



Pitt Men's Basketball Quotes

Pitt vs. Florida State • Wednesday, November 6, 2019
Petersen Events Center • Pittsburgh, Pa.



Pitt Head Coach Jeff Capel

Opening statement:

"The very first thing is I want to give a big time shout out to our crowd. I thought they were amazing, especially our student section. I thought their energy, intensity, and passion really helped us push through. It was an ugly game, but I was really proud that we fought and found a way to win. I thought we showed a lot of toughness and togetherness. I thought there were some big time plays made. We got an amazing contribution from our bench and I thought guys just fought. We figured out a way to win. I'm really proud of our group – we have a very quick turnaround in a noon game on Saturday against a team that's pretty good and almost won at Illinois last night. We have to enjoy this, but we have to be mature about it and be ready to move on to the next play tomorrow."

On players coming off the bench:

"I thought Terrell [Brown] was terrific. I thought it was one of the best games he's played since I got here. He finished around the rim, he played with energy and passion, he was talking, you could hear him, and he played with confidence. I thought our guys did a good job at finding him. I thought some things he did defensively were really good too. He blocked some shots and changed some shots down there. But I thought our bench was really good. He, Justin [Champagnie], and [Ryan] Murphy were really, really good. You look at Justin [Champagnie] who is still not the instinctive athlete that he was earlier, but I thought he took a giant step in the second half. He's a really talented player and I think you saw some of that in the second half. On Murphy, I think obviously his ability to make shots, but I thought he did some stuff off the bounce today too that was really good. We needed every bit of it, so I'm really proud of those guys and their effort."

On Terrell Brown's intensity:

"Hopefully Terrell having success in this game against this type of opponent helps him with his confidence for him to believe. It's about becoming consistent, so about having consistent habits in everything you do every day. Usually when you do that, it leads to you becoming a consistent player."

On effectiveness of the offense:

"I thought we got a little bit more movement. The ball didn't stick as much, it still stuck a little bit but not too much, and we made some shots. In the first half we got some wide open shots, we just didn't make them. In the second half, we made some of those shots, so it looked a little bit better."

Junior Forward/Center Terrell Brown

On rebounding records and fouls:

"We know from the past they are always trees. They are very tall, so Coach drilled that it would be a team rebound effort. Not one or two guys will do it. It's all defense and offense. That is how it all started. Because they are big but they are going to foul. They get in the lane whenever they want."

On tonight's game:

"After the 1st half, two or three minutes of the second we knew we had to get back in it. We looked at each other and said we got to buckle up. We can't let this slip. This is our game. From the starters to the bench, we just stuck with it. I just told myself that I have to make a play every possession. I knew once I got it, I was going. When we played Slippery Rock, we were 31% at free throws. Free throws win you games. Those are big time plays. One step in the right direction. Being a returner, we saw how it went last year. It is great to celebrate tonight, but tomorrow we've got practice at 1."

On coming back this season as a team:

"Italy. It all started from Italy. After that we went from being a group to becoming a team. After Italy, I felt like we became more of a family. We just bonded together. No social media. No nothing. You just get comfortable and it translates onto the court."

Junior Guard Ryan Murphy

On playing the rest of the season:

"I want to thank the managers and Coach Brown for all of the work they put into me from Italy to now. I think that work translates to the court, and I've always believed in that. I'm going to keep getting better in my off time. Hopefully it keeps translating."

On choosing Pitt:

"My mom is going to hate me for saying this but no part of her wanted me to go to the East Coast. She loves LA. I was leaning towards that, but after talking with Coach Capel and everybody, I came here and I realized how much this place could be rocking. I remember seeing Pittsburgh on TV in the Big East. Let's try to change the culture and turn this thing around. It kind of shocked people. I think today was break 1. We will try it again Saturday. I love Pittsburgh, I love the town, and I'm happy I'm here. "

On individual practice:

"Every night, I come back around 7 pm – 9 pm and shoot five hundred to seven hundred shots. Catch and shoot off the dribble, free throws, everything. You never know what looks you are going to get. In the morning, I work out with Coach Brown and then we practice. I've been here all day."