

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT JAMIE DIXON

"What a franchise Jamie Dixon has built here in Pittsburgh. He has had all of his success without having the high draft picks. Jamie Dixon's one problem is that he's always in a hurry. He's in a hurry to win 100 games, in a hurry to win 200. Next thing you know, he'll be at 300!"

-Bill Raftery, ESPN in 2011

"One of the things that makes Jamie Dixon such a great coach is that he's working just as hard and is just as intense with a 17-point lead as he works when he's down."

-Bob Knight, ESPN in 2011

"Jamie's teams play every possession with intensity no matter the score. His players are well coached, they know how to play, they are tough, do things the right way, they listen to their coach and they execute the right way."

-Bog Knight, ESPN in 2011

"It's amazing what Jamie Dixon and his staff have done with this team. I'm amazed how much has this team has grown over the last three weeks. This is a very different Pitt team, but the results have been very similar to the last eight years."

-Jay Bilas, ESPN in January, 2010

"There is a legacy of success that has been established under Jamie Dixon. Guys like Ashton Gibbs, Gilbert Brown and Gary McGhee, they went hard every day in practice against the likes of LeVance Fields, Tyrell Biggs, DeJuan Blair and Sam Young. That gave them the confidence going into the new year. The beat just goes on at Pitt."

-Fran Fraschilla, ESPN in January, 2010

"Pitt has never had a down year under Dixon...It wasn't supposed to be this good this season. Pitt had to replace four starters—including DeJuan Blair and Sam Young, now in the NBA—from last season's 31-5 team. A down year seemed inevitable. Big East coaches picked Pitt to finish ninth in their preseason poll. But there Pitt is this morning, in third place in the conference. *'I believe any team can be as good as it desires to be.'* That's all Dixon knows. It's how he lives and coaches. It's the rock-solid foundation up on which Pitt's great program is built."

-Ron Cook, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on February 23, 2010

"Nobody in his right mind expected this inexperienced, undersized team to start 13-2 and 3-0 in the Big East, including back-to-back wins at Syracuse and Cincinnati. It's the first week of January, and I'm wondering if it's already Dixon's best coaching job."

-Joe Starkey, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review on January 8, 2010

"Dixon: The best coach in the city...That designation falls to Jamie Dixon, the Pitt basketball coach. What Jamie Dixon does with the talent he has puts him, in my estimation, at the top of the list in Pittsburgh. What sets Dixon apart is that he can win with lesser talent. That is the mark of a great coach. Nobody gets their players to play harder, no one gets a greater commitment to defense and team. He takes the ordinary and makes them excellent. There's no better example of that than Ashton Gibbs. Gibbs is playing at an all-Big East level. No one had the right to expect that. But Dixon, with plenty of help from Gibbs, got him to the point. When DeJuan Blair came to Pitt, it was expected he'd have a nice four-year career and get on with his life. Instead, he had a spectacular two-year career and went to the NBA. Who thought Sam Young would be making major contributions in the NBA after averaging 7.9 and 7.7 points in his first two seasons at Pitt. Who thought Aaron Gray would in his third NBA season after seeing him play as a freshman at Pitt? No one, but he's there. It has to be Dixon because it happens too often. Expect surprises from the Panthers, expect their players to continue to get better and expect Dixon to continue being the best coach in the city."

-Bob Smizik, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, January 6, 2010

"What a job Jamie Dixon has done with this program."

-Mike Kelley, ESPN Regional

“Jamie Dixon: one of the great coaches in college basketball. He averages 27 wins a year.”

-Dave O'Brien, ESPN

“Pitt’s secret is in the details. It’s in the weight room, the practice gym and the hearts that beat inside those chests. Watch Pitt’s players and you see them continue to be aggressive even after they make mistakes. That goes back to Jamie Dixon believing in them and creating an environment in which they come to believe in each other. One thing players know is that the coach won’t punish them for every blunder.”

-Joe Starkey, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review on January 17, 2010

“I hate to sound like a recruiting advertisement for the guy, but what player wouldn’t want to play for Jamie Dixon?”

-Jay Bilas, ESPN in 2008

“Jamie Dixon has established himself as one of the finest collegiate coaches there is in the game today and this summer he proved himself on the international court too. In leading the USA Men’s Under 19 Team to the World Championship, he not only accomplished something that the United States had not done since 1990, but to do so he had to quickly form a team from 12 individual players and earn their respect and confidence. He obviously did so and his team responded by winning it’s nine games in an impressive team manner.”

