fight was on and Duke kept the pressure on the Runnin' Rebels. Finally, it came down to a little over two minutes to play and the Blue Devils down by a 76-71 count.

Hurley connected on a three-pointer when all seemed lost to make it 76-74 with 2:14 to play. Then Duke put on the defensive pressure and UNLV was forced into a shot clock violation. Next, Brian Davis took charge with a driving layup and a foul shot to give Duke a 77-76 lead.

After a Larry Johnson free throw tied the score, the ball landed in Laettner's hands on the offensive side and he was fouled with 12.7 seconds to play. He calmly converted the two charity tosses to give Duke a 79-77 lead which never changed.

Two nights later, in the most famed game of the college basketball season, Duke took the court against Kansas, which had defeated North Carolina in the semifinals.

The fatigued Blue Devils never faltered as Hurley and Grant Hill teamed up for a spectacular alley-oop dunk in the opening minutes to set the tone and Laettner proved steady with a record-setting 12-for-12 performance from the free throw line.

It was a crowning glory to the spectacular season as the Blue Devils brought home the title with a 72-65 victory over the Jayhawks. Laettner earned MVP honors and Hurley averaged 12 points and eight assists in the two games. Sophomore Bill McCaffrey added 16 points in the title game to also earn a slot on the All-Final Four team.

The season was complete, the dream a reality. Duke had won the national championship and along the way captured the ACC regular season crown, a record 16-0 home mark, its eighth straight NCAA appearance, a fourth straight Final Four berth and fifth in the last six years, and Krzyzewski was named the Kodak/NABC National Coach of the Year.

RECORD: 32-7; HOME: 16-0; AWAY: 8-5; NEUTRAL: 8-2

Player	G	MP	FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Reb-Avg	PF-DQ	Ast	TO	BS	St	Pts-Avg
*Laettner	39	1,178	271-471	.575	211-263	.802	340-8.7	111-1	76	121	44	75	771-19.8
McCaffrey	38	941	167-347	.481	84-101	.832	69-1.8	50-0	71	67	4	34	442-11.6
*T. Hill	39	908	164-297	.552	101-136	.743	142-3.6	67-1	51	55	15	59	450-11.5
*Hurley	39	1,353	141-333	.423	83-114	.728	93-2.4	100-4	289	151	3	51	441-11.3
*G. Hill	36	887	160-310	.516	81-133	.609	183-5.1	79-1	79	74	30	51	402-11.2
Davis	39	902	104-228	.456	89-122	.730	158-4.1	83-2	63	60	8	39	298-7.6
*Koubek	38	600	77-177	.435	39-48	.813	110-2.9	67-2	33	29	3	21	225-5.9
Lang	36	426	57-94	.606	40-76	.526	92-2.6	55-1	7	25	28	14	154-4.3
Palmer	38	407	51-79	.646	33-40	.825	77-2.0	69-1	10	28	19	11	135-3.6
Clark	23	104	13-29	.448	20-32	.625	17-0.7	15-0	8	25	2	5	48-2.1
Ast	17	51	12-18	.667	3-4	.750	10-0.6	7-0	0	6	3	0	28-1.6
Buckley	19	93	10-18	.556	7-20	.350	20-1.1	12-0	2	4	1	2	27-1.4
Team	-	-	-	-	-	-	103-2.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Duke	39	7,850	1,227-2,401	.511	791-1,089	.726	1,414-36.3	715-13	689	645	160	362	3,421-87.7
Opps	39	7,850	1,087-2,445	.445	525-792	.663	1,327-34.0	865-na	528	779	111	299	2,864-73.4

• Three-Point Field Goals (176-459, .383): Hurley (76-188, .404); Koubek (32-76, .421); McCaffrey (24-70, .343); T. Hill (21-52, .404); Laettner (18-53, .340); Clark (2-9, .222); G. Hill (1-2, .500); Ast (1-4, .250); Davis (1-5, .200). **Dunks (112):** G. Hill 33; T. Hill 26; Laettner 21; Davis 19; Lang 8; Palmer 6. **Charges Taken (71):** Davis 16; Palmer 14; Hurley 12; T. Hill 10; Laettner 5; Lang 5; McCaffrey 4; G. Hill 2; Koubek 2; Buckley 1.

1990-91 RESULTS

Date	Opponent	Rank	Site	Result
N 14	Marquette	6	-	H1 W 87 74
N 16	Boston College	6	-	H1 W 100 76
N 21	Arkansas	6	2	N1 L 88 98
N 23	Notre Dame	6	-	N1 W 85 77
N 26	East Carolina	6	-	H W 125 82
D 1	Charlotte	8	-	H W 111 94
D 5	Georgetown	5	6	A1 L 74 79
D 8	Michigan	5	-	H W 75 68
D 19	Harvard	9	-	A W 103 61
D 22	Oklahoma	9	11	A W 90 85
D 29	Lehigh	8	-	H W 97 67
J 2	Boston	8	-	H W 109 55
J 5	Virginia	8	18	A L 64 81
J 9	Georgia Tech	14	24	H W 98 57
J 12	Maryland	14	-	A W 94 78
J 14	Wake Forest	14	-	H W 89 67
J 16	The Citadel	12	-	A W 83 50
J 19	North Carolina	12	5	H W 74 60
J 23	NC State	9	-	A L 89 95
J 26	Clemson	9	-	A W 99 70
J 30	Georgia Tech	7	23	A W 77 75
F 2	Notre Dame	7	-	A W 90 77
F 7	Virginia	6	11	H W 86 74
F 9	Maryland	6	-	H W 101 81
F 10	Louisiana State	6	19	H W 88 70
F 13	Davidson	5	-	H W 74 39
F 16	Wake Forest	5	-	A L 77 86
F 20	NC State	7	-	H W 72 65
F 24	Arizona	20T	7	9 A L 96 103
F 27	Clemson	8	-	H W 79 62
M 3	North Carolina	8	4	A W 83 77
M 9	NC State	6	-	N2 W 93 72
M 10	North Carolina	6	7	N2 L 74 96
M 14	Louisiana-Monroe	6	-	N3 W 102 73
M 16	Iowa	6	-	N3 W 85 70
M 22	Connecticut	6	-	N4 W 81 67
M 24	St. John's	6	20	N4 W 78 61
M 30	UNLV	6	1	N5 W 79 77
A 1	Kansas	6	12	N5 W 72 65

H1 - Preseason NIT, Cameron Indoor Stadium, Durham, N.C.

N1 - Preseason NIT, Madison Square Garden, New York, N.Y.

A1 - ACC/Big East Challenge, Capital Centre, Landover, Md.

N2 - ACC Tournament, Charlotte Coliseum, Charlotte, N.C.

N3 - NCAA Tournament, Metrodome, Minneapolis, Minn.

N4 - NCAA Tournament, Pontiac Silverdome, Pontiac, Mich.

N5 - NCAA Final Four, RCA Dome, Indianapolis, Ind.

HONORS & AWARDS

GRANT HILL

- First Team Freshman All-America (Basketball Times)
- Third Team Freshman All-America (Basketball Weekly)
- ACC All-Freshman
- ACC All-Tournament (second team)

THOMAS HILL

- Third Team All-ACC
- All-Region (Basketball Times)
- NCAA Midwest Region All-Tournament Team

BOBBY HURLEY

- Honorable Mention All-America (AP)
- Third Team All-ACC
- All-Region (Basketball Times)
- NCAA All-Final Four Team
- NCAA Midwest Region MVP
- NCAA Midwest Region All-Tournament Team

GREG KOUBEK

- ACC All-Tournament (second team)

CHRISTIAN LAETTNER

- First Team All-America (Basketball Times, Wooden)
- Second Team All-America (AP, UPI, NABC, USBWA)
- NCAA Final Four MVP
- NCAA All-Final Four Team
- NCAA Midwest Region All-Tournament Team
- First Team All-ACC
- ACC All-Tournament (first team)
- USBWA District Player of the Year
- USBWA First Team All-District

BILL MCCAFFREY

- NCAA All-Final Four Team

MIKE KRZYZEWSKI

- National Coach of the Year (NABC)

1992 NCAA Champions

The 1991-1992 Duke men's basketball season preview began this way: "When four starters return to any college basketball team there is always cause for celebration. When the four starters return from a team that captured the national championship the year before, the possibilities seem endless."

With a roster that included ACC Athlete of the Year Christian Laettner, All-ACC guards Bobby Hurley and Thomas Hill, sophomore Grant Hill and four additional returning letterwinners, the Blue Devils were poised to defend their title.

On December 14, Duke faced future NCAA championship opponent Michigan in Ann Arbor. The Blue Devils were 6-0 heading into the night, having swept four of the five previous teams by at least a 25-point margin. After leading by as many as 17 points early in the second half, Duke came back from a two-point deficit when Hurley scored five points in the last two minutes of play to secure an 88-85 victory.

The ACC season started strong, with solid victories over Virginia, Florida State, Maryland, Georgia Tech and N.C. State.

On February 1, 1992, Duke celebrated its 500th win in Cameron Indoor Stadium with a 100-71 blowout against Notre Dame.

The first real challenge of the ACC season came against perennial rival North Carolina on its home court in Chapel Hill. Hurley broke his foot midway through the first half, but played anyway as the ninth-ranked Tar Heels posted a 75-73 upset victory over top-ranked Duke.

As tournament time approached, Duke had only suffered two losses: one to North Carolina and a second against Wake Forest in late February.

Laettner and Brian Davis had won just about every prize imaginable in their four-year Duke careers except one, the ACC championship. Duke recorded wins over Maryland and Georgia Tech to reach the finals. The Blue Devils registered a crushing 94-74 defeat of North Carolina in the 1992 ACC final that brought redemption after the previous year's 22-point loss to UNC in the same game. Laettner left nothing to chance with 25 points, 10 rebounds and seven steals. Five others hit double-figures, including Grant Hill who hit all eight of his shots and added seven assists.

With eight straight trips to NAAs, Final Four berths every year but one since 1986, and the 1991 title securely under its belt, the 1992 Duke squad was looking to make history when it opened the tournament on March 19. Duke, the top-seed in the East Regional, posted wins over Campbell, Iowa and Seton Hall to reach the Elite Eight.

The Blue Devils' Elite Eight matchup against Kentucky on March 28, 1992, saw two of the most famed programs in basketball history take aim at each other. Kentucky did everything possible to dethrone the champions and appeared to have Duke right where it wanted it with 2.1 seconds to play in overtime after Sean Woods drove by Hurley and banked in a one-handed shot over Laettner for a one-point lead.



Then, in a season equally filled with magical moments and overwhelming adversity, a miracle took place. Grant Hill flung the undefended inbound pass to Laettner who leaped to catch the ball over John Pelphrey and Deron Feldhaus. Time seemed to stand still as Laettner faked to his right, turned to his left and lofted an 18-footer that found nothing but net as time expired. The Spectrum crowd erupted as the Duke players jumped on Laettner to celebrate another trip to the Final Four and a 104-103 victory over Kentucky.

Up next was Indiana, an intriguing matchup between the two winningest programs in NCAA Tournament history. The beginning of the second half, which began with Duke trailing by five points, 42-37, turned into one of Duke's finest moments of the season. The Blue Devils reeled off 13 straight points and then made it a 21-3 surge to open the first 10 minutes of the frame to make the score 58-45 in favor of Duke. Free throws by Antonio Lang and Cherokee Parks closed out the 81-78 victory as the Blue Devils headed to the NCAA championship game for the third consecutive season.

The billing Michigan and Duke had entering the Metrodome on April 6th to decide the national champion read: "The Fab Five meets The Victory Tour."

Grant Hill made his first start since February when he was inserted for an injured Davis, scoring 18 points and grabbing 10 rebounds as Duke stumbled out of the blocks but hung tough in trailing by just one at the half, 31-30. The Blue Devils turned up the defensive pressure in the second frame, forcing Michigan into 29 percent shooting from the field and just 20 second-half points.

With 13.5 seconds remaining and a comfortable 20-point cushion, Coach K gave his starters one last curtain call to an incredible season-long journey. A roar echoed through the dome as players exchanged high-fives and hugs to start the celebration of the 71-51 victory.

