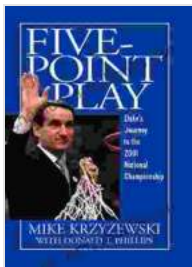


# Duke's Triumphant Journey to the 2001 National Championship: A Tale of Grit, Determination, and Unforgettable Moments

In the annals of college basketball history, Duke University's 2001 National Championship stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit and exceptional talent that can coalesce into an unforgettable triumph. This article chronicles the Blue Devils' remarkable run to the title, highlighting the key players, pivotal moments, and enduring legacy that defined one of the most extraordinary seasons in college basketball lore.

Led by the legendary coach Mike Krzyzewski, the 2000-2001 Duke Blue Devils entered the season ranked as the top team in the nation. The squad boasted a talented roster featuring future NBA stars Carlos Boozer, Shane Battier, and Jason Williams.

The regular season was a rollercoaster ride, as the Blue Devils navigated a challenging schedule. They notched impressive wins over top-ranked opponents such as Maryland, North Carolina, and UCLA. However, they also endured several close calls and suffered a few unexpected losses.



## Five-Point Play: Duke's Journey to the 2001 National Championship by Mike Krzyzewski

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1115 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 272 pages



As March Madness approached, Duke entered the NCAA Tournament as the No. 1 overall seed. They cruised through the first two rounds, setting up a Sweet Sixteen matchup with the No. 8 seed Temple Owls.

The Temple game proved to be a turning point for the Blue Devils. Trailing by 1 point with just seconds remaining, Shane Battier drained a clutch three-pointer to send the game to overtime. Inspired by Battier's heroics, Duke rallied to victory in overtime and advanced to the Elite Eight.

In the Elite Eight, Duke faced the No. 3 seed Maryland Terrapins, a bitter rival. The game was intensely competitive, with neither team gaining a commanding lead. With seconds left on the clock, Maryland had the ball and a chance to win. However, Jason Williams stole the ball and drove the length of the court for a game-winning layup. The play became known as the "Miracle in Greensboro" and sent Duke to the Final Four.

In the Final Four, Duke faced the No. 2 seed Kansas Jayhawks, led by the enigmatic Drew Gooden. The Blue Devils played their most dominant game of the tournament, dismantling Kansas by a score of 84-63. Carlos Boozer led the way with 21 points and 10 rebounds, while Shane Battier contributed 18 points and 7 rebounds.

The National Championship game pitted Duke against the No. 4 seed Arizona Wildcats, coached by the legendary Lute Olson. The game was a back-and-forth affair, with both teams trading punches. In the end, it was Duke's defense that proved to be the difference. They held Arizona to just 33% shooting and forced 12 turnovers.

With the clock winding down, Duke's Jason Williams sealed the victory with a driving layup. The Blue Devils erupted in celebration, capturing their third National Championship in six years.

The 2001 Duke Blue Devils featured a roster of exceptional talent who went on to have successful NBA careers.

- **Carlos Boozer:** The rugged power forward averaged 19.2 points and 9.8 rebounds per game during the championship season. He was a two-time All-American and the National Player of the Year in 2001.
- **Shane Battier:** The versatile swingman was known for his defense and clutch shooting. He averaged 14.1 points, 6.5 rebounds, and 3.0 assists per game in 2001. He was a three-time All-American and an Olympic gold medalist.
- **Jason Williams:** The lightning-quick point guard averaged 13.7 points and 5.1 assists per game in 2001. He was known for his flashy passing and highlight-reel plays. He went on to become a two-time NBA All-Star.
- **Chris Duhon:** The steady point guard averaged 8.5 points and 4.2 assists per game in 2001. He was a three-time ACC Defensive Player of the Year and an Olympic gold medalist.
- **Mike Dunleavy Jr.:** The sharpshooting forward averaged 11.1 points and 5.0 rebounds per game in 2001. He was a two-time All-ACC selection and went on to have a 16-year NBA career.

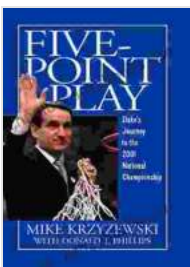
Coach Mike Krzyzewski, known as "Coach K," played a pivotal role in Duke's 2001 National Championship. His leadership, tactical acumen, and ability to motivate his players were all key factors in their success.

With the 2001 title, Coach K cemented his legacy as one of the greatest college basketball coaches of all time. He went on to lead Duke to four more National Championships and countless other accolades.

The 2001 Duke Blue Devils' National Championship run left an enduring mark on the sport of college basketball. Their thrilling victories, memorable plays, and exceptional talent continue to inspire generations of fans.

The team's success also helped establish Duke as a basketball powerhouse. The program has consistently ranked among the nation's elite and has produced numerous NBA stars over the years.

The 2001 Duke Blue Devils' journey to the National Championship was a remarkable tale of grit, determination, and unforgettable moments. The team's exceptional talent, led by Coach Mike Krzyzewski, propelled them to victory against some of the best competition in college basketball history. Their triumph cemented their place in the pantheon of college basketball legends and left an enduring legacy that continues to inspire fans to this day.



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