



Men's Basketball Opponent Quotes

Pitt vs. Duke • Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Petersen Events Center • Pittsburgh, Pa.



Duke Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski

Opening statement:

"We beat a good team tonight and a crowd that was ready. What a neat atmosphere that is at Pitt. Jeff's [Capel] team plays so darn hard and they were ready for us. I thought in the middle of the first half Jordan Goldwire gave us a little bit of a lift and gave RJ [Barrett] a chance to play off the ball. With Tre [Jones] out he's been doing everything. We put up a good final eight minutes in the first half and we just stayed zone. They had those small lineups out there where they just picked us apart I think and got us into foul trouble. With Tre out we're a different team, so I thought the zone was good. The best thing for us, it kept [Trey] McGowens and [Xavier] Johnson off the free throw line and I can't believe they didn't score a point from the free throw line because they're such good drivers. The zone kept them out and we're lucky they didn't hit some shots and we hit some and we won."

On Jeff Capel's influence on the team:

"I've watched all their conference games in preparation for this game and one of the key things is that they are together. He and his staff have done a great job of building great comradery and belief in one another. They play as one and they go to their strengths. What they lack in depth and experience they make up for in grit, togetherness and really tough play. Every game I've watched them in they've played hard the whole time. That's what I would expect from Jeff's team. Jeff is part of our family and I'm part of his. I love him and Kanika and their kids. It was tough before, and now it's tough after because one of us lost - still rather have him lose. I love him, but I love us a little bit more. I know that's the selfish kind of love I guess. Unless you love yourself, you can't love anyone else, let me put it that way. I love the hell out of him."

On Xavier Johnson:

"We have a good team and we have really good athletes. When RJ was guarding him when we were in man I thought he did a good job and we tried to kind of send him to our big. He still made a couple of really tough shots, but it wasn't easy. We eliminated a lot of transition, which Johnson and McGowens really score a lot in transitions. They play with great heart and they're two really great guards."

On Capel's coaching style at Duke translating to Pitt:

"It's been better because that was the year [Capel's second season at Duke] I got sick and I was out for over four months and wasn't sure if I was coming back. We kind of had to build again, so he was part of that. He knew what we had to do and we made the NCAA tournament that year with a soccer player starting at center for us. It was on to where we've been. Obviously, in the last seven years, he's been a part of us sustaining excellence. He knows it's a day-to-day fight no matter what level if you want to be really good. You are lucky to have him and he's lucky to be here. Pitt had a great brand that needed to be reignited and he's done that. But also, he's added his stuff to go with the past - and I think he's added to the city more. I don't know if you know, but he's always been a big Pittsburgh fan. He loves it now, but he's always loved it. So this is a great situation for all of you and the ACC because they'll be a force to be reckoned with and they'll be a tough out, especially at home."

On how Capel's recruiting ability will help him at Pitt:

"He's already done it. He recruited a back court that's right at the end. Look, Jeff's a hell of a coach and a hell of a recruiter. There's not one guy on any successful staff that's responsible for recruiting. Everybody's responsible and the head coach is the guy who is really responsible and that's what he's going to do here. Those kids didn't come here because of Jason Capel or Timmy O'Toole, and I love both of them and I've known Timmy since he was 13. They came here because of Jeff Capel and his vision. The thing he has to be as the head coach is an outstanding recruiter, which he is and will continue to be."

On emotions during the game:

"There weren't really any for me. For me, once the game starts, I don't look at the other bench. My responsibility is to my guys. There's no emotion in any way except the emotion of winning. I'm good with that, I'm really good with that. Before and after I love him and whatever but he's going to do the same thing. You think he's thinking of me during the game? Or taking out his wallet or inside pocket and has a picture of me or something like that? He's not doing that. Look, we're both competitors - we concentrate. Our job is our team. Not to have the emotion of playing against one another -that comes before and after."

On if his players were nervous:

"Our players are not nervous - that's the wrong word. My guys love all the excitement and whatever. I thought it was a cool thing when Jeff came out and they all acknowledged him without us telling them. They weren't nervous, no. Please, no. My guys are not nervous. I am nervous, but they are not. They love crowds, they love to compete, and they love Coach Capel, too."

Freshman Forward Zion Williamson**On the team's defense tonight:**

"I thought we did a great job in the first half, but in the second half I thought we played lackadaisical. It was not really Duke basketball and I think we have a lot to learn from film, but we got the win."

On his efficiency tonight and what he was seeing from the defense:

"I just took what the defense gave me. If the shot was not there I didn't force it. I am surrounded by great shooters and great players. I can just kick it out and I know my teammates will make plays."

On the atmosphere and the crowd tonight:

"I think I am a little spoiled by Cameron Indoor - that environment is just crazy. Pitt had a great crowd with all their students right there. Every away game has been great."

Freshman Forward RJ Barrett**On playing in front of the Oakland Zoo:**

"You kind of just play the game. The crowd was interesting - they call it The Zoo for a reason. But we were poised and it didn't bother us too much."

On the depth of talent on the roster:

"With Tre [Jones] out, you have seen many different guys step up at many different times. Today it was [Jordan Goldwire] and Marques [Bolden]. They stepped up big time today. In the Syracuse game, it was Alex [O'Connell]. Our team is so good that we can't just rely on a certain amount of guys."

On how his role changes with Tre Jones out of the lineup:

"I have to play more point. Today, the zone worked for us, so we just take it game by game."