



Opponent Postgame Quotes

Duke vs. South Dakota



December 2, 2017 // Cameron Indoor Stadium // Durham, N.C.

South Dakota head coach Craig Smith

Opening Statement:

"First of all, I want to thank Coach K, and I think it was Mike Cragg that really were able to set up this game, and I'm a history major, so I just really study and watch the history of the game, and obviously Coach K and the Duke history and tradition is incredible, and we know how fortunate we were to get this game because we didn't really know Coach K or the assistants or anything like that and Bobby Hurley, obviously the legendary Bobby Hurley, is a good friend, and I think he kind of helped facilitate that, so thanks to Coach K for just an unbelievable opportunity for the University of South Dakota. We're, all things considered, a relatively new Division I school. I think we've been Division I for nine, maybe 10 years, something like that. I mean we want to win and we want to win big, but it's also about the experiences that you gain and the relationships that you make that last a lifetime. We got a lot of young guys we recruit and we asked them questions like if you could play anywhere in country or you could play anyone in the country, who would you play, and the majority of people say Duke. So for our guys, for our 17 men in our program, certainly we are very disappointed we lost and really disappointed in how we played the first 12 minutes in particular and Duke had a lot to do with that, but it will be an experience that our guys will remember for a long, long time, and this game is certainly going to make us a lot better team and a better program without a question, so I was really proud of how we responded in the second half. You guys have seen a lot of games here, Duke can really overwhelm you. I saw (Steve) Wojo (Wojciechowski) at Marquette this summer at an AAU tournament, and I said, 'Hey can you give me any kind of advice, we're playing at Duke this year,' and he goes, 'You better be locked in that first seven minutes because they can really overwhelm you,' and he was a prophet in terms of what he said. They're really, really good. There's a reason they're number one in the country. It's pretty amazing what they've done in terms of they're 10-0, and I don't know who they played, what this is their fourth game at Cameron or third on the year, and they've played a very tough schedule. Obviously, they've been behind in a lot of games, but they've always found a way to win and that's a tremendous credit to them and that tells you a lot about their coaching, about their players, and their buy-ins, so I'm excited to follow their future. I finally convinced my dad like last night, he's a Duke fan forever, he called me after they beat Michigan State and said, 'Did you watch the Dukies tonight?' and I'm like, 'No, but I heard Grayson Allen had 37 to win that game,' and so he finally last night agreed to go for the Yotes, but tough game, they're really, really good and we'll move on."

On how the Duke team affected Matt Mooney's game:

"They did a great job. I remember, I think three years ago when Duke won their last National Championship, I think it was Wisconsin, and Grayson Allen was a freshman. I remember sitting there, watching the game with my two oldest boys, it was their first game, and boy I'll tell you it was amazing. He's always been very good obviously, but I feel like this year, and I've watched Duke play a lot, he's taken his game to a whole other level. Now is he shooting the ball as well as maybe in the past, probably not quite, although he did tonight, seven-for-nine there for a stretch, but his leadership, he's the one senior they play and they don't play any juniors in terms of regular minutes and the two sophomores and the six freshmen so you can just see it though where he's just got this poise, composure. The last two games number 14 Jordan Goldwire hasn't played so he's assumed the backup point guard position, and I feel like he's doing a great job of getting everybody involved and then he's defending at a much higher level, and so he did a tremendous job on (Matt) Mooney, made it very, very difficult for us to get him catches in spaces that we normally can. We always tell our guys to guard your yard, and Matt's kind of got a European game to him, Mooney does, and they're actually very similar in so many ways in terms of how they play and their feistiness, and Matt showed some frustration tonight that normally he doesn't show and that was a lot to Duke. And then when he would get a half-step advantage or by someone, then you got Marvin Bagley there and number 34 Wendell Carter there and you got everybody there right, and so they just did a great job of making him work for everything and they locked him up tonight every catch in. I mean he's seen that before but not against this level of competition."

On Nick Fuller's future in their team:

"I was an assistant at Nebraska before I got hired here, and Nick was a redshirt for us at Nebraska my last year there and just really never saw the floor a whole lot there and obviously decided to grad-transfer, and him and I had a tremendous relationship and I was hoping he would come with me when I took the job at South Dakota. We had a tournament last weekend, so we played much like Duke did Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and Friday Nick only played four minutes, but Nick is all about the team, that's all he cares about. I asked him when he grad-transferred because when you get a grad-transfer what's their motive, right, and he says, 'Coach, I believe in you, I believe in your program.' We won the league last year so he wanted to be a part of a winning culture that way and try to get in the NCAA tournament and he just goes, 'I just want to play,' so he wasn't worried about starting, he wasn't worried about how many minutes he would play, he just wanted to contribute and he played that four minutes that night and was kind of hanging his head a little bit and I told him just stay the course, like you got a great game but you know we have a lot of returners coming back. So, it takes a little while for him to figure out our style of play, which is different than Nebraska, and then he's got to learn to play with all these returning guys that played with each other last year because we returned a pretty veteran group, and so now he's really starting to click and figure out some things. He's a know-how-to-play guy, he understands passing the ball, when to dribble. For a while he was overdrubbling and then for part of the season he was just getting in foul trouble. When you don't play a lot of meaningful minutes for three years or four years counting your redshirt year, you can foul 75 times in practice and it doesn't matter, and so he's just kind of getting back in the groove, back in the rhythm again, and it's really starting to show."