



## 2009 ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT POST-GAME QUOTES

### GAME 10 – No. 7 Maryland vs. No. 2 Duke

#### **Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski:**

**Opening statement** – “It was a very difficult game. Maryland has been on a mission, and Vasquez had led them. I thought we played good enough defensively to limit Vasquez from dominating the game. Coming in, he had been averaging 20 points and 10 assists in the two games. He was responsible for probably 60 to 65 percent of their points. So, our focus was to try and limit him, and I think we did that. He was good today, but we stopped him from being great.

“Our guys had a little bit of a problem, because they do some things unconventionally on defense, which can throw you off your rhythm. I thought our bench gave us a huge lift. Paulus came in and gave us good minutes, and Nolan (Smith) was really good. I mean, really good. Dave (McClure), in the second half, made three huge plays that, you could see, lifted our team. His drive to score gave our team even a little bit more life, which is what Elliot (Williams) has done the last few weeks. So our bench was huge in this afternoon’s game.

“We’re excited about playing for the ACC Championship, and we know that will be a difficult game also.”

#### **Your last few games have been tough and come down to the last few possessions. What does that say about your team’s mental toughness at this point in the season?**

“I think the stretch that we had at the end of regular season - we had such a difficult schedule - and that has made us a tougher team. I love seeing these guys respond to pressure situations, like inbound the ball. We didn’t make a mistake in inbound the ball. Pressure free throws, not fouling, not giving up a three, but tw’s, things like that. You can simulate something like that in practice, but unless you actually do it in a game, you’re not going to have a confidence level. In these two games, our guys have made a lot of pressure plays.

#### **On how team changes when Elliott Williams and Noal Smith play together**

“It helps us defensively because they’re two of our best athletes. It also gives us a little bit of rest for Gerald {Henderson} and Jon [Scheyer]. With those four guys on the perimeter, plus David [McClure], defensively we go up a notch. I’m really astounded at how well Nolan [Smith] has played these two games. He’s only practiced just a little bit and even his conditioning is great. Today, he was a huge factor for us. Going into those pressure situations, he knocked down the free throws.”

#### **On the ACC and comparing it to other conference around the country**

“I love the Big Ten, but I can’t believe people are saying seven or eight teams and they’re not saying nine or 10 from our conference. In our conference, count how many teams have been ranked in the top 10. There are four in the top 10 at some time and three of them have been number one. The Big East has that, but no other conference does. Maryland has played seven games against teams ranked number one at some point this year. No one has played that kind of schedule. They’re 20-13 and five of those 13 losses have come to the number one team in the country at some time this year. You can say that for a few teams in our league. I’m not picking on the Big 10, but come on. Can you say that? “

“Don’t tell me what your conference or even your overall record is. Virginia Tech’s record goes right up against anyone from the major conferences. It just does. This has been our best league in this decade, player wise and team wise. There is no easy out in this league. Georgia Tech showed that by how they played in this tournament.”

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## **DUKE QUOTES - CONTINUED**

### **Duke Players:**

#### **Jon Scheyer**

##### **What opened up for you in the second half that wasn't there in the first half, offensively?**

“In the first half, they did a really good job defensively. In the second half, my teammates got me a couple of good looks, and in the zone, we had some other opportunities to get some shots there. That was a big thing for us, when I was open against the zone, to try and hit those shots.” **Krzyzewski chimes in** - “And Nolan did a really good job on top of the zone, so we could swing it to Jon. Jon was huge against the zone.”

##### **On playing a much bigger team like Florida State and how you can adjust in just 24 hours**

“We just played Florida State so we know how good of a team they are. Obviously, they have [Solomon] Alabi inside who can change a lot of shots. It's a different game where you need to know when to attack and be smart because they do have a lot of shot blockers. When we play them, we need to be smart and aggressive.”

##### **On why offense has picked up since changing positions**

“Coach has put me in a good position to score the ball. For me, when the point guard is picking me up at the top of the key it's a strength for me to take him off the ball. They're not used to it so I just try and use it to my advantage. It's just a matter of being confident and taking the right shots.”

#### **David McClure**

##### **On having support of his coaches and whether his play in the second half gave team momentum**

“I think so. I feel like there are a lot of different ways that I can help the team. It could be a drive to the basket, sometimes it could be a rebound and sometimes it can be a strong screen. That's really the biggest thing that I enjoy doing. I just want to help the team no matter what it is that's what I'm going to try and do.”

##### **On what it would mean to win the ACC Tournament**

“As a group, it would be a great way to help us in the latter part of March. Personally, it would be great just to get back there. We won a couple championships early in my career, but I really wasn't much of a factor. I was young and coming off a couple injuries. There would be no better way to end with these guys than to go out and get one. Everybody on our team feels like they are a part of it. Everybody will take ownership of it.”



## 2009 ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT POST-GAME QUOTES

GAME 10 – No. 2 Duke vs. No. 7 Maryland

**Maryland Head Coach Gary Williams:**

### **Opening Statement**

“Eric Hayes did a great job today down the stretch trying to keep us in there, and Dave Neal has been a great player for us. He’s our lone senior. Not just what you see on the court, but his leadership characteristics this year were outstanding and kept us together through some tough times. He has really battled all year. I’m proud of these guys.”