RECORD: 34-2; HOME: 13-0; AWAY: 11-2; NEUTRAL: 10-0

Player	G	MP	FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Reb-Avg	PF-DO	Ast	TO	BS	St	Pts-Avg
*Laettner	35	1,128	254-442	.575	189-232	.815	275-7.9	90-1	69	116	32	74	751-21.5
*T. Hill	36	1,102	196-367	.534	96-125	.768	121-3.4	75-1	54	50	16	60	525-14.6
*G. Hill	33	1,000	182-298	.611	99-135	.733	187-5.7	91-2	134	80	27	39	463-14.0
*Hurley	31	1,043	123-284	.433	105-133	.789	62-2.0	64-1	237	109	1	35	410-13.2
*Davis	36	1,111	140-291	.481	114-154	.740	163-4.5	82-4	69	53	9	42	402-11.2
Lang	34	763	77-137	.562	65-99	.657	139-4.1	87-1	23	43	10	20	219-6.4
Parks	34	435	60-105	.571	50-69	.725	81-2.4	57-0	13	30	35	5	170-5.0
Clark	34	268	33-61	.541	21-27	.778	27-0.8	26-0	22	21	4	7	99-2.9
Meek	25	143	22-38	.579	18-36	.500	30-1.2	18-1	5	6	5	3	62-2.5
Blakeney	29	175	13-23	.565	13-20	.650	24-0.8	10-0	17	17	0	7	40-1.4
Ast	14	44	5-12	.417	6-9	.667	14-1.0	6-0	2	4	1	1	16-1.1
Burt	19	38	3-11	.273	4-4	1.000	2-0.1	3-0	8	4	1	1	10-0.5
Team	-	-	-	-	-	-	105-2.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Duke	36	7,250	1,108-2,069	.536	780-1,043	.748	1,229-34.1	609-11	653	533	141	294	3,167-88.0
Opps	36	7,250	1,033-2,213	.467	379-583	.650	1,129-31.4	837-na	557	639	115	232	2,615-72.6

• **Three-Point Field Goals (171-394, .434):** Hurley (59-140, .421); Laettner (54-97, .557); T. Hill (37-91, .407); Clark (12-18, .667); Davis (8-39, .205); Blakeney (1-4, .250); G. Hill (0-1, .000); Ast (0-4, .000). **Dunks (146):** G. Hill 48; T. Hill 25; Laettner 21; Davis 18; Lang 16; Parks 12; Clark 4; Meek 2. **Charges Taken (48):** Davis 9; Laettner 8; Lang 7; G. Hill 7; T. Hill 6; Hurley 5; Clark 2; Meek 2; Parks 2.

1991-92 RESULTS

Date	Opponent	Rank	Site	Result
N 25	East Carolina	1 -	H	W 103 75
N 30	Harvard	1 -	H	W 118 65
D 5	St. John's	1 7	N1	W 91 81
D 7	Canisius	1 -	A1	W 96 60
D 14	Michigan	10T 1 18	A	W 88 85
D 30	William & Mary	1 -	H	W 97 61
J 2	Virginia	1 -	A	W 68 62
J 6	Florida State	1 -	H	W 86 70
J 8	Maryland	1 -	A	W 83 66
J 11	Georgia Tech	1 14	H	W 97 84
J 15	NC State	1 -	H	W 110 75
J 18	Charlotte	1 18	H	W 104 82
J 21	Boston	1 -	A	W 95 85
J 25	Wake Forest	1 -	H	W 84 68
J 27	Clemson	1 -	H	W 112 73
J 30	Florida State	1 23	A	W 75 62
F 1	Notre Dame	1 -	H	W 100 71
F 5	North Carolina	1 9	A	L 73 75
F 8	Louisiana State	1 22	A	W 77 67
F 12	Georgia Tech	1 -	A	W 71 62
F 16	NC State	1 -	A	W 71 63
F 20	Maryland	1 -	H	W 91 89
F 23	Wake Forest	1 -	A	L 68 72
F 26	Virginia	1 -	H	W 76 67
M 1	UCLA	1 4	A	W 75 65
M 4	Clemson	1 -	A	W 98 97
M 8	North Carolina	1 16	H	W 89 77
M 13	Maryland	1 -	N2	W 94 87
M 14	Georgia Tech	1 -	N2	W 89 76
M 15	North Carolina	1 20	N2	W 94 74
M 19	Campbell	1 -	N3	W 82 56
M 21	Iowa	1 -	N3	W 75 62
M 26	Seton Hall	1 19	N4	W 81 69
M 28	Kentucky	10T 1 6	N4	W 104 103
A 4	Indiana	1 5	N5	W 81 78
A 6	Michigan	1 15	N5	W 71 51

N1 - ACC/Big East Challenge, Greensboro Coliseum, Greensboro, N.C.

A1 - Memorial Auditorium, Buffalo, NY.

N2 - ACC Tournament, Charlotte Coliseum, Charlotte, N.C.

N3 - NCAA Tournament, Greensboro Col., Greensboro, N.C.

N4 - NCAA Tournament, The Spectrum, Philadelphia, Pa.

N5 - NCAA Final Four - Metrodome, Minneapolis, Minn.

HONORS & AWARDS

BRIAN DAVIS

- ACC All-Tournament (first team)

GRANT HILL

- Second Team All-America (UPI)
- Honorable Mention All-America (AP)
- NCAA All-Final Four Team
- Second Team All-ACC
- ACC All-Tournament (second team)

THOMAS HILL

- Third Team All-ACC

BOBBY HURLEY

- National Player of the Year finalist (Wooden, Eastman)
- First Team All-America (NABC, Wooden)
- Second Team All-America (Basketball Times)
- Third Team All-America (AP, UPI, Basketball Weekly)
- NCAA Final Four MVP
- NCAA East Region All-Tournament Team
- Second Team All-ACC
- ACC All-Tournament (first team)
- USBWA First Team All-District

CHRISTIAN LAETTNER

- National Player of the Year (unanimous)
- First Team All-America (unanimous)
- All-Final Four Team
- East Region MVP
- ACC Player of the Year
- First Team All-ACC
- ACC Tournament MVP
- ACC All-Tournament (first team)
- USBWA District Player of the Year

MIKE KRZYZEWSKI

- National Coach of the Year (Sporting News, Naismith)
- USBWA District Coach of the Year

2001 NCAA Champions

The story of the 2001 championship season began in the spring and summer of 1999. After losing in the 1999 NCAA Final, Duke lost four of its superstars to the NBA, which seemingly depleted the team. But after a successful 2000 campaign, which saw the Blue Devils win the ACC Championship, the team returned in the fall ready to go all the way.

The Blue Devils started off the season hot by winning the Preseason NIT. In the process, Coach K picked up his 500th win at Duke by knocking off Villanova at home. After that game, the Cameron Indoor Stadium floor was officially renamed Coach K Court. Throughout November and December the team continued to roll. The three-point shot proved to be extremely valuable as on any given possession guards Jason Williams and Chris Duhon, or forwards Shane Battier, Mike Dunleavy, and Nate James, could knock down long range jumpers.

In the last game before Christmas break, Duke lined up against Stanford. After leading the whole game, however, the Blue Devils missed free throws in the final seconds. Stanford came down and banked in the winning shot.

After the break, Duke rattled off nine straight wins, including victories over four ranked teams. In that stretch was one of the great games in Duke history. Playing against Maryland at College Park, the Blue Devils found themselves down 89-77 with 1:05 to go in the game. However, James and Williams outscored Maryland 13-1 to send the game to overtime. In the extra session, Battier took over, scoring Duke's last six points and blocking a game-tying shot at the buzzer.

Duke lost its first ACC game of the year against North Carolina, but rebounded and rolled over the next three ACC opponents before losing at the buzzer in Virginia.

Duke's victory over Georgia Tech on Feb. 21 featured the retirement of Battier's #31 jersey. The next game at Wake Forest was special as well, as Duhon came back from an injury in the first half to knock down the game winning shot at the buzzer.

Duke's final home game saw a Maryland team looking for a settling of scores after the Blue Devils' last-minute antics in College Park. Duke led 60-51 with 15:30 left in the second half, but with just under 10 minutes remaining, Carlos Boozer fractured his right foot and Duke watched as Maryland posted a 91-80 win on senior day.

In the season finale in Chapel Hill, the Blue Devils came out firing as their new offense surprised UNC. With Duhon and sophomore Casey Sanders now starting, the Devils ran North Carolina into the ground, 95-85.



In the ACC Tournament, Duke ran over NC State to set up a third meeting with Maryland. At the end of another intense game, James' tap-in at the buzzer gave Duke an 84-82 win. The Blue Devils headed to the finals to face North Carolina once again. In a repeat performance, Duke took a 50-30 halftime lead and ran away with a victory and the ACC Championship.

The NCAA Tournament campaign started out well as the Blue Devils easily rolled over Monmouth and topped a Missouri team coached by former Blue Devil star Quin Snyder.

As Duke moved onto the Sweet 16 in Philadelphia to play UCLA, the whole team was back in action. A recovered Boozer came in during the first half and helped spark a 12-0 run. In the second half, Williams scored 19 straight points for the Blue Devils to propel the team to a tough 76-63 victory.

Facing USC in the regional final game, Duhon's clutch three-point shooting in the second half proved to be the key as Duke moved on to the Final Four, beating the Trojans 79-69.

The stage was set in Minneapolis for Duke to battle the Terrapins for the fourth time in a little over two months. Duke trailed by as many as 22 points in the first half before shaking off an 11-point deficit at halftime to complete the biggest comeback in NCAA Tournament semifinal history. Duke took the lead with Williams' three-pointer, 73-72, with under seven minutes to go in the game, closing out the game 95-84 to advance to the title game.

Only one game remained. Inside the Metrodome on April 2, Duke took on fifth-ranked Arizona. The game was a back-and-forth affair throughout, with Duke riding the all-around play of Battier and three-point shooting of Dunleavy for an 82-72 victory.

Battier played all 40 minutes, scoring 18 points, grabbing 11 rebounds and handing out six assists. Dunleavy led Duke with 21 points, including a career-high five three-pointers, while Boozer registered a double-double with 12 points and 12 rebounds.

With its 82-72 victory, Duke became the first No.1 ranked team to win the national championship since UCLA in 1995.

RECORD: 35-4; HOME: 13-2; AWAY: 8-1; NEUTRAL: 14-1

Player	G	MP	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Pct	Reb-Avg	PF-DQ	Ast	TO	BS	St	Pts-Avg	
*Williams	39	1,240	285-603	.473	139-211	.659	128-3.3	87-0	237	154	5	78	841-21.6
*Battier	39	1,363	251-533	.471	152-191	.796	285-7.3	80-3	72	60	88	82	778-19.9
*Boozer	32	820	160-265	.604	105-146	.719	208-6.5	91-2	40	38	28	28	425-13.3
*Dunleavy	39	1,137	184-388	.474	68-98	.694	222-5.7	81-1	103	80	15	53	493-12.6
*James	39	1,085	161-326	.494	115-144	.799	202-5.2	78-0	42	63	8	62	480-12.3
Duhon	39	1,085	92-217	.424	52-80	.650	124-3.2	65-0	174	61	1	77	280-7.2
Sweet	7	79	13-27	.481	2-6	.333	18-2.6	6-0	4	4	1	6	29-4.1
Horvath	6	54	7-23	.304	1-1	1.000	14-2.3	7-0	3	5	3	2	17-2.8
Sanders	35	373	28-60	.467	31-60	.517	63-1.8	72-2	7	21	32	3	87-2.5
Christen.	30	253	17-29	.586	14-32	.438	70-2.3	62-3	3	16	8	10	48-1.6
Love	21	130	9-17	.529	10-17	.588	33-1.6	21-1	2	6	6	4	28-1.3
Simpson	22	32	6-18	.333	5-8	.625	11-0.5	2-0	4	6	0	1	20-0.9
Borman	7	17	2-5	.400	1-1	1.000	2-0.3	1-0	1	2	0	0	6-0.9
Buckner	23	83	2-12	.167	1-4	.250	10-0.4	5-0	7	14	1	5	5-0.2
Caldbeck	13	35	0-7	.000	1-3	.333	7-0.5	1-0	2	0	0	0	1-0.1
Team	-	-	-	-	-	-	108-2.8	-	-	1	-	-	-
Duke	39	7,825	1,217-2,530	.481	697-1,002	.696	1,505-38.6	659-12	701	531	196	411	3,538-90.7
Opps	39	7,825	1,028-2,471	.416	487-701	.695	1,461-37.5	848-na	517	752	117	282	2,750-70.5

• **Three-Point Field Goals (407-1057, .385):** Williams (132-309, .427); Battier (124-296, .419); Dunleavy (57-153, .373); Duhon (44-122, .361); James (43-137, .314); Simpson (3-10, .300); Horvath (2-12, .167); Borman (1-3, .333); Sweet (1-5, .200); Love (0-1, .000); Buckner (0-3, .000); Caldbeck (0-6, .000). **Dunks (130):** Boozer 35; James 24; Williams 18; Battier 16; Dunleavy 13; Sanders 10; Christensen 6; Duhon 5; Love 3; Sweet 1. **Charges Taken (58):** Battier 26; Williams 9; Dunleavy 8; James 5; Boozer 3; Duhon 2; Sanders 2; Horvath 1; Love 1; Sweet 1. **Forced Five-Second Calls (7):** Duhon 4; Williams 2; Battier 1.

