



Pitt Men's Basketball Quotes

Pitt vs. Hofstra • Sunday, December 7, 2025

Petersen Events Center • Pittsburgh, Pa.



Pitt Head Coach Jeff Capel

Opening Statement:

"We knew coming in that [Cruz] Davis was an outstanding player and was having a great year, averaging 19 points over the last five games. And he was terrific. He was, you know, by far the best player on the floor tonight. He was terrific. He got anywhere he wanted, really, throughout the whole game, but especially to start the game. I'm really disappointed in us, and this is not taking anything away from them, but we didn't play with the necessary force that's required to be good on either side of the ball. It manifested itself in both ways, with our inability to keep the ball in front of us, not getting into the ball, against their ball screen coverages, against their ball screen actions, I should say, which I thought led to us being really poor offensively in the first half. And that's on me. I have to do a better job. I'm not doing a good job. You know what I'm saying, what we're trying to do, what we're trying to work on, is not resonating. And that starts with me, because this is a pattern of people getting in our paint, scoring in our paint, not being able to guard the basketball one on one, and when we don't do that, it usually leads to us not being good offensively, which we were not in the first half, we were better and offensively in the second half play with a little bit more force. And so the physical and mental stamina that it requires to be a good team, we don't have that right now, and that's something that we have to continue to work on, continue to try to develop, and hopefully at some point we get it."

On how the message may not be resonating and how to fix that:

"I have to figure something out, because what we're doing is not working. We've shown at times that we can do it, but it's got to be who we are, and we have to understand the importance of it all the time. That's what we have to do to give ourselves a chance to win. If we do that at the level that we need to do it, that we have to do it, then we'll have a chance to win. If we don't, we can lose to anyone, and this game is another example of that."

On the performance of Brandin Cummings and seeing him as a leader:

"I think he can be. It's been challenging for him, because he was injured a lot of the summer. Then he started playing well the beginning of the season, and then getting ready for our third game, he rolled his ankle, he missed a game, tried to come back and play two. Wasn't 100% set for another couple of games. And then, you know, his first game back was Texas A&M was a tough game for him, personally, didn't score. It's probably the first time in his life that he's played in the game where he played extended minutes that he didn't score. But he'd only practice for two days after being in the boot for five days. I thought he really practiced well. The past couple of days, he seemed like to have a little bit more pop, and he had an outstanding game, and especially a really, really great second half."

On the worry of the team's confidence:

"Yeah, do I do. I've worried about it for a while. We have some young guys on our team that have to be good players for us, and that's a lot of pressure. When you've never dealt with that pressure on this level. It's completely different from high school. All the things that go into becoming a good player, you know, for these guys, it has to be accelerated, and there's a learning curve. And unfortunately, we don't have a lot of older guys with experience to kind of help them through this process. And so they're going to be some peaks and valleys. They're going to be some highs and lows. The thing we have to try to do is not let the lows get too low."

On if the team handles the lows well:

"I don't think we've handled anything well this year, to be completely honest with you. You know, I just don't and again, that's on me. I have to figure out a way to get the importance of defense, guarding the basketball, keeping guys out of our paint, so we stay out of rotations, rebounding the basketball and playing with the necessary force, I have to do a much better job of getting that message across, and then when we show up out here, making sure it translates from the practice court, we have to be able to do it when the lights are on."