-Jerry Colangelo, Chairman, USA Basketball

“Jamie Dixon has done such a fantastic job since taking over the program. They have won more games at Pitt than any Big East school over the last eight years.”

-Dan Shulman, ESPN in 2009

“Dixon is revered in Pittsburgh and the Panthers view him as their version of Mike Krzyzewski, a coach who can leave a legacy for years to come.”

-Andy Katz, ESPN.com on June 15, 2009

“Nobody has done a better job of establishing a culture that focuses on the team.”

-Mike DeCourcy, The Sporting News in 2009

“Jamie Dixon knows what he’s doing. Pitt’s made the NCAA Tournament every year and he’s always able to build and coach teams with the toughness and skills to win in one of the toughest conferences in basketball.”

-Brent Jones, USA Today in April 6, 2009

“Sought after Dixon building a second home in Pittsburgh...Dixon has never *not* won at least 20 games in a season, never *not* won at least 10 Big East games in a year, never *not* made the Field of 65. Career record: 163-45. Career Big East record: 70-30...Pitt has everything he needs.”

-Gary Parrish, CBS Sportsline on Aug. 17, 2009

“Loyalty at this level, in any sport, is unique. Chasing the big bucks is more the norm, but what has changed over Jamie Dixon’s tenure is how much Pitt has become a destination job. Pitt is arguably one of the premier jobs in the Big East, which makes it one of the top gigs in the country.”

-Andy Katz, ESPN.com on May 9, 2008

“*Jamie Dixon, you just led your USA Basketball team to the world championship. What are you going to do next? I’m going to Georgia, recruiting!*” Dixon takes his best shot at a challenge—any challenge—then moves on to the next. And you wonder why Dixon is one of the top coaches in America? Correct that. One of the top coaches in the world?”

-Ron Cook, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, July 15, 2009

“Jamie cares as much or more about people than any coach I’ve ever been around. That’s a unique characteristic, to be that driven and yet care about other people.”

-Steve Pederson, Pitt Athletic Director

“Jamie Dixon is a Helluva Basketball Coach...The way Jamie Dixon handled this team has to be very encouraging to Pitt fans whose entire rotation is in flux heading into next season. The Under-19 World Championships proved that Jamie Dixon can find a way to win with any hand he’s been dealt.”

-Paul Sievers, Bleacher Report, July 14, 2009

“I remember Dixon’s response to Mike Cook’s injury against Duke last season at Madison Square Garden. The coach didn’t just monitor the situation, as many would have done, even though it occurred at a crucial point in a huge game. Instead, he raced out and knelt beside Cook, holding Cook’s hand as the player writhed in pain. ‘I’ll never forget that about coach Dixon,’ Cook said later. ‘That meant a lot to me and my family. I remember I looked up and saw him for a second. I saw his face. He really felt for me.’ If this coach can’t be taken at his word, no coach can.”

-Joe Starkey, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review on September 26, 2008, after Cook tore his ACL in overtime vs. Duke

“At Pitt, Dixon made the right choice when he headed into coaching. He has been brilliant since inheriting the Panthers’ job when Ben Howland left to become the leader at UCLA. Pitt realized what a gem they had in front of them. Dixon, in his own style, has created something special with his players.”

-Dick Vitale, ESPN on February 13, 2007

“Not only is Jamie Dixon a great basketball coach, but he’s a class gentleman in every way.”

-Dick Groat on January 6, 2008

...Dixon is a humble and reserved person. But he is also a fierce competitor...

-John Grupp, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review on January 6, 2008

“The Panthers win by doing the little things. They rebound, they play defense, they play together. If they don’t have top-10 talent, they do have top-10 tenacity, top-10 grit, top-10 hustle and a top-10 belief in themselves.”

-Josh Herwitt, Fox Sports Net, July 14, 2009, who ranked Jamie Dixon among the nation’s top-10 college basketball coaches

“Dixon’s teams always play hard, always play defense and always play unselfish basketball.”

-Ron Cook, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on January 6, 2009

“Dixon does a fantastic job of getting his team to understand the importance of playing as a unit on both ends of the court. They are very unselfish and they share the ball well. It is always tough to beat the Panthers because they have great chemistry, talent and are well-coached.”

-Dick Vitale, ESPN on January 6, 2009