2000-01 RESULTS

Date	Opponent	Rank	Site	Result
N 14	Princeton	2	- H	W 87 50
N 17	Villanova	2	- H	W 98 85
N 22	Texas	2	- N1	W 95 69
N 24	Temple	2	- N1	W 63 61
N 25	Army West Point	2	- H	W 91 48
N 28	Illinois	1	9 N2	W 78 77
D 2	Temple	1	17 A	W 93 68
D 5	Davidson	1	- H	W 102 60
D 9	Michigan	1	- H	W 104 61
D 19	Portland	1	- N3	W 97 64
D 21	Stanford	1	3 N4	L 83 84
D 30	North Carolina A&T	3	- H	W 108 73
J 4	Florida State	3	- A	W 99 72
J 7	Clemson	3	- H	W 115 74
J 10	NC State	2	- A	W 84 78
J 13	Virginia	2	10 H	W 103 61
J 16	Boston College	2	25 H	W 97 75
J 20	Georgia Tech	2	- A	W 98 77
J 24	Wake Forest	2	9 H	W 85 62
J 27	Maryland	10T	2 8 A	W 98 96
F 1	North Carolina	2	4 H	L 83 85
F 4	Florida State	2	- H	W 100 58
F 7	Clemson	3	- A	W 81 64
F 11	NC State	3	- H	W 101 75
F 14	Virginia	3	12 A	L 89 91
F 18	St. John's	3	- A1	W 91 59
F 21	Georgia Tech	4	- H	W 98 54
F 24	Wake Forest	4	24 A	W 82 80
F 27	Maryland	2	16 H	L 80 91
M 4	North Carolina	2	4 A	W 95 81
M 9	NC State	3	- N5	W 76 61
M 10	Maryland	3	11 N5	W 84 82
M 11	North Carolina	3	6 N5	W 79 53
M 15	Monmouth	1	- N6	W 95 52
M 17	Missouri	1	- N6	W 94 81
M 22	UCLA	1	15 N7	W 76 63
M 24	Southern California	1	- N7	W 79 69
M 31	Maryland	1	11 N8	W 95 84
A 2	Arizona	1	5 N8	W 82 72

N1 - Preseason NIT, Madison Square Garden, New York, NY.

N2 - ACC/Big Ten Challenge, Greensboro Coliseum, Greensboro, N.C.

N3 - Rose Garden, Portland, Ore.

N4 - The Coliseum in Oakland, Oakland, Calif.

A1 - Madison Square Garden, New York, NY.

N5 - ACC Tournament, Georgia Dome, Atlanta, Ga.

N6 - NCAA Tournament, Greensboro Coliseum, Greensboro, N.C.

N7 - NCAA Tournament, Wachovia Center, Philadelphia, Pa.

N8 - NCAA Final Four, Metrodome, Minneapolis, Minn.

HONORS & AWARDS

SHANE BATTIER

- Wooden Award winner
- Naismith Award winner
- National Player of the Year (consensus)
- National Defensive Player of the Year
- Verizon Academic All-America of the Year
- First Team All-America (unanimous)
- NCAA Final Four MOP
- NCAA East Region All-Tournament Team
- ACC Co-Player of the Year
- First Team All-ACC
- ACC Tournament MVP
- ACC All-Tournament Team

CHRIS DUHON

- ACC Rookie of the Year

MIKE DUNLEAVY

- NCAA All-Final Four Team
- ACC All-Tournament Team (first team)

NATE JAMES

- Third Team All-ACC
- ACC All-Tournament Team (second team)
- ACC All-Defensive Team

JASON WILLIAMS

- National Player of the Year (NABC)
- First Team All-America (consensus)
- NCAA All-Final Four Team
- NCAA East Region MOP
- NCAA East Region All-Tournament Team
- First Team All-ACC
- ACC All-Tournament Team (first team)

MIKE KRZYZEWSKI

- 2001 Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame inductee
- Victor Award winner - National Coach of the Year

2010 NCAA Champions

The story of the 2010 championship team is one of teamwork and consistent growth. Despite returning four starters from an ACC Championship team that won 30 games a year before, the Blue Devils were often overlooked and ignored as a title contender in 2010.

A group of seniors (Jon Scheyer, Lance Thomas & Brian Zoubek) that endured a 22-11 record as freshmen, along with junior standouts Kyle Singler and Nolan Smith, set out to do something special with a group that most considered good but not great.

The Blue Devils started strong with six straight wins, including a 68-59 victory over 13th-ranked Connecticut in the championship game of the NIT Season Tip-Off. Duke outrebounded the Huskies, 56-43, in the contest with Thomas and Zoubek each grabbing 11 boards.

Duke suffered its first setback of the year, despite 28 points from Singler, on Dec. 2 at Wisconsin. The 73-69 loss was Duke's first in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.

The team won its next seven games, with six of the victories coming by 20+ points. Duke climbed to No. 5 in the AP poll and Scheyer established himself as an All-America candidate along the way. The senior guard netted a career-high 36 points on 7-of-9 shooting from three-point distance against Gardner-Webb and totaled 31 points in a win over Iowa State in Chicago.

Duke dropped an ACC contest at No. 20 Georgia Tech despite 25 points and six assists from Scheyer before returning home to post wins over Boston College and Wake Forest.

The skeptics reemerged following another road loss for the Blue Devils, this time at the hands of N.C. State. The Wolfpack shot 58.2 percent from the field in an 88-74 victory.

Duke's road won was changed in a primetime contest at Clemson with ESPN College GameDay on site. The Blue Devils avenged a 74-47 loss in 2009 at Littlejohn with a 60-47 win over the 17th-ranked Tigers. Smith paced the team with 22 points.

Duke hit a stumbling block again in Washington, D.C., against Georgetown with President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden on hand. The Hoyas dismantled the Duke defense, shooting an opponent-record 71.7 percent from the field.

Duke returned home to top 21st-ranked Georgia Tech and added road wins over Boston College and North Carolina. On Feb. 13, in his 1,000th career game at Duke, Mike Krzyzewski moved Zoubek into the starting lineup, and the senior center responded with 16 points and a career-best 17 rebounds against the Terrapins. He followed up with a 16-rebound effort two games later and suddenly Duke had an interior toughness to go with the NCAA's highest-scoring trio in Scheyer, Singler and Smith.



Duke entered March ranked fourth in the polls with a 25-4 record. On senior night at Maryland, it took a few unfortunate bounces and a clutch performance by Greivis Vasquez to snap the Blue Devils' four-game road win streak and an eight-game win streak overall.

The Blue Devils put everything together in their next game, an 82-50 dismantling of North Carolina. Scheyer, Singler and Smith combined for 65 points and Duke jumped out to a 53-26 halftime lead. The Tar Heels had 15 turnovers and made just 16 field goals in the contest.

In the ACC Tournament, Duke posted wins over Virginia and Miami to reach the championship game. Tournament MOP Singler went 14-of-16 from the foul line, and Scheyer hit a clutch three-point field goal in the final 30 seconds to secure a 65-61 victory over Georgia Tech and Duke's ninth ACC title in the last 12 years.

The Blue Devils grabbed a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament for the 11th time in school history and advanced through Jacksonville by handily defeating Arkansas-Pine Bluff and California. Duke then posted a hard-fought, 70-57, win over Purdue as Singler netted 24 points and the Blue Devils posted a +21 rebound margin for the game. Left standing in the way of the program's first Final Four appearance since 2004 was Baylor. Duke trailed at the half but used timely three-point shooting and 23 offensive rebounds to claim a 78-71 victory. Smith scored a career-high 29 points in the win.

Duke returned to Indianapolis, the site of its first NCAA title, to face West Virginia in the Final Four. The big three combined for 63 points as the Blue Devils shot 52.7 percent from the field in a 78-57 dismantling of the Mountaineers.

The title game pitted Duke against hometown Butler and its 25-game win streak. The seesaw battle came down to the final seconds with the outcoming hanging in the balance until a halfcourt shot caromed off the rim at the buzzer giving the Blue Devils a 61-59 victory and the program's fourth NCAA title. Singler, the Final Four MVP, led the way with 19 points, while Zoubek added 10 rebounds.

With the win in the title game, Krzyzewski's team completed its climb from good to very good to great.

RECORD: 35-5; HOME: 17-0; AWAY: 5-5; NEUTRAL: 13-0

Player	G	MP	FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Reb-Avg	PF-DO	Ast	TO	BS	St	Pts-Avg
*Scheyer	40	1,470	212-531	.399	194-221	.878	144-3.6	54-0	194	65	10	65	728-18.2
*Singler	40	1,436	228-550	.415	166-208	.798	280-7.0	86-1	96	79	32	41	707-17.7
*Smith	38	1,349	239-542	.441	122-159	.767	106-2.8	66-0	114	69	9	45	660-17.4
Zoubek	40	746	90-141	.638	43-78	.551	309-7.7	138-8	39	48	31	27	223-5.6
*Mi. Plumlee	40	654	83-148	.561	39-59	.661	197-4.9	103-3	12	43	26	20	206-5.2
*Thomas	40	1,013	68-155	.439	55-74	.743	194-4.9	121-4	36	61	8	24	191-4.8
Dawkins	38	477	54-136	.397	25-34	.735	43-1.1	36-1	13	15	2	11	169-4.4
Ma. Plumlee	34	480	49-106	.462	25-46	.543	105-3.1	73-1	30	32	30	18	125-3.7
Czyz	6	61	7-12	.583	0-0	.000	12-2.0	4-0	5	3	0	2	15-2.5
Kelly	35	227	16-45	.356	4-6	.667	38-1.1	34-0	13	8	14	8	41-1.2
Davidson	21	55	1-5	.200	6-10	.600	5-0.2	6-0	3	3	0	1	9-0.4
Johnson	14	24	1-3	.333	3-4	.750	3-0.2	0-0	0	0	0	2	5-0.4
Peters	7	8	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1-0.1	0-0	0	1	0	0	0-0.0
Zafirovski	0	0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0.0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0.0
Team	-	-	-	-	-	-	123-3.2	-	-	12	-	-	-
Duke	40	8,000	1,048-2,374	.441	682-899	.759	1,560-39.0	721-18	555	439	162	264	3,079-77.0
Opps	40	8,000	883-2,202	.401	515-749	.688	1,310-32.8	781-17	432	566	155	210	2,439-61.0

• **Three-Point Field Goals (301-782, .385):** Scheyer (110-287, .383), Singler (85-213, .399), Smith (60-153, .392), Dawkins (36-95, .379), Kelly (5-19, .263), Ma. Plumlee (2-8, .250), Mi. Plumlee (1-1, 1.000), Davidson (1-2, .500), Czyz (1-4, .250). **Dunks (86):** Mi. Plumlee 33, Ma. Plumlee 24, Smith 9, Thomas 7, Singler 4, Czyz 3, Kelly 2, Zoubek 2, Dawkins 2. **Charges Taken (54):** Thomas 16, Zoubek 16, Singler 7, Scheyer 6, Kelly 4, Smith 4, Mi. Plumlee 1. **Forced Five-Second Calls (3):** Smith 2, TEAM 1.

2009-10 RESULTS

Date	Opponent	Rank	Site	Result
N 13	UNC Greensboro	9	- H	W 96 62
N 16	Coastal Carolina	9	- H1	W 74 49
N 17	Charlotte	9	- H1	W 101 59
N 21	Radford	9	- H	W 104 67
N 25	Arizona State	7	- N1	W 64 53
N 27	Connecticut	7	13 N1	W 68 59
D 2	Wisconsin	6	- A1	L 69 73
D 5	St. John's	6	- H	W 80 71
D 15	Gardner-Webb	7	- H	W 113 68
D 19	Gonzaga	7	15 N2	W 76 41
D 29	Long Beach State	7	- H	W 84 63
D 31	Pennsylvania	7	- H	W 114 55
J 3	Clemson	7	21 H	W 74 53
J 6	Iowa State	5	- N3	W 86 65
J 9	Georgia Tech	5	20 A	L 67 71
J 13	Boston College	8	- H	W 79 59
J 17	Wake Forest	8	- H	W 90 70
J 20	NC State	7	- A	L 74 88
J 23	Clemson	7	17 A	W 60 47
J 27	Florida State	8	- H	W 70 56
J 30	Georgetown	8	7 A	L 77 89
F 4	Georgia Tech	10	21 H	W 86 67
F 6	Boston College	10	- A	W 66 63
F 10	North Carolina	8	- A	W 64 54
F 13	Maryland	8	- H	W 77 56
F 17	Miami	6	- A	W 81 74
F 21	Virginia Tech	6	- H	W 67 55
F 25	Tulsa	5	- H	W 70 52
F 28	Virginia	5	- A	W 67 49
M 3	Maryland	4	22 A	L 72 79
M 6	North Carolina	4	- H	W 82 50
M 12	Virginia	4	- N4	W 57 46
M 13	Miami	4	- N4	W 77 74
M 14	Georgia Tech	4	- N4	W 65 61
M 19	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	3	- N5	W 73 44
M 21	California	3	- N5	W 68 53
M 26	Purdue	3	10 N6	W 70 57
M 28	Baylor	3	19 N6	W 78 71
A 3	West Virginia	3	6 N7	W 78 57
A 5	Butler	3	11 N7	W 61 59

H1 - NIT Season Tip-Off

N1 - NIT Season Tip-Off, Madison Square Garden, New York, N.Y.

