

QUOTES | GAME #3



NO. 11 WAKE FOREST 72, NO. 14 PITT 58

WAKE FOREST DEMON DEACONS

**COACH JEN HOOVER
CHELSEA DOUGLAS
DEARICA HAMBY**

COACH JEN HOOVER: We came here with one thing on our mind. We've been preparing for this since July, and these two young ladies have obviously been preparing for it for a lot longer than that.

A lot of credit for Pitt, they are scrappy. They play with a lot of heart. We've got a couple they're undersized, but they never really considered themselves out of the game. Really proud of our team. We came in with a couple of main goals, one was taking care of the ball, and the other was rebounding, I felt like we did a great job with both of those.

Q. How important was it to win by 14 points instead of having a game that goes down to the buzzer? And also were you trying to rest Chelsea and Dearica as much as you could during the game?

COACH JEN HOOVER: I think it was important for us to be able to hold on to the lead once we were able to push it out and not have a chance for them to we knew they were going to keep coming back. We talked to the team about it. They're not going to go away. It's March Madness, no team wants to pack their bags and go home.

Chelsea, she's coming off two days ago being sick and having a bottle and a half of IV yesterday. We did come in trying to be a little concerned about making sure she was not going to get dehydrated or worn out through her period, so I think we did look to rest her a little bit more when we could. That's something she's not very used to nor does she like it.

Q. Have you noticed, did it change anything early on, the way they were playing [inaudible]?

COACH JEN HOOVER: We knew they were going to she draws a lot of attention obviously. We knew coming out of the game that we were able to execute a few plays, particularly in a lot of different ways. We knew we were going to have to run some different action, and I thought our kids did a great job hitting her on the move some early, which I think was critical for us, not just leaving her down low, and getting beat up the whole game, if you will, but being able to get her on the move.

But they're quick and athletic, and they were undersized. But I think they played with a lot of heart and Coach Suzie does a great job with them. We knew it was going to be a battle.

Q. How important is this tournament to you, Chelsea?

CHELSEA DOUGLAS: I wanted to keep playing as long as I could. And I was playing to win.

Q. Dea, how important was it for you after getting named to the All ACC First Tournament to possibly make a statement?

DEARICA HAMBY: [Inaudible.]

Q. What did you do better than when you first played there?

DEARICA HAMBY: Moved the ball.

Q. Can you talk about the contribution you got on the boards from Kandice and also Jill?

COACH JEN HOOVER: I thought both of those were huge for us at different moments. We kind of challenged Jill a little bit halftime. Felt like she was not giving us as much on the boards and cutting wise, but felt she was doing a great job in the back of the zone and in concepts defensively.

I thought Kandice's rebounds were huge for us. And the 4 minute period she put together on the floor. And

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again, I think some of it is just the work in progress as we come along. She's gotten more and more comfortable. And against a team like that that's smaller and athletic, she was able to give us some huge minutes, as well.

Q. Chelsea, in the first half right after they tied it up you had a couple of 3s in a row, did your eyes sort of light up when you got those shots?

CHELSEA DOUGLAS: It was pretty good, it helped give us the momentum. And, yeah, it definitely gave me my eyes light up. If I see a few going down, it's pretty much going up.

Q. You get to play North Carolina, Coach. First time you played them you were with them 33, 34 minutes. What do you need to do tomorrow to stay the whole game?

COACH JEN HOOVER: We have to get some rest and get off our legs. And get a good meal at Pastabilities, one of our favorite places in town. Carolina has a lot of quickness and athleticism. We have to play the entire 40 minutes. We have to earn it and earn it on every single possession. And I think tomorrow the two big things: We have to be able to take care of the ball and take care of the rebounds, I think those two will be crucial for tomorrow night.

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PITT PANTHERS

COACH SUZIE McCONNELL SERIO

ASIA LOGAN

BRIANNA KIESEL

COACH SUZIE McCONNELL SERIO: You know, it's always tough to end your season the way we did today. Everyone, except for one team ends their season on a loss.

But to come out and play the way we did was a little disappointing. We didn't make enough plays offensively. We had good looks throughout the game. I think fatigue became a factor. Wake Forest has Hamby, who we expected so much energy defending her and Chelsea Douglas hit shots and other players made plays. You have to respect everybody throughout the course of the game.

They made plays and they picked us apart. We tried different defenses; man, zone, press, match ups. At times we got stops. But credit Wake Forest, they had a great game.

It's always disappointing for the seniors to end their season. And despite this being a tough year, with the number of wins and losses, I'm very proud of this team and the effort that they continue to show and the growth and the progress that we have shown over the course of this season. And feel that our future is bright at Pitt and proud of what Asia Logan and Brianna Kiesel, these two players have done, being our leaders score wise and on the floor, what they have done for our team, and how far we have come over the course of the season. I know it doesn't show in wins and losses, but we have come a long way.

Q. Suzie, did it feel like in the first half once you guys tied it up and got your bearings a little bit when Chelsea Douglas hits those two 3s, did that change the momentum a little bit, and how did you respond to that?

COACH SUZIE McCONNELL SERIO: We had it tied at 24 and thought we were doing what we needed to do defensively. And Marquel Davis and Chelsea had gotten in trouble. And we were rotating people in and out. And had miscommunications, and that's what Hamby does, when you're focusing on where she is, other players end up open. We had some miscommunications and they had two big threes. They went on a 10 0 run, and we cut it to six, and then had a possession at the end of the half. I would like for us to have pulled it out and gone for one shot and maybe gotten a better look.

We competed in the first half. And the first half I felt we got good looks. We missed some layups, missed some open shots. And then in the second half almost midway through the second half we started to self destruct. Some decision making was suspect. But that's going to happen. When you miss shots, you can't make mistakes at the other end, and they just continued to build on the lead.

Q. You mentioned that second half. What sort of happened there? Did the ball just start rolling for Wake Forest in the second half?

COACH SUZIE McCONNELL SERIO: When we came out I thought we got a couple of stops, mixing up our defenses, then we got down. They started to extend the lead, and we went man and had breakdowns defensively. And we tried to double team Hamby, at 6 3, we're undersized. She's able to throw out of it. They're getting layups. And I think we just got frustrated on the floor. And just our mistakes just started to build one after another, and they were able to stretch a run.

Our players never quit. We continued to tack and play hard and fight to the very end.

Q. Hamby wasn't on the board for All ACC before the season started. What makes her so tough to play?

COACH SUZIE McCONNELL SERIO: I think her versatility. She's dangerous in the high post area, you can't leave her open for shots. She has range to three. You have to respect it. I don't think it's her bread and butter, but obviously you have to respect it at three. You throw a double team at her, she finds people. One on one I think she's very good. She's back to the basket. She can face up, put the ball on the floor. She's long, athletic. She runs the floor

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very, very well. You always have to be aware of her.

And she has teammates like Douglas and their shooter, Calicott, that extends defenses that it opens up things for her. And then she has a post presence inside that takes the pressure off of her being the only post player on the floor, where Asia is playing with four guards all the time makes it more difficult.

Q. Asia, I know coming off a loss, but can you reflect at all on four years at Pitt and what your career has been like?

ASIA LOGAN: At first I had an up and down, but with my team and my coaching staff, they really helped me pull through, especially this last game. And it's been a long ride. I wouldn't trade it in for anything.

Q. Brianna, coming back next year, what progress has this team made in Suzie's first year and what do you need to do to keep that going next year?

BRIANNA KIESEL: She's a great coach. We had three conference wins, and the last two I played in we had none. That's a step in the right direction. We are undersized but did the best we could. I think coming in next year, you can take the positives and bring them to next year.

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