



Duke Postgame Quotes

Duke vs. Pitt



January 10, 2018 // Petersen Events Center // Pittsburgh, Pa.

Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski:

Opening Statement:

"We played really hard tonight. We played well on defense and shared the ball well. We had six kids in double figures and I thought our bench did a good job. We have a couple kids out and then Wendell [Carter Jr.] got hurt early and our bench came through for us. It was just a solid overall performance from our team."

On what he liked about Duke's defense:

"Our intensity and it was there the whole game. We've been practicing like crazy trying to get better and we were better tonight. We have to just keep working at it. They're young kids, and we're not deep. They have talent, but they're really young, and they have to just keep learning these new habits. Today was a step forward."

On the bench's production:

"Well we're going to need to play them because we've got those two guys out. We're more of a seven to eight man rotation when Marques [Bolden] and Javin [DeLaurier] were healthy, and sometimes Alex [O'Connell] came in. So the dynamic of our team changed, and I didn't know if Wendell [Carter Jr.] was going to be able to come back, then it would have changed a lot. We have to, while we're improving, get to know the group we have right now. The group without Javin and Marques. Just like Pitt has lost [Ryan Luther] for a while, they've had to adapt. But the bench did a good job. [Justin Robinson] was very good. Because he can shoot, he can give the inside guy a little bit of room. Even though they were doubling, a couple times they did, then [Justin Robinson] was open. He hit a couple big threes in the first half."

On Coach Stallings trying to rebuild the Pitt program with young players:

"[Coach Stallings] is a really good coach, and a good guy. You get good young players and they grow together. It's their first year. They're going to develop a comradery, a toughness, and then whoever else is brought in they'll be able to teach that toughness and all of a sudden it will go. I know that Kevin [Stallings] is trying to build a program, not a team."

On sticking with the process:

"You just have to stick with it. It's a great fan base, terrific school, good people. You just have to stick with it. What [Coach Stallings] is teaching is really fundamentally good. Especially on the offensive end, those kids are all getting better with the ball and sharing the ball. It's a very well-conceived offense, and difficult to defend."

Freshman forward Marvin Bagley III

On setting the tone defensively:

"That was very important. Being able to come out and play the way we did to start the game, we had many stops defensively. We got off to a great start, and that is what we have been talking about the last couple of practices. Starting the game off very well on defense and continuing to do it for 40 minutes. We did that tonight and came out with a win."

On if Duke changed its defensive style at all for the game:

"That was our big focus. That is what we did all practice on defense, and it showed tonight. We have to keep it going the next game against Wake Forest. We have to continue to lock people up on defense like we did tonight and get wins."

On if the communication on defense was better tonight:

"It was way better tonight. I could hear everybody on the court calling out screens, everyone was talking and connecting, which allowed us to be more alert and to move as one. I think that it helped us out tonight."