A1 - ACC/Big Ten Challenge

N2 - Madison Square Garden, New York, N.Y.

N3 - United Center, Chicago, Ill.

N4 - ACC Tournament, Greensboro Coliseum, Greensboro, N.C.

N5 - NCAA Tournament, Veterans Memorial Arena, Jacksonville, Fla.

N6 - NCAA Tournament, Reliant Stadium, Houston, Texas

N7 - NCAA Final Four, Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, Ind.

HONORS & AWARDS

RYAN KELLY

- ACC All-Academic Team

JON SCHEYER

- NCAA All-Final Four Team
- NCAA South Region All-Tournament Team
- Consensus Second Team All-America
- ACC All-Tournament (first team)
- First Team All-ACC (unanimous)
- NIT Season Tip-Off Most Outstanding Player
- ACC Player of the Week (Nov. 30, Dec. 21. Feb. 15)

KYLE SINGLER

- NCAA Final Four MOP
- ACC Tournament MVP
- First Team All-ACC

NOLAN SMITH

- NCAA All-Final Four Team
- NCAA Tournament South Region MOP
- ACC All-Tournament (first team)
- Second Team All-ACC
- NIT Season Tip-Off all-tournament Team
- ACC Player of the Week (Nov. 23)

LANCE THOMAS

- ACC All-Defensive Team (media)
- ACC All-Defensive Team (coaches)

BRIAN ZOUBEK

- ACC All-Academic Team

2015 NCAA Champions

The 2014-15 campaign served as a redemptive year for the Blue Devils. After an early exit from the NCAA Tournament the previous season, Duke welcomed an impressive foursome of freshmen (Grayson Allen, Tyus Jones, Jahliil Okafor and Justise Winslow) to Durham to help bolster a lineup that included senior leader Quinn Cook. The Blue Devils showcased unparalleled maturity and focus that was evident from the outset.

Duke opened the season with victories in its first 14 games, including 10-point wins over No. 19 Michigan State (81-71) and No. 2 Wisconsin (80-70). In both matchups, fans saw their first glimpse of a reoccurring theme throughout the year - Tyus Jones performing when the pressure was greatest. He helped put the game out of reach in Duke's games against the Spartans and Badgers, scoring 17 second-half points against Michigan State and netting a team-high 22 points on 7-of-11 shooting versus Wisconsin.

Duke suffered its initial two setbacks of the season against NC State and Miami. The first of Duke's four losses took place in Raleigh, N.C., where the Blue Devils were unable to defend the perimeter against a locked-in Wolfpack squad, surrendering 10 three-point field goals en route to an 87-75 loss. After returning home to Cameron, Duke looked to right the ship against Miami, but the Hurricanes had other plans as the Blue Devils' 41-game home court win streak came to an end with an 87-75 defeat. Duke's perimeter defense once again struggled, as Miami connected on 10-of-20 three-point attempts.

In a significant defensive shift, the Blue Devils transitioned to a zone defense against No. 6 Louisville, holding the Cardinals to just 18-of-61 shooting, the lowest field goal percentage by a Duke opponent all season. Offensively, Duke relied on team captain Amile Jefferson, who netted a career-high 19 points on 6-of-7 shooting.

Duke returned to Durham and downed Pittsburgh, 79-65, bringing head coach Mike Krzyzewski's all-time career wins total within one victory of 1,000. A win against St. John's in one of the most historic arenas in basketball, Madison Square Garden, would clinch the achievement for Krzyzewski.

Duke trailed at the break against St. John's, but a second-half push, fueled by 13 points from Tyus Jones, helped give the Blue Devils a 77-68 win and Krzyzewski his 1,000th victory.

The young Duke team once again bounced back from a loss at No. 8 Notre Dame with a road win against a top-10 opponent. While competing on College GameDay, the Blue Devils dropped No. 2 Virginia, 69-63, thanks to timely three-point shooting and a combination of man-to-man and zone defense. Five three-point field goals over the final five minutes gave Duke its third road win over a top-10 opponent, the first time in program history such a feat was achieved. Duke concluded the regular season on an 11-game winning streak. During the stretch, Duke shot 81.0 percent to rout 10th-ranked Notre Dame at home by 30 points, tying for the best first-half shooting performance in program history. Matt Jones hit 5-of-7 field goal attempts to net 15 of his 17 points in the first half.



Duke produced a thrilling two-point overtime victory over No. 15 North Carolina in its following home game, as Tyus Jones scored the final nine points in regulation to force overtime against the Tar Heels. He joined Cook in scoring a game-high 22 points, while shooting a combined 57.1 percent from beyond the arc in the process.

The Blue Devils would conclude regular-season ACC play with a 15-3 mark after defeating North Carolina, 84-77, in the Dean Dome. Tyus Jones put together a well-rounded game, scoring 24 points, six rebounds and seven assists en route to becoming the first Duke freshman in program history to register at least 20 points, five rebounds and five assists in his first two games against the Tar Heels.

Duke went into the ACC Tournament ranked No. 2 nationally and on an 11-game win streak, which was extended to 12 games after the Blue Devils defeated NC State, 77-53. Notre Dame defeated Duke, 74-64, in the ACC Tournament semifinals.

Duke garnered its 13th No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament. After advancing through the second and third rounds with wins over Robert Morris and San Diego State in Charlotte, the Blue Devils traveled to Houston, where they outlasted Utah in a low-scoring affair and defeated Gonzaga to earn their 16th appearance in the Final Four.

An early onslaught from 23rd-ranked Michigan State set Duke behind by eight points before the first media timeout, but the Blue Devils went on a 23-6 run of their own in a Final Four matchup. Winslow's team-high 19 points helped bypass the Spartans, 81-61, in Indianapolis, Ind., the site of Duke's 1991 and 2010 national titles.

In the national championship game, Duke faced No. 3 Wisconsin. Tyus Jones garnered Final Four Most Outstanding Player honors, the first freshman ever to earn the honor, after scoring a game-high 23 points. He was joined by fellow freshmen Allen (16), Okafor (10) and Winslow (11) in scoring 60 of the team's 68 total points, the most by a group of freshmen in a national championship game.

RECORD: 35-4; HOME: 15-1; AWAY: 9-2; NEUTRAL: 11-1

Player	G	MP	FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Reb-Avg	PF-DO	Ast	TO	BS	St	Pts-Avg
*Okafor	38	1,143	279-420	.664	99-194	.510	322-8.5	81-0	49	95	54	29	657-17.3
*Cook	39	1,396	199-439	.453	98-110	.891	131-3.4	76-0	103	47	1	39	598-15.3
*Winslow	39	1,135	173-356	.486	100-156	.641	252-6.5	108-5	82	71	34	52	492-12.6
*T. Jones	39	1,322	135-324	.417	144-162	.889	137-3.5	46-0	217	76	3	59	461-11.8
*Jefferson	39	831	94-149	.631	51-92	.554	226-5.8	76-0	33	41	26	22	239-6.1
M. Jones	39	847	84-205	.410	25-35	.714	91-2.3	66-0	39	29	3	37	234-6.0
Allen	35	322	45-106	.425	45-53	.849	35-1.0	42-2	14	15	5	10	153-4.4
Plumlee	39	375	32-42	.762	22-31	.710	92-2.4	58-0	12	14	22	8	87-2.2
Pagliuca	11	18	1-5	.200	0-0	.000	4-0.4	4-0	1	0	0	0	3-0.3
Kelly	10	12	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0.0	0-0	2	0	0	0	0-0.0
Team	-	-	-	-	-	-	92-2.4	-	-	7	-	-	-
Duke	39	7,850	1,099-2,191	.502	610-873	.699	1,436-36.8	607-7	588	421	149	278	3,091-79.3
Opps	39	7,850	962-2,281	.422	379-548	.692	1,227-31.5	741-0	452	481	121	216	2,502-64.2

• **Three-Point Field Goals (283-732, .387):** Cook (102-258, .385), T. Jones (47-124, .379), Winslow (46-110, .418), M. Jones (41-109, .376), Allen (18-52, .346), Plumlee (1-1, 1.000), Pagliuca (1-4, .250). **Dunks (124):** Okafor 64, Winslow 24, Plumlee 18, Jefferson 10, Allen 5.

Charges Taken (30): T. Jones 11, Winslow 8, Jefferson 5, M. Jones 3. **Forced Five-Second Calls (4):** Cook 2, T. Jones 1, TEAM 1.

2014-15 RESULTS

Date	Opponent	Rank	Site	Result
N 14	Presbyterian	4	- H1	W 113 44
N 15	Fairfield	4	- H1	W 109 59
N 18	Michigan State	4	19 N1	W 81 71
N 21	Temple	4	- N2	W 74 54
N 22	Stanford	4	- N2	W 70 59
N 26	Furman	4	- H	W 93 54
N 30	Army West Point	4	- H	W 93 73
D 3	Wisconsin	4	2 A1	W 80 70
D 15	Elon	2	- H	W 75 62
D 18	Connecticut	2	- N3	W 66 56
D 29	Toledo	2	- H	W 86 69
D 31	Wofford	2	- H	W 84 55
J 3	Boston College	2	- H	W 85 62
J 7	Wake Forest	2	- A	W 73 65
J 11	NC State	2	- A	L 75 87
J 13	Miami	4	- H	L 74 90
J 17	Louisville	4	6 A	W 63 52
J 19	Pittsburgh	5	- H	W 79 65
J 25	St. John's	5	- A2	W 77 68
J 28	Notre Dame	4	8 A	L 73 77
J 31	Virginia	4	2 A	W 69 63
F 4	Georgia Tech	4	- H	W 72 66
F 7	Notre Dame	4	10 H	W 90 60
F 9	Florida State	4	- A	W 73 70
F 14	Syracuse	4	- A	W 80 72
F 18	North Carolina	10T	4 15 H	W 92 90
F 21	Clemson	4	- A	W 78 56
F 25	Virginia Tech	10T	4 - A	W 91 86
F 28	Syracuse	4	- H	W 73 54
M 4	Wake Forest	3	- H	W 94 51
M 7	North Carolina	3	19 A	W 84 77
M 12	NC State	2	- N4	W 77 53
M 13	Notre Dame	2	11 N4	L 64 74
M 20	Robert Morris	4	- N5	W 85 56
M 22	San Diego State	4	- N5	W 86 49
M 27	Utah	4	19 N6	W 63 57
M 29	Gonzaga	4	7 N6	W 66 52
A 4	Michigan State	4	23 N7	W 81 61
A 6	Wisconsin	4	3 N7	W 68 63

H1 - Coaches vs. Cancer Classic

N1 - Champions Classic, Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Indianapolis, Ind.

N2 - Coaches vs. Cancer Classic, Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.

A1 - ACC/Big Ten Challenge

N3 - Izod Center, East Rutherford, N.J.

A2 - Madison Square Garden, New York, N.Y.

N4 - ACC Tournament, Greensboro Coliseum, Greensboro, N.C.

N5 - NCAA Tournament, Time Warner Cable Arena, Charlotte, N.C.

N6 - NCAA Tournament, NRG Stadium, Houston, Texas

N7 - NCAA Final Four, Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, Ind.

