



Opponent Postgame Quotes

Duke vs. Virginia Tech



January 13, 2022 // Cameron Indoor Stadium // Durham, N.C.

Virginia Tech head coach Kenny Brooks

Opening Statement:

"My prayers go out to celeste; I don't know the severity of the issue. Tonight, I thought we came out and it was a little bit rough but that's what we can expect throughout the year. You come up with one game plan and 20 minutes before the game you find out they don't have one player. When we saw the starting lineup, we had to flip the script. There was a lot of mismatches on both ends for both teams. Duke is a very physical team and does a lot of ball screen. I thought we gave up secondhand opportunities in the first quarter. They had thirteen points and we gave up six because of second-hand opportunities. Halftime was a pretty strong message - we needed to lock in and focus.

We came out and we plugged away, but we felt like we couldn't get over the hump and then we kept getting stops to put ourselves in the position. I thought we had some great performances from a lot of kids. Aisha Sheppard to close the game out and Liz was Liz, I marvel at what she could do if she could get some single coverage, but she demands so much attention that it opens people up. The player of the game was Baines, for her to come back here and play well is wonderful. We think kids are robots, but they have feelings. They have some sentimental thoughts for the university and that's something we missed... we didn't know she was going to be out and she is our enforcer and is our muscle. She was going up and getting grown women rebounds. She had 16 and she is catching her second wind, hopefully she can keep it going. Duke is a great team, and we are very fortunate to come out here and get a win today."

Going this year:

"We have some very good players who are willing to sacrifice. We are as good as a lot of the basketball teams if we play our capabilities so as long as we play to them, we will have a lot of opportunities it's a testament to the staff and kids' hard work. We don't have one McDonalds all American and we don't have one so the amount of effort they put in is showing. Great win for us."

This is the level of maturity she is gaining, when I take a dribble, they are doubling so I can pass it out for a shot. I told her to come to me and tell me what she sees, and we got some good shots off that.

On Aisha's injury

It's really nothing, she probably got a little scared. She practiced on Tuesday and Wednesday; she is fine.

On Aishas shooting

"She got a couple of clean looks; we spent some time getting into rhythm. I quoted jay z and told her to look in the mirror and say allow me to reintroduce myself, my name is Aisha sheppard. Im proud of her and hope it propels her to play like herself"

Bad luck

"We instill confidence in our kids, as long as they have their focus and fundamentals right, we say keep shooting if we didn't, we wouldn't have those points at the end."

On the difference between UNC and Duke

"They are 18 to 22-year-old kids and people ask me what happened - I don't know, We watched the film and after we learned from it and put it away. UNC played well and we played extremely bad. It wasn't who we are, and we know that. What I'm proud of with these kids is covid and playing five games on the road and four have been against teams that are ranked, and they have handled the adversity and persevered."

On the adjustment at half:

"It was an attitude adjustment actually and for us to be down seven, I was upset about how we were down seven and we didn't have as many of those let downs after refocusing at halftime. You can't give Duke second opportunities and expect to win so it was more of an adjustment of attitude than basketball wise"

Depth and winning four on the road:

"We are very talented, and I love my team and kids, we work our butts off and they can compete against anyone they play. We don't have to rely on one person, we have one of the best players in the country, but we don't care who scores. Everyone can go off at any given time, they are more than capable. Hopefully we can get more kids going and can be even tougher."

Guard Aisha Sheppard

On her mentally at the end of the game?

"Just the confidence that my teammates and coaching staff put in me. It gives me the confidence to keep shooting."

On her injury

"I was playing so it was fine, I'm good. When it happened, I was concerned, I was good after."

On what changed in the last minutes of the game?

"We are a rhythm team, we like to get shots that flow into our offense, so that was our main focus and we executed that."

On what beating two ranked teams this season says about this year's team?

"We were ranked at some point too at one point, we continue to move forward and do what we are supposed to do we will be right back there. Honestly, the rankings don't matter we just know what we are capable of doing. Coaches do a great job of putting a plan together for us, we listen to what they say and do the best we can and obviously the ACC is a gauntlet."

On the halftime message:

"To put it lightly, coach gave us a light talk and told us to get it together and play the way we are capable of."

On success against Duke this season:

"I think it's our focus...when we are focused and locked in, we are hard to guard and it's hard to score on us. It's not a match up thing but how we prepare for games."

On the difference between the UNC and Duke game:

"It's night and day, obviously unc was a letdown in our opinion. We came out and did the things we have always worked on and are like us, we fought through some adversity, but we pushed through and were resilient and that's why we got the W."

What change went into the better defensive of play in:

"Definitely mentality and focus overall. We discussed what we needed to do in halftime and came out and locked in as best as we could. Coach always talks about energy effort and focus and if we do them it puts us in the best position to win like we saw here tonight."

On what this win says about this team and group's effort:

"It shows you that our coaching staff can put together a great group and we don't rely on one persona and why coach harps on us being focused. We rely on everyone, and we need everyone present and focused to win games like this."