“We just couldn’t get it going at the start of the second half. We missed some shots that we had some pretty good looks. It really hurt us, and against a team like Duke they usually make you pay if you don’t get the ones that you should make. They are going to make you take some tough shots, but you have to make the ones that you should make.”

“We’ve been playing great. Our effort today was right there. But we had a shot with a couple minutes left, but fell short.”

### **On defending Duke, and Maryland’s use of the zone today**

“One player that hurt us from the three point line was (Jon) Scheyer – he hit a couple that were big time shots. He did a good job. (Kyle) Singler made a couple in the first half that probably kept us from going zone earlier that we did. When we did go to zone, Scheyer knocked a couple down. He was very impressive today, he really did a good job for them. He looks like a study player, then all of the sudden you look at the stats at the end of the game and he’s got great stats. That’s to his credit that he plays like that.”

“I was pleased overall with the intensity level. You can do much better than that – hold them to 32 and 35 in two 20 minute periods. I was pretty pleased with our defense.”

### **On switching to zone defense**

“I thought it would catch them off guard. They had to call timeout when we went zone. We did a pretty good job. Then they made a couple so we got out of it because we got behind. So it’s been good to us this year, we’ve probably played more zone this year than I’ve done as a head coach. It’s won several games for us.”

### **On the NCAA Tournament selection**

“What we’ve done is for people to judge. I’m not part of that selection process so I don’t like to say too much about it. I know we’re a very good basketball team right now. I think that’s our seventh game against teams that have been ranked No. 1 at some point in the year. Playing in the toughest league and being the only team in the league to play the first and second teams twice during the season made our schedule pretty tough. I thought we competed pretty well given that situation. It’s nice going into the selection process with a win over Michigan State, the Big Ten regular season champions and having beaten Michigan, the North Carolina game at our place that we won. And all those things are really good so hopefully that body of work is good enough.”

“It changes hour to hour, who’s on the bubble. I like what we’ve done in the best conference in the country in terms of the RPI. We came in here as the seven seed and didn’t do anything to hurt that. Hopefully that will help us.”

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## **MARYLAND QUOTES – CONTINUED**

### **Maryland forward Dave Neal**

#### **On fatigue playing a factor today in Duke's 9-0 run**

"I don't think that. Basketball is a game of runs, and they made their run right there. We fought hard the whole 40 minutes. That run was crucial for them and they pulled their lead ahead. In a tournament like this, you have to stay mentally tough the entire tournament. We had played one more game than Duke. I thought we fought as hard as we could for 40 minutes. We gave it our all for 40 minutes.

#### **On playing from behind against Duke**

"It's tough. They take their time in the half court offense. When they are ahead, they use the shot clock extremely well. And that's a credit to Coach K. They are a very disciplined team, and when they take the lead, they know what it takes to win. When Duke takes the lead, they're a tough team to beat."

#### **On missing shots to start the second half**

"You're not going to make every shot during the game. You've just got to keep on shooting them. I think we did a good job staying aggressive and taking those shots even though they didn't fall our way. Towards the end Eric [Hayes] was getting those same shots and he hit pretty much all of them. He did a great job continually attacking the basket towards the end. Unfortunately during the early part of the second half they didn't fall for us. But it's basketball, you're not going to make every shot but we still stayed aggressive. We kept on attacking and towards the end they starting falling and I just wish they started falling earlier. You can't lose the toughness, you have to keep making those shots."

### **Maryland guard Eric Hayes**

#### **On fatigue playing a factor today in Duke's 9-0 run**

"The run they made was probably the difference in the game. They got a decent lead on us and we couldn't get back from that point on. That was probably the biggest key."

#### **On Duke's defense**

"They defended us how they defended us in the last two games. They switched a lot of screens and tried to put a lot of ball pressure on the defender. They didn't throw too many new looks at us."



## 2009 ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT POST-GAME QUICK QUOTES (From Locker Rooms)

GAME 10 – No. 3 Duke vs. No. 7 Maryland

### Duke Players:

#### **Kyle Singler**

##### **On facing Florida State:**

“We could have easily lost either (regular season) game. They are a good team. Both games went down to the wire. Keys to the game: They are big inside, we are going to have to stop Toney Douglas; he’s a very good guard. We are going to have to play forty minutes. That is a big thing with this team. Sometimes we don’t play well in the first half and then play better in the second. We have to put together two halves of basketball.”

#### **Nolan Smith**

##### **On Jon Scheyer’s role at point guard:**

“When Jon is the point he forces a mismatch for the other team. He forces the other point guard to guard him coming off screens and then when he gives it up we have five scorers on the court.”

### Maryland Players:

#### **Greivis Vasquez**

##### **On tonight’s game:**

“I am proud of my team. We got a great group of guys, a great coach and we did a great job. It is never going to be easy, and it is always going to be hard playing Duke. They play hard, they are well coached. You’ve got to give them credit. We just didn’t execute our plays, they kind of got us out of our plays with the switching, but I thought we played hard at the end. We didn’t let the game go and we fought back but they got the win.”

#### **Landon Milbourne**

##### **On tonight’s game:**

“We came down here with the thought in our head that we could win every game. Tonight if we had played harder for forty minutes we might have come out with the win. We are going to learn from that and hopefully fix it.”