HONORS & AWARDS

GRAYSON ALLEN

- NCAA Final Four All-Tournament Team
- All-ACC Academic Team

QUINN COOK

- Second Team All-ACC (unanimous)
- USBWA All-District III Team
- ACC Player of the Week (Feb. 16, Feb. 23)
- Coaches vs. Cancer Tournament Most Valuable Player

MATT JONES

- NCAA South Regional All-Tournament Team

TYUS JONES

- NCAA Final Four All-Tournament Most Outstanding Player
- NCAA Final Four All-Tournament Team
- NCAA South Regional All-Tournament Most Outstanding Player
- NCAA South Regional All-Tournament Team
- Third Team All-ACC & All-ACC Freshman Team (unanimous)
- All-ACC Academic Team
- Wayman Tisdale National Freshman of the Week (Feb. 23)
- ACC Rookie of the Week (Dec. 8, Jan. 26, Feb. 23, March 8)

JAHILIL OKAFOR

- First Team All-America (unanimous)
- Wayman Tisdale Freshman of the Year
- ACC Player & Rookie of the Year
- USBWA District III Player of the Year
- First Team All-ACC (unanimous)
- All-ACC Tournament Team (second team)
- ACC Player of the Week (Jan. 5)
- ACC Rookie of the Week (Nov. 17, Nov. 24, Dec. 1, Dec. 22, Jan. 5, Jan. 12, Jan. 19, Feb. 2)

JUSTISE WINSLOW

- NCAA Final Four All-Tournament Team
- NCAA South Regional All-Tournament Team
- All-ACC Freshman Team (unanimous)
- USBWA All-District III Team
- Coaches vs. Cancer All-Tournament Team
- ACC Rookie of the Week (Feb. 9)

CHARTING DUKE IN THE POLLS (AP ONLY)

Total Polls Ranked	860
Top 10 Rankings	716
Top 5 Rankings	433
Longest Consecutive Polls Ranked	200 ¹
Current Streak	19

YEARS RANKED

Total Years	61
Consecutive Years	39
Current Streak	39

FINAL POLL

Total Polls	50
Top 10	39
High Rank	1 (eight times)

NO. 1 RANKING

Total Rankings	145
Most No. 1 Weeks in Succession	18 (1992)

WEEKS RANKED BY RANKING

First Ranked: Dec. 11, 1951 (No. 12)

Last Ranked: Final 2022 poll (No. 9)

Rank	Weeks
No. 1	145
No. 2	89
No. 3	76
No. 4	59
No. 5	64
No. 6	73
No. 7	64
No. 8	58
No. 9	45
No. 10	43
No. 11	18
No. 12	16
No. 13	15
No. 14	15
No. 15	13
No. 16	12
No. 17	17
No. 18	11
No. 19	11
No. 20	9
No. 21	5
No. 22	-
No. 23	1
No. 24	1
No. 25	-

¹ - Duke was ranked in the top 25 of 200 consecutive AP polls from 1997 through 2007, the third-longest streak in college basketball history.

ALL-TIME CONSECUTIVE AP POLLS RANKED

Team	Consecutive AP Polls Ranked
Kansas	231 (2009-21)
UCLA	221 (1966-80)
Duke	200 (1996-07)
North Carolina	172 (1990-00)
North Carolina	171 (1972-82)
Duke	167 (2007-16)
Marquette	166 (1969-79)
Kentucky	164 (1990-99)
Kansas	145 (1991-99)
Duke	143 (1986-95)

IN THE POLLS

The Duke basketball program has held a prominent spot in the national basketball scene since the beginning of the post-World War II era. The final national rankings are just one measuring stick in which the Blue Devils are among the elite in the history of the sport.

In the Coach K era, which began in 1980-81, Duke has finished in the Associated Press Top 25 a total of 33 seasons, including eight times as the No. 1 team in the nation. With consecutive AP number one finishes from 1999-2002, Duke became the first school in college basketball history to be ranked at the top of the final AP poll for four straight years.

- Duke has been ranked No. 1 at some point in the season in 24 of the past 37 years (AP & USA Today polls).
- Mike Krzyzewski has spent more weeks ranked in the Top 25 (668 weeks), top 10 (575) and No. 1 (127) than any other active coach (AP poll only).
- Duke has been ranked No. 1 in 114 weeks since 1990, the most by any school in the nation. The next closest school is Kansas at 64 weeks during the same time period.
- Duke has been No. 1 for 127 weeks (255 games, 219-36) in the AP poll in the Coach K era.
- Of the 1,436 games coached at Duke by Mike Krzyzewski, 1,275 of them have come as a ranked team (88.8 percent). Duke's record as a ranked team since 1981 is 1,038-237 (.814).
- Under Coach K, Duke has played more games as a No. 1 team (255) than as an unranked team (161).
- The Blue Devils were ranked in the Top 25 of the AP poll in 380 consecutive games (Nov. 20, 1996-Feb. 11, 2007).
- Duke has been ranked No. 1 in the nation 145 weeks overall, surpassing UCLA (134) for the highest figure in NCAA history.
- Duke finished in the top 10 for 10 consecutive seasons from 1997-2006 -- second all-time behind UCLA (13 straight years from 1967-89).
- Duke's 1991-92 team is one of only 14 schools in college basketball history to be ranked No. 1 for the entire season.
- Entering the 2021-22 season, Duke has been ranked in 461 of the last 472 AP polls.

NO. 1. BLUE DEVILS

Duke has been ranked No. 1 in the AP Poll in 20 different seasons under Mike Krzyzewski.

SEASONS RANKED NO. 1

Mike Krzyzewski	21
John Wooden	12
Roy Williams	12
Dean Smith	10

FINAL NO. 1 RANKINGS

Since 1986, Duke has claimed the No. 1 ranking in the final AP poll eight times. The Blue Devils finished the season ranked No. 1 in the AP poll for four consecutive seasons (1999-2002), an unprecedented feat in college basketball history.

END OF SEASON NO. 1 RANKINGS | SINCE 1986

Duke	8
Kansas	4
Kentucky	3
North Carolina	3
Gonzaga	2
Ohio State	2
UNLV	2

COACH K AT NO. 1

Mike Krzyzewski has coached in 255 games with his Blue Devils as the nation's No. 1 team (AP poll only), compiling a 219-36 (.859) record. Coach K's 255 games and 219 wins at No. 1 are most in NCAA history.

Coach	No. of Games as No. 1 Team	Record (Pct.)
^ Mike Krzyzewski	255	219-36 (.859)
John Wooden	228	217-11 (.952)
Adolph Rupp	131	117-14 (.893)
Roy Williams	119	101-18 (.849)
Dean Smith	116	98-18 (.845)

^ active coach

NO. 1 RANKINGS SINCE 1997-98

Since the 1997-98 season, Duke has been ranked No. 1 in the Associated Press poll 90 weeks, 37 more than the next closest team. The Blue Devils reached the top ranking in seven consecutive seasons from 1998-2004, becoming just the second program in NCAA history to accomplish that feat. UCLA holds the record with 12 consecutive seasons being ranked No. 1 at some point (1964-75). Duke finished the season ranked No. 1 in the AP poll for four consecutive seasons (1999-2002), an unprecedented feat in college basketball history.

Team	Seasons Ranked No. 1	Total Weeks Ranked No. 1
Duke	16	90
Kansas	10	53
North Carolina	7	39
Kentucky	9	38
Connecticut	6	28
Gonzaga	5	33
Arizona	5	27
Villanova	3	19
Stanford	3	16

**ASSOCIATED PRESS
FINAL TOP 10**

1949	
1.	Kentucky
2.	Oklahoma State
3.	St. Louis
4.	Illinois
5.	W. Kentucky
6.	Minnesota
7.	Bradley
8.	San Francisco
9.	Tulane
10.	Bowling Green
1950	
1.	Bradley
2.	Ohio State
3.	Kentucky
4.	Holy Cross
5.	N.C. State
6.	Duquesne
7.	UCLA
8.	W. Kentucky
9.	St. John's
10.	LaSalle
1951	
1.	Kentucky
2.	Oklahoma State
3.	Columbia
4.	Kansas State
5.	Illinois
6.	Bradley
7.	Indiana
8.	NC State
9.	St. John's
10.	St. Louis
1952	
1.	Kentucky
2.	Illinois
3.	Kansas State
4.	Duquesne
5.	St. Louis
6.	Washington
7.	Iowa
8.	Kansas
9.	West Virginia
10.	St. John's
1953	
1.	Indiana
2.	Seton Hall
3.	Kansas
4.	Washington
5.	LSU
6.	LaSalle
7.	St. John's
8.	Oklahoma State
9.	Duquesne
10.	Notre Dame
1954	
1.	Kentucky
2.	LaSalle
3.	Holy Cross
4.	Indiana
5.	Duquesne
6.	Notre Dame
7.	Bradley
8.	W. Kentucky
9.	Penn State
10.	Oklahoma State

1955	
1.	San Francisco
2.	Kentucky
3.	LaSalle
4.	NC State
5.	Iowa
6.	Duquesne
7.	Utah
8.	Marquette
9.	Dayton
10.	Oregon State
1956	
1.	San Francisco
2.	NC State
3.	Dayton
4.	Iowa
5.	Alabama
6.	Louisville
7.	SMU
8.	UCLA
9.	Kentucky
10.	Illinois
1957	
1.	North Carolina
2.	Kansas
3.	Kentucky
4.	SMU
5.	Seattle
6.	Louisville
7.	West Virginia
8.	Vanderbilt
9.	Oklahoma City
10.	St. Louis
1958	
1.	West Virginia
2.	Cincinnati
3.	Kansas State
4.	San Francisco
5.	Temple
6.	Maryland
7.	Kansas
8.	Notre Dame
9.	Kentucky
10.	Duke
1959	
1.	Kansas State
2.	Kentucky
3.	Mississippi State
4.	Bradley
5.	Cincinnati
6.	NC State
7.	Michigan State
8.	Auburn
9.	North Carolina
10.	West Virginia
1960	
1.	Cincinnati
2.	California
3.	Ohio State
4.	Bradley
5.	West Virginia
6.	Utah
7.	Indiana
8.	Utah State
9.	St. Bonaventure
10.	Miami
1961	
1.	Ohio State
2.	Cincinnati
3.	St. Bonaventure
4.	Kansas State
5.	North Carolina
6.	Bradley
7.	USC
8.	Iowa
9.	West Virginia
10.	Duke

1962	
1.	Ohio State
2.	Cincinnati
3.	Kentucky
4.	Mississippi State
5.	Bradley
6.	Kansas State
7.	Utah
8.	Bowling Green
9.	Colorado
10.	Duke
1963	
1.	Cincinnati
2.	Duke
3.	Loyola, Chicago
4.	Arizona State
5.	Wichita State
6.	Mississippi State
7.	Ohio State
8.	Illinois
9.	NYU
10.	Colorado
1964	
1.	UCLA
2.	Michigan
3.	Duke
4.	Kentucky
5.	Wichita State
6.	Oregon State
7.	Villanova
8.	Loyola, Chicago
9.	DePaul
10.	Davidson
1965	
1.	Michigan
2.	UCLA
3.	St. Joseph's
4.	Providence
5.	Vanderbilt
6.	Davidson
7.	Minnesota
8.	Villanova
9.	BYU
10.	Duke
1966	
1.	Kentucky
2.	Duke
3.	Texas-El Paso
4.	Kansas
5.	St. Joseph's
6.	Loyola, Chicago
7.	Cincinnati
8.	Vanderbilt
9.	Michigan
10.	W. Kentucky
1967	
1.	UCLA
2.	Louisville
3.	Kansas
4.	North Carolina
5.	Princeton
6.	W. Kentucky
7.	Houston
8.	Tennessee
9.	Boston College
10.	Texas-El Paso
1968	
1.	Houston
2.	UCLA
3.	St. Bonaventure
4.	North Carolina
5.	Kentucky
6.	New Mexico
7.	Columbia
8.	Davidson
9.	Louisville
10.	Duke

1969	
1.	UCLA
2.	LaSalle
3.	Santa Clara
4.	North Carolina
5.	Davidson
6.	Purdue
7.	Kentucky
8.	St. John's
9.	Duquesne
10.	Villanova
1970	
1.	Kentucky
2.	UCLA
3.	St. Bonaventure
4.	Jacksonville
5.	New Mexico St.
6.	South Carolina
7.	Iowa
8.	Marquette
9.	Notre Dame
10.	NC State
1971	
1.	UCLA
2.	Marquette
3.	Pennsylvania
4.	Kansas
5.	USC
6.	South Carolina
7.	W. Kentucky
8.	Kentucky
9.	Fordham
10.	Ohio State
1972	
1.	UCLA
2.	North Carolina
3.	Pennsylvania
4.	Louisville
5.	Long Beach State
6.	South Carolina
7.	Marquette
8.	SW Louisiana
9.	BYU
10.	Florida State
1973	
1.	UCLA
2.	NC State
3.	Long Beach State
4.	Providence
5.	Marquette
6.	Indiana
7.	SW Louisiana
8.	Maryland
9.	Kansas State
10.	Minnesota
1974	
1.	NC State
2.	UCLA
3.	Marquette
4.	Maryland
5.	Notre Dame
6.	Michigan
7.	Kansas
8.	Providence
9.	Indiana
10.	Long Beach State
1975	
1.	UCLA
2.	Kentucky
3.	Indiana
4.	Louisville
5.	Maryland
6.	Syracuse
7.	NC State
8.	Arizona State
9.	North Carolina
10.	Alabama

1976	
1.	Indiana
2.	Marquette
3.	UNLV
4.	Rutgers
5.	UCLA
6.	Alabama
7.	Notre Dame
8.	North Carolina
9.	Michigan
10.	W. Michigan
1977	
1.	Michigan
2.	UCLA
3.	Kentucky
4.	UNLV
5.	North Carolina
6.	Syracuse
7.	Marquette
8.	San Francisco
9.	Wake Forest
10.	Notre Dame
1978	
1.	Kentucky
2.	UCLA
3.	DePaul
4.	Michigan State
5.	Arkansas
6.	Notre Dame
7.	Duke
8.	Marquette
9.	Louisville
10.	Kansas
1979	
1.	Indiana State
2.	UCLA
3.	Michigan State
4.	Notre Dame
5.	Arkansas
6.	DePaul
7.	LSU
8.	Syracuse
9.	North Carolina
10.	Marquette
1980	
1.	DePaul
2.	LSU
3.	Kentucky
4.	Louisville
5.	Oregon State
6.	Syracuse
7.	Indiana
8.	Maryland
9.	Ohio State
10.	Georgetown
1981	
1.	DePaul
2.	Oregon State
3.	Virginia
4.	LSU
5.	Arizona State
6.	North Carolina
7.	Indiana
8.	Kentucky
9.	Notre Dame
10.	Utah
1982	
1.	North Carolina
2.	DePaul
3.	Virginia
4.	Oregon State
5.	Missouri
6.	Minnesota
7.	Georgetown
8.	Idaho
9.	Memphis State
10.	Fresno State

1983	
1.	Houston
2.	Louisville
3.	St. John's
4.	Virginia
5.	Indiana
6.	UNLV
7.	UCLA
8.	North Carolina
9.	Arkansas
10.	Missouri
1984	
1.	North Carolina
2.	Georgetown
3.	Kentucky
4.	DePaul
5.	Houston
6.	Illinois
7.	Oklahoma
8.	Arkansas
9.	Texas-El Paso
10.	Purdue
1985	
1.	Georgetown
2.	Michigan
3.	St. John's
4.	Oklahoma
5.	Memphis State
6.	Georgia Tech
7.	North Carolina
8.	Louisiana Tech
9.	UNLV
10.	Duke
1986	
1.	Duke
2.	Kansas
3.	Kentucky
4.	St. John's
5.	Michigan
6.	Georgia Tech
7.	Louisville
8.	North Carolina
9.	Syracuse
10.	Notre Dame
1987	
1.	UNLV
2.	North Carolina
3.	Indiana
4.	Georgetown
5.	DePaul
6.	Iowa
7.	Purdue
8.	Temple
9.	Alabama
10.	Syracuse
1988	
1.	Temple
2.	Arizona
3.	Purdue
4.	Oklahoma
5.	Duke
6.	Kentucky
7.	North Carolina
8.	Pittsburgh
9.	Syracuse
10.	Michigan
1989	
1.	Arizona
2.	Georgetown
3.	Illinois
4.	Oklahoma
5.	North Carolina
6.	Missouri
7.	Syracuse
8.	Indiana
9.	Duke
10.	Michigan

FINAL NO. 1 RANKINGS (AP) (SINCE 1986)	
Duke	8
Kansas	4
Kentucky	3
North Carolina	3
Gonzaga	3
Ohio State	2
UNLV	2
Temple	1
Arizona	1
Oklahoma	1
Indiana	1
UCLA	1
Massachusetts	1
Stanford	1
Illinois	1
Louisville	1
Florida	1
Villanova	1
Virginia	1

DUKE'S FINAL TOP 25 RANKINGS			
YEAR	AP	COACHES	
1952	12	NR	
1954	15	20	
1956	17	18	
1958	10	13	
1960	18	15	
1961	10	9	
1962	10	13	
1963	2	2	
1964	3	4	
1965	10	9	
1966	2	2	
1967	NR	19	
1968	10	11	
1978	7	9	
1979	11	7	
1980	14	16	
1984	14	14	
1985	10	12	
1986	1	1	
1987	17	NR	
1988	5	5	
1989	9	7	
1990	15	14	
1991	6	6	
1992	1	1	
1993	10	9	
1994	6	2	
1997	8	11	
1998	3	5	
1999	1	2	
2000	1	4	
2001	1	1	
2002	1	5	
2003	7	9	
2004	6	2	
2005	3	7	
2006	1	7	
2008	9	16	
2009	6	11	
2010	3	1	
2011	3	7	
2012	8	14	
2013	6	5	
2014	8	16	
2015	4	1	
2016	19	18	
2017	7	13	
2018	9	4	
2019	1	4	
2020	11	8	
2021	NR	NR	
2022	9	10	

- 1990**
- Oklahoma
 - UNLV
 - Connecticut
 - Michigan State
 - Kansas
 - Syracuse
 - Arkansas
 - Georgetown
 - Georgia Tech
 - Purdue

- 1991**
- UNLV
 - Arkansas
 - Indiana
 - North Carolina
 - Ohio State
 - Duke
 - Syracuse
 - Arizona
 - Kentucky
 - Utah

- 1992**
- Duke
 - Kansas
 - Ohio State
 - UCLA
 - Indiana
 - Kentucky
 - UNLV
 - USC
 - Arkansas
 - Arizona

- 1993**
- Indiana
 - Kentucky
 - Michigan
 - North Carolina
 - Arizona
 - Seton Hall
 - Cincinnati
 - Vanderbilt
 - Kansas
 - Duke

- 1994**
- North Carolina
 - Arkansas
 - Purdue
 - Connecticut
 - Missouri
 - Duke
 - Kentucky
 - Massachusetts
 - Arizona
 - Louisville

- 1995**
- UCLA
 - Kentucky
 - Wake Forest
 - North Carolina
 - Kansas
 - Arkansas
 - Massachusetts
 - Connecticut
 - Villanova
 - Maryland

- 1996**
- Massachusetts
 - Kentucky
 - Connecticut
 - Georgetown
 - Kansas
 - Purdue
 - Cincinnati
 - Texas Tech
 - Wake Forest
 - Villanova

- 1997**
- Kansas
 - Utah
 - Minnesota
 - North Carolina
 - Kentucky
 - South Carolina
 - UCLA
 - Duke
 - Wake Forest
 - Cincinnati

- 1998**
- North Carolina
 - Kansas
 - Duke
 - Arizona
 - Kentucky
 - Connecticut
 - Utah
 - Princeton
 - Cincinnati
 - Stanford

- 1999**
- Duke
 - Michigan State
 - Connecticut
 - Auburn
 - Maryland
 - Utah
 - Stanford
 - Kentucky
 - St. John's
 - Miami

- 2000**
- Duke
 - Michigan State
 - Stanford
 - Arizona
 - Temple
 - Iowa State
 - Cincinnati
 - Ohio State
 - St. John's
 - LSU

- 2001**
- Duke
 - Stanford
 - Michigan State
 - Illinois
 - Arizona
 - North Carolina
 - Boston College
 - Florida
 - Kentucky
 - Iowa State

- 2002**
- Duke
 - Kansas
 - Oklahoma
 - Maryland
 - Cincinnati
 - Gonzaga
 - Arizona
 - Alabama
 - Pittsburgh
 - Connecticut

- 2003**
- Kentucky
 - Arizona
 - Oklahoma
 - Pittsburgh
 - Texas
 - Kansas
 - Duke
 - Wake Forest
 - Marquette
 - Florida

- 2004**
- Stanford
 - Kentucky
 - Gonzaga
 - Oklahoma State
 - St. Joseph's
 - Duke
 - Connecticut
 - Mississippi State
 - Pittsburgh
 - Wisconsin

- 2005**
- Illinois
 - North Carolina
 - Duke
 - Louisville
 - Wake Forest
 - Oklahoma State
 - Kentucky
 - Washington
 - Arizona
 - Gonzaga

- 2006**
- Duke
 - Connecticut
 - Villanova
 - Memphis
 - Gonzaga
 - Ohio State
 - Boston College
 - UCLA
 - Texas
 - North Carolina

- 2007**
- Ohio State
 - Kansas
 - Florida
 - North Carolina
 - Memphis
 - Wisconsin
 - UCLA
 - Georgetown
 - Texas A&M
 - Oregon

- 2008**
- North Carolina
 - Memphis
 - UCLA
 - Kansas
 - Tennessee
 - Wisconsin
 - Texas
 - Georgetown
 - Duke
 - Stanford

- 2009**
- Louisville
 - North Carolina
 - Memphis
 - Pittsburgh
 - Connecticut
 - Duke
 - Oklahoma
 - Michigan State
 - Missouri
 - Gonzaga

- 2010**
- Kansas
 - Kentucky
 - Duke
 - Syracuse
 - Ohio State
 - West Virginia
 - Kansas State
 - New Mexico
 - Villanova
 - Purdue

- 2011**
- Ohio State
 - Kansas
 - Duke
 - Pittsburgh
 - Notre Dame
 - San Diego State
 - North Carolina
 - Texas
 - Connecticut
 - BYU

- 2012**
- Kentucky
 - Syracuse
 - Missouri
 - North Carolina
 - Michigan State
 - Kansas
 - Ohio State
 - Duke
 - Baylor
 - Florida State

- 2013**
- Gonzaga
 - Louisville
 - Kansas
 - Indiana
 - Miami [Fla.]
 - Duke
 - Ohio State
 - Georgetown
 - Michigan State
 - New Mexico
 - Michigan

- 2014**
- Florida
 - Wichita State
 - Virginia
 - Arizona
 - Louisville
 - Villanova
 - Michigan
 - Duke
 - Iowa State
 - Kansas

- 2015**
- Kentucky
 - Villanova
 - Wisconsin
 - Duke
 - Arizona
 - Virginia
 - Gonzaga
 - Notre Dame
 - Iowa State
 - Kansas

- 2016**
- Kansas
 - Michigan State
 - North Carolina
 - Virginia
 - Oregon
 - Villanova
 - Oklahoma
 - West Virginia
 - Xavier
 - Miami

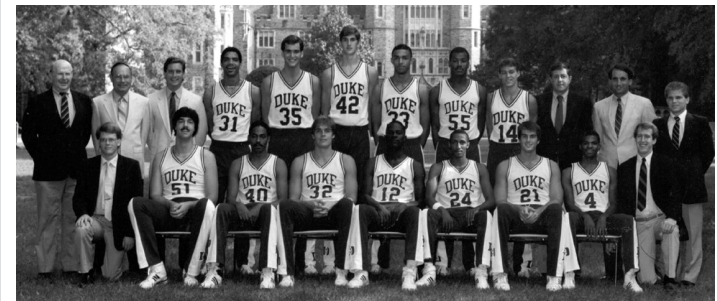
- 2017**
- Villanova
 - Gonzaga
 - Kansas
 - Arizona
 - North Carolina
 - Kentucky
 - Duke
 - UCLA
 - Oregon
 - Louisville

- 2018**
- Virginia
 - Villanova
 - Xavier
 - Kansas
 - Michigan State
 - Cincinnati
 - Michigan
 - Gonzaga
 - Duke
 - North Carolina

- 2019**
- Duke
 - Virginia
 - North Carolina
 - Gonzaga
 - Michigan State
 - Tennessee
 - Kentucky
 - Michigan
 - Texas Tech
 - Florida State

- 2020**
- Kansas
 - Gonzaga
 - Xavier
 - Florida State
 - Baylor
 - San Diego State
 - Creighton
 - Kentucky
 - Michigan State
 - Villanova

- 2022**
- Gonzaga
 - Arizona
 - Kansas
 - Baylor
 - Tennessee
 - Villanova
 - Kentucky
 - Auburn
 - Duke
 - Purdue



In 1986, Duke finished atop the final national Associated Press poll after winning 37 games and reaching the NCAA championship game.



In 1992, Duke captured the school's second national championship and was ranked No. 1 in the final national Associated Press poll.



The Blue Devils were ranked No. 1 in the final national Associated Press poll in 2001. Duke went on to defeat Arizona in the NCAA championship game.

DUKE WEEK-BY-WEEK IN THE ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL

SEASON	PRE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	DATES
1949	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Jan. 20 - March 8
1950	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Jan. 5 - March 7
1951	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 19 - March 7
1952	12	19	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15	12	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 11 - March 4
1953	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 16 - March 10
1954	--	13	--	--	8	9	13	20	8	15	14	10	11	18	15	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 8 - March 23
1955	17	--	--	18	17	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 7 - March 8
1956	--	--	14	8	11	6	7	10	10	8	11	11	11	19	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 6 - March 6
1957	--	13	9	--	15	16	15	19	--	17	16	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 11 - March 12
1958	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13	8	7	6	6	10	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 10 - March 11
1959	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 9 - March 9
1960	16	18	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 22 - March 8
1961	8	7	6	8	8	8	8	5	4	3	3	6	9	10	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 13 - March 7
1962	7	--	10	8	10	7	7	6	5	7	8	8	9	10	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 19 - March 13
1963	2	2	2	2	8	7	6	5	4	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	--	--	--	--	Dec. 4 - March 12
1964	4	3	5	8	9	9	10	8	8	7	5	4	4	4	3	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 10 - March 10
1965	5	8	6	6	8	6	10	10	10	6	6	6	5	8	10	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 8 - March 9
1966	3	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	2	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 7 - March 8
1967	4	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 6 - March 7
1968	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9	--	10	8	10	6	10	--	--	--	--	Dec. 5 - March 12
1969	17	16	9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 3 - March 4
1970	--	--	--	--	--	19	19	16	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 9 - March 10
1971	13	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	19	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 8 - March 16
1972	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 7 - March 14
1973	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 5 - March 13
1974	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 4 - March 27
1975	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 3 - April 2
1976	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 2 - March 16
1977	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Nov. 30 - March 15
1978	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	17	11	17	--	20	13	15	8	7	--	--	--	Nov. 29 - March 13
1979	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	7	8	7	3	3	5	6	5	6	11	--	--	--	Nov. 28 - March 13
1980	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	5	3	5	10	16	17	--	14	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 4 - March 4
1981	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 2 - March 10
1982	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dec. 1 - March 9
1983	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Nov. 30 - March 15
1984	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	19	14	15	16	14	--	--	--	Nov. 29 - March 13
1985	6	4	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	5	6	5	7	6	5	7	10	--	--	--	Nov. 27 - March 12
1986	6	6	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	5	4	2	2	1	1	1	--	--	--	Nov. 26 - March 11
1987	--	--	--	--	--	20	17	14	12	13	16	15	17	17	14	17	--	--	--	--	Dec. 2 - March 10
1988	15	13	10	10	9	9	9	7	9	5	4	8	6	5	9	8	5	--	--	--	Dec. 1 - March 15
1989	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	12	14	11	9	9	7	9	--	--	Nov. 22 - March 14
1990	10	7	6	12	12	13	13	10	8	8	5	4	6	3	5	12	15	--	--	--	Nov. 27 - March 13
1991	6	8	5	10	9	8	8	14	12	9	7	6	5	7	8	6	6	--	--	--	Nov. 27 - March 12
1992	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Nov. 25 - March 16
1993	3	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	3	6	7	5	3	7	9	6	8	10	--	--	Nov. 23 - March 15
1994	4	4	6	4	3	3	3	3	2	5	2	1	2	6	2	2	5	6	--	--	Nov. 22 - March 14
1995	8	8	6	9	9	9	7	11	16	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Nov. 21 - March 13
1996	--	--	12	18	21	20	20	19	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Nov. 20 - March 11
1997	10	10	6	10	14	11	12	13	10	13	10	12	8	6	6	7	7	8	--	--	Nov. 19 - March 10
1998	3	3	3	1	1	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	3	--	--	Nov. 16 - March 6
1999	1	1	1	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	--	--	Nov. 15 - March 8
2000	10	18	16	17	14	11	10	9	8	6	5	3	3	3	2	4	3	1	--	--	Nov. 15 - March 13
2001	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	2	3	1	--	Nov. 13 - March 12
2002	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	--	--	Nov. 5 - April 2
2003	6	6	6	4	3	3	3	3	1	1	3	5	9	8	8	6	10	12	7	--	Nov. 11-March 17
2004	2	2	2	6	4	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	5	3	5	6	--	Nov. 10-March 15
2005	11	11	9	10	9	7	6	6	5	5	4	2	4	7	7	7	6	5	3	--	Nov. 15-March 14
2006	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	3	1	--	Nov. 14-March 13
2007	12	11	9	11	7	6	6	5	5	11	14	10	8	16	--	18	14	21	--	--	Nov. 6-March 13
2008	13	13	13	7	6	6	6	10	9	9	7	4	3	2	2	5	7	6	7	9	Nov. 5-March 17
2009	8	10	7	4	7	6	5	5	2	3	2	1	4	6	9	7	7	9	6	--	Nov. 10-March 16
2010	9	9	7	6	8	7	7	7	5	8	7	8	10	8	6	5	4	4	3	--	Nov. 2-March 15
2011	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	3	5	5	5	1	4	5	3	--	Nov. 15-March 14
2012	6	6	6	4	7	7	7	7	5	8	4	8	7	10	5	5	4	6	8	--	Nov. 7-March 12
2013	8	8	5	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	5	4	2	6	3	3	2	6	Nov. 5-March 18
2014	4	4	6	6	10	8	8	9	7	16	23	18	17	11	8	5	6	4	7	8	Nov. 4-March 17
2015	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	3	2	4	--	Nov. 10-March 16
2016	5	5	6	7	8	7	15	15	14	9	20	24	--	--	20	15	17	19	19	--	Nov. 2-March 4
2017	1	1	6	5	5	5	5	5	8	7	18	17	21	18	12	10	17	14	7	--	Oct. 31-March 13
2018	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	4	2	7	5	4	4	9	12	5	5	5	9	--	Nov. 1-March 12
2019	4	1	1	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	3	4	5	1	Oct. 22-March 18
2020	4	2	1	1	10	7	4	4	2	2	3	8	9	7	7	6	7	12	10	11	Oct. 21-March 16
2021	9	9	6	10	21	20	20	21	19	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Nov. 9-March 15
2022	9	9	7	5	1	3	2	2	2	2	8	6	9	9	7	9	7	4	7	9	Oct. 18-March 14

UPI POLLS

FINAL TOP 10
(COACHES 1951-92)

1951

1. Kentucky
2. Oklahoma State
3. Kansas State
4. Illinois
5. Columbia
6. Bradley
7. NC State
8. Indiana
9. St. John's
10. BYU

1952

1. Kentucky
2. Illinois
3. Kansas
4. Duquesne
5. Washington
6. Kansas State
7. St. Louis
8. Iowa
9. St. John's
10. Wyoming

1953

1. Indiana
2. Washington
3. LaSalle
4. Seton Hall
5. Kansas
6. LSU
7. Oklahoma State
8. N.C. State
9. Kansas State
10. Illinois

1954

1. Indiana
2. Kentucky
3. Duquesne
4. Oklahoma State
5. Notre Dame
6. W. Kentucky
7. Kansas
8. LSU
9. Holy Cross
10. Iowa

1955

1. San Francisco
2. Kentucky
3. LaSalle
4. Utah
5. Iowa
6. NC State
7. Duquesne
8. Oregon State
9. Marquette
10. Dayton

1956

1. San Francisco
2. NC State
3. Dayton
4. Iowa
5. Alabama
6. SMU
7. Louisville
8. Illinois
9. UCLA
10. Vanderbilt

1957

1. North Carolina
2. Kansas
3. Kentucky
4. SMU
5. Seattle
6. California
7. Michigan State
8. Louisville
9. UCLA
10. St. Louis

1958

1. West Virginia
2. Cincinnati
3. San Francisco
4. Kansas State
5. Temple
6. Maryland
7. Notre Dame
8. Kansas
9. Dayton
10. Indiana

1959

1. Kansas State
2. Kentucky
3. Michigan State
4. Cincinnati
5. NC State
6. North Carolina
7. Mississippi State
8. Bradley
9. California
10. Auburn

1960

1. California
2. Cincinnati
3. Ohio State
4. Bradley
5. Utah
6. West Virginia
7. Utah State
8. Georgia Tech
9. Villanova
10. Indiana

1961

1. Ohio State
2. Cincinnati
3. St. Bonaventure
4. Kansas State
5. USC
6. North Carolina
7. Bradley
8. St. John's
9. **Duke**
10. Wake Forest

1962

1. Ohio State
2. Cincinnati
3. Kentucky
4. Mississippi State
5. Kansas State
6. Bradley
7. Wake Forest
8. Colorado
9. Bowling Green
10. Utah

1963

1. Cincinnati
2. **Duke**
3. Arizona State
4. Loyola, Chicago
5. Illinois
6. Wichita State
7. Mississippi State
8. Ohio State
9. Colorado
10. Stanford

1964

1. UCLA
2. Michigan
3. Kentucky
4. **Duke**
5. Oregon State
6. Wichita State
7. Villanova
8. Loyola, Chicago
9. Texas-El Paso
10. Davidson

1965

1. Michigan
2. UCLA
3. St. Joseph's
4. Providence
5. Vanderbilt
6. BYU
7. Davidson
8. Minnesota
9. **Duke**
10. San Francisco

1966

1. Kentucky
2. **Duke**
3. Texas-El Paso
4. Kansas
5. Loyola, Chicago
6. St. Joseph's
7. Michigan
8. Vanderbilt
9. Cincinnati
10. Providence

1967

1. UCLA
2. Louisville
3. North Carolina
4. Kansas
5. Princeton
6. Houston
7. W. Kentucky
8. Texas-El Paso
9. Tennessee
10. Boston College

1968

1. Houston
2. UCLA
3. St. Bonaventure
4. North Carolina
5. Kentucky
6. Columbia
7. New Mexico
8. Louisville
9. Davidson
10. Marquette

1969

1. UCLA
2. North Carolina
3. Davidson
4. Santa Clara
5. Kentucky
6. LaSalle
7. Purdue
8. St. John's
9. New Mexico St.
10. Duquesne

1970

1. Kentucky
2. UCLA
3. St. Bonaventure
4. New Mexico St.
5. Jacksonville
6. South Carolina
7. Iowa
8. Notre Dame
9. Drake
10. Marquette

1971

1. UCLA
2. Marquette
3. Pennsylvania
4. Kansas
5. USC
6. South Carolina
7. W. Kentucky
8. Kentucky
9. Fordham
10. Ohio State

1972

1. UCLA
2. North Carolina
3. Pennsylvania
4. Louisville
5. South Carolina
6. Long Beach State
7. Marquette
8. SW Louisiana
9. BYU
10. Florida State

1973

1. UCLA
2. NC State
3. Long Beach State
4. Marquette
5. Providence
6. Indiana
7. Kansas State
8. SW Louisiana
9. Minnesota
10. Maryland

1974

1. NC State
2. UCLA
3. Notre Dame
4. Maryland
5. Marquette
6. Providence
7. Vanderbilt
8. North Carolina
9. Indiana
10. Kansas

1975

1. Indiana
2. UCLA
3. Louisville
4. Kentucky
5. Maryland
6. Marquette
7. Arizona State
8. Alabama
9. N.C. State
10. North Carolina

1976

1. Indiana
2. Marquette
3. Rutgers
4. UNLV
5. UCLA
6. North Carolina
7. Alabama
8. Notre Dame
9. Michigan
10. Washington

1977

1. Michigan
2. San Francisco
3. North Carolina
4. UCLA
5. Kentucky
6. UNLV
7. Arkansas
8. Tennessee
9. Syracuse
10. Utah

1978

1. Kentucky
2. UCLA
3. Marquette
4. New Mexico
5. Michigan State
6. Arkansas
7. DePaul
8. Kansas
9. **Duke**
10. North Carolina

1979

1. Indiana State
2. UCLA
3. North Carolina
4. Michigan State
5. Notre Dame
6. Arkansas
7. **Duke**
8. DePaul
9. LSU
10. Syracuse

1980

1. DePaul
2. LSU
3. Kentucky
4. Louisville
5. Oregon State
6. Syracuse
7. Indiana
8. Maryland
9. Ohio State
10. Georgetown

1981

1. DePaul
2. Oregon State
3. Virginia
4. LSU
5. Arizona State
6. North Carolina
7. Indiana
8. Kentucky
9. Notre Dame
10. Utah

1982

1. North Carolina
2. DePaul
3. Virginia
4. Oregon State
5. Missouri
6. Minnesota
7. Georgetown
8. Idaho
9. Memphis State
10. Fresno State

1983

1. Houston
2. Louisville
3. St. John's
4. Virginia
5. Indiana
6. UNLV
7. UCLA
8. North Carolina
9. Arkansas
10. Kentucky

1984

1. North Carolina
2. Georgetown
3. Kentucky
4. DePaul
5. Houston
6. Illinois
7. Arkansas
8. Oklahoma
9. Texas-El Paso
10. Maryland

1985

1. Georgetown
2. Michigan
3. St. John's
4. Memphis State
5. Oklahoma
6. Georgia Tech
7. North Carolina
8. Louisiana Tech
9. UNLV
10. Illinois

1986

1. **Duke**
2. Kansas
3. St. John's
4. Kentucky
5. Michigan
6. Georgia Tech
7. Louisville
8. North Carolina
9. Syracuse
10. UNLV

1987

1. UNLV
2. Indiana
3. North Carolina
4. Georgetown
5. DePaul
6. Purdue
7. Iowa
8. Temple
9. Alabama
10. Syracuse

1988

1. Temple
2. Arizona
3. Purdue
4. Oklahoma
5. **Duke**
6. Kentucky
7. Pittsburgh
8. North Carolina
9. Syracuse
10. Michigan

1989

1. Arizona
2. Georgetown
3. Illinois
4. North Carolina
5. Oklahoma
6. Indiana
7. **Duke**
8. Missouri
9. Syracuse
10. Michigan

1990

1. Oklahoma
2. UNLV
3. Connecticut
4. Michigan State
5. Kansas
6. Syracuse
7. Georgia Tech
8. Arkansas
9. Georgetown
10. Purdue

1991

1. UNLV
2. Arkansas
3. Indiana
4. North Carolina
5. Ohio State
6. **Duke**
7. Arizona
8. Syracuse
9. Nebraska
10. Utah

1992

1. **Duke**
2. Kansas
3. Ohio State
4. Indiana
5. UCLA
6. USC
7. Arizona
8. Arkansas
9. Kentucky
10. Oklahoma State

1993

1. Indiana
2. North Carolina
3. Michigan
4. Kentucky
5. Arizona
6. Seton Hall
7. Cincinnati
8. Vanderbilt
9. Kansas
10. **Duke**

USA TODAY POLL
FINAL TOP 10
(1983-92)

1983

1. Houston
2. Louisville
3. St. John's
4. Indiana
5. Virginia
6. North Carolina
7. UNLV
8. UCLA
9. Boston College
10. Villanova

1985

1. Georgetown
2. Michigan
3. St. John's
4. Oklahoma
5. Memphis State
6. Georgia Tech
7. Louisiana Tech
8. North Carolina
9. UNLV
10. **Duke**

1986

1. **Duke**
2. Kansas
3. Kentucky
4. St. John's
5. Georgia Tech
6. Michigan
7. North Carolina
8. Louisville
9. Syracuse
10. Notre Dame

1987

1. UNLV
2. Indiana
3. North Carolina
4. Georgetown
5. Iowa
6. DePaul
7. Alabama
8. Purdue
9. Temple
10. Syracuse

1988

1. Temple
2. Arizona
3. Oklahoma
4. Purdue
5. Kentucky
6. **Duke**
7. North Carolina
8. Pittsburgh
9. Syracuse
10. Michigan

1989

1. Arizona
2. Georgetown
3. Illinois
4. North Carolina
5. Indiana
6. Oklahoma
7. Syracuse
8. **Duke**
9. Missouri
10. Michigan

1990

1. Oklahoma
2. UNLV
3. Connecticut
4. Michigan State
5. Kansas
6. Syracuse
7. Arkansas
8. Georgia Tech
9. Georgetown
10. Missouri

1991

1. **Duke**
2. UNLV
3. Kansas
4. North Carolina
5. Arkansas
6. Seton Hall
7. St. John's
8. Ohio State
9. Indiana
10. Arizona

1992

1. **Duke**
2. Kansas
3. Ohio State
4. Indiana
5. UCLA
6. USC
7. Arizona
8. Arkansas
9. Kentucky
10. Oklahoma State

**USA TODAY/
CNN POLLS
FINAL TOP 10
(COACHES 1993-98)**

1993

- North Carolina
- Michigan
- Kentucky
- Kansas
- Indiana
- Cincinnati
- Florida State
- Vanderbilt
- Duke**
- Arkansas

1994

- Arkansas
- Duke**
- Arizona
- Florida
- Purdue
- Missouri
- Connecticut
- Michigan
- North Carolina
- Louisville

1995

- UCLA
- Arkansas
- North Carolina
- Oklahoma State
- Kentucky
- Connecticut
- Massachusetts
- Virginia
- Wake Forest
- Kansas

1996

- Kentucky
- Massachusetts
- Syracuse
- Mississippi State
- Kansas
- Cincinnati
- Georgetown
- Connecticut
- Wake Forest
- Texas Tech

1997

- Arizona
- Kentucky
- Minnesota
- North Carolina
- Kansas
- Utah
- UCLA
- Clemson
- Wake Forest
- Louisville

1998

- Kentucky
- Utah
- North Carolina
- Stanford
- Duke**
- Arizona
- Connecticut
- Kansas
- Purdue
- Michigan State

**USA TODAY/
ESPN POLLS
FINAL TOP 10
(COACHES 1999-2015)**

1999

- Connecticut
- Duke**
- Michigan State
- Ohio State
- Kentucky
- St. John's
- Auburn
- Maryland
- Stanford
- Utah

2000

- Michigan State
- Florida
- Iowa State
- Duke**
- Stanford
- Oklahoma State
- Cincinnati
- Arizona
- Tulsa
- Temple

2001

- Duke**
- Arizona
- Michigan State
- Maryland
- Stanford
- Illinois
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Mississippi
- North Carolina

2002

- Maryland
- Kansas
- Indiana
- Oklahoma
- Duke**
- Oregon
- Connecticut
- Cincinnati
- Pittsburgh
- Arizona

2003

- Syracuse
- Kansas
- Texas
- Kentucky
- Arizona
- Marquette
- Oklahoma
- Pittsburgh
- Duke**
- Maryland

2004

- Connecticut
- Duke**
- Georgia Tech
- Oklahoma State
- St. Joseph's
- Stanford
- Pittsburgh
- Kentucky
- Kansas
- Texas

2005

- North Carolina
- Illinois
- Louisville
- Michigan State
- Kentucky
- Arizona
- Duke**
- Oklahoma State
- Washington
- Wisconsin

2006

- Florida
- UCLA
- LSU
- Connecticut
- Villanova
- Memphis
- Duke**
- George Mason
- Texas
- Gonzaga

2007

- Florida
- Ohio State
- UCLA
- Georgetown
- Kansas
- North Carolina
- Memphis
- Oregon
- Texas A&M
- Pittsburgh

2008

- Kansas
- Memphis
- North Carolina
- UCLA
- Texas
- Louisville
- Tennessee
- Xavier
- Davidson
- Wisconsin

2009

- North Carolina
- Michigan State
- Connecticut
- Villanova
- Louisville
- Pittsburgh
- Oklahoma
- Missouri
- Memphis
- Kansas

2010

- Duke**
- Butler
- West Virginia
- Michigan State
- Kentucky
- Kansas
- Kansas State
- Syracuse
- Tennessee
- Baylor

2011

- Connecticut
- Butler
- Kentucky
- Kansas
- Ohio State
- VCU
- Duke**
- North Carolina
- Arizona
- Florida

2012

- Kentucky
- Kansas
- Ohio State
- Louisville
- Syracuse
- North Carolina
- Michigan State
- Baylor
- Florida
- Marquette

2013

- Louisville
- Michigan
- Syracuse
- Wichita State
- Duke**
- Ohio State
- Indiana
- Kansas
- Florida
- Miami [Fla.]

2014

- Connecticut
- Kentucky
- Florida
- Wisconsin
- Arizona
- Michigan
- Wichita State
- Michigan State
- Louisville
- Virginia

2015

- Duke**
- Wisconsin
- Kentucky
- Arizona
- Notre Dame
- Gonzaga
- Michigan State
- Virginia
- Villanova
- Louisville

**USA TODAY POLL
FINAL TOP 10
(2016-CURRENT)**

2016

- Villanova
- North Carolina
- Kansas
- Oklahoma
- Virginia
- Oregon
- Michigan State
- Miami
- Indiana
- Syracuse

2017

- North Carolina
- Gonzaga
- Oregon
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- South Carolina
- Arizona
- Villanova
- UCLA
- Florida

FINAL POLL TITLES

School	AP	Coaches	Total Titles	First	Last
Duke	8	9	17	1986	2019
Kentucky	10	7	17	1949	2015
UCLA	8	7	15	1964	1995
North Carolina	6	6	12	1957	2017
Indiana	3	5	8	1953	1993
Kansas	4	3	7	1997	2020
Ohio State	4	2	6	1961	2011
DePaul	2	2	4	1980	1981
Houston	2	2	4	1968	1983
Michigan	2	2	4	1965	1977
San Francisco	2	2	4	1955	1956
UNLV	2	2	4	1987	1991
Connecticut	1	3	4	1999	2014
Florida	1	2	3	2006	2014
Cincinnati	2	1	3	1960	1963
Villanova	1	2	3	2016	2018
Arizona	1	1	2	1989	1989
Georgetown	1	1	2	1985	1985
Gonzaga	3	1	4	2013	2022
Illinois	1	1	2	2005	2005
Indiana State	1	1	2	1979	1979
Kansas State	1	1	2	1959	1959
Massachusetts	1	1	2	1996	1996
NC State	1	1	2	1974	1974
Oklahoma	1	1	2	1990	1990
Stanford	1	1	2	2004	2004
Temple	1	1	2	1988	1988
West Virginia	1	1	2	1958	1958
Louisville	1	1	2	2009	2013
Virginia	1	1	2	2018	2019
Arkansas	0	1	1	1994	1994
Baylor	0	1	1	2021	2021
Bradley	1	0	1	1950	1950
California	0	1	1	1960	1960

Note: Duke is the only team to finish the regular season at No. 1 in the rankings four straight seasons. Each year from 1998-99 through 2001-02, the Blue Devils topped both the AP and coaches' polls at the end of the regular season.

2018	2021
1. Villanova	1. Baylor
2. Michigan	2. Gonzaga
3. Kansas	3. Houston
4. Duke	4. Michigan
5. Virginia	5. Alabama
6. Texas Tech	6. Arkansas
7. Loyola-Chicago	7. UCLA
8. Xavier	8. Illinois
9. Purdue	9. USC
10. Gonzaga	10. Florida State

2019	2022
1. Virginia	1. Gonzaga
2. Texas Tech	2. Arizona
3. Michigan State	3. Kansas
4. Duke	4. Baylor
5. Auburn	5. Villanova
6. Gonzaga	6. Kentucky
7. Kentucky	7. Auburn
8. Purdue	8. Tennessee
9. North Carolina	9. Purdue
10. Tennessee	10. Duke

2020

- Kansas
- Gonzaga
- Dayton
- Baylor
- Florida State
- San Diego State
- Kentucky
- Duke**
- Villanova
- Creighton

ALL-TIME RECORD - RANKED

RK	W-L	PCT.
1	243-41	.856
2	138-23	.857
3	121-27	.818
4	94-18	.839
5	100-31	.763
6	122-34	.782
7	98-31	.760
8	81-18	.819
9	71-20	.780
10	43-16	.729
11	22-9	.710
12	24-6	.800
13	28-4	.875
14	24-7	.774
15	20-6	.769
16	11-10	.524
17	19-12	.613
18	14-7	.667
19	9-10	.474
20	10-2	.833
21	7-1	.875
22	0-0	-
23	2-0	1.000
24	0-1	.000
25	0-0	-
Total	1,302-334	.796

ALL-TIME RECORD - VS. RANKED

RK	W-L	PCT.
1	10-21	.323
2	18-28	.391
3	17-24	.415
4	13-20	.394
5	12-22	.353
6	18-10	.643
7	18-16	.529
8	12-21	.364
9	15-15	.500
10	12-7	.632
11	17-14	.548
12	15-6	.714
13	18-10	.643
14	19-8	.704
15	14-9	.609
16	11-6	.647
17	13-9	.591
18	10-10	.500
19	13-6	.684
20	11-12	.478
21	8-2	.800
22	7-3	.700
23	9-2	.818
24	8-2	.800
25	3-1	.750
Total	321-284	.530

(AP poll only)

ACC SCHOOLS AT NO.1 (AP)

WEEKS RANKED NO. 1 (ACC SCHOOLS ONLY)

Duke	145
North Carolina	110
Virginia	17
NC State	13
Syracuse *	3
Wake Forest	3
Louisville *	2
Georgia Tech	1
Boston College	0
Clemson	0
Florida State	0
Miami	0
Notre Dame *	0
Pittsburgh *	0
Virginia Tech	0

* as ACC member

AP NO.1 RANKINGS (SINCE 1989-90)

WEEKS RANKED NO. 1 (SINCE 1990)

1. Duke	114
2. Kansas	64
3. North Carolina	52
4. Kentucky	45
5. Gonzaga	42
6. Connecticut	29
7. Arizona	27
8. Villanova	19
9. UNLV	18
10. Stanford	16
Syracuse	16

AP TOP 10 RANKING STREAK

Duke has registered four of the 10 longest top 10 ranking streaks in NCAA history.

CONSECUTIVE WEEKS RANKED IN THE AP TOP 10 | ACC

Team	Weeks	Span
Duke	122	11/26/07 - 1/6/14
Duke	75	12/26/61 - 12/6/66
Duke	69	1/22/91 - 12/26/94
Maryland	68	11/25/72 - 3/2/76
Duke	67	12/20/99 - 3/3/03

CONSECUTIVE WEEKS RANKED IN THE AP TOP 10 | NCAA

Team	Weeks	Span
UCLA	155	11/15/66 - 1/20/76
Duke	122	11/26/07 - 1/6/14
Kentucky	91	3/14/94 - 2/15/99
Gonzaga	81	2/12/18 - current
Kansas	76	11/21/94 - 12/7/98
Duke	75	12/26/61 - 12/6/66
Duke	69	1/22/91 - 12/26/94
Maryland	68	11/25/72 - 3/2/76
Duke	67	12/20/99 - 3/3/03
Marquette	66	2/17/70 - 2/26/74



The 2019 Blue Devils, who captured the program's 21st ACC Championship, went wire-to-wire in the Associated Press top 5.

