



# Pitt Men's Basketball Quotes

Pitt vs. North Carolina • Saturday, February 25, 2017  
Petersen Events Center • Pittsburgh, Pa.



## Pittsburgh Head Coach Kevin Stallings

### ***Opening Statement:***

"It's disappointing, obviously. I feel bad for our seniors. I certainly didn't want them to go out in this fashion. They've meant a lot to this program and have accomplished a lot, both individually and as a group. I feel badly for them, that we couldn't put together a better game today to make this a bit more competitive. Obviously the difference in the game today was rebounding and Justin Jackson. Both big points of emphasis for us in our scouting report and game plan. If you play zone and try to keep their size from having an impact on you, then you open up the perimeter and [Justin Jackson] hurts you. If you go man to try to take him away, then they pound you inside. We didn't have an answer in either spot. Kennedy Meeks was hard on us due to his offensive rebounding ability. In order to have a chance to win we needed somebody to have a performance like Sheldon Jeter had last week against Florida State, maybe even him. He was saddled with fouls all day and that really hurt us. It's disappointing, I feel bad for the seniors. I wish we could have had their final game here be a lot better."

### ***On North Carolina winning the rebounding battle by a large margin (48-28):***

"We didn't hit on box outs the way we needed to, but sometimes it's length and width and athleticism. They're literally longer than us in every position except the point guard spot. They do it to everyone. We can sit here and lament whether it was us not boxing out hard enough, but there's just a time when the ball is up in the air and they're better at getting it than we are. They'll be better tomorrow at getting it than we are, they were better yesterday at getting it than we are. They're better at getting it than I guess every team in the country because they're the number one rebounding team in the country."

### ***On the mentality coming off of a tough loss at Wake Forest:***

"It was a shot in the gut, or the head, whatever it is. We led the game for 39 minutes and we don't lead it for 47 seconds and lose. They're human. I thought our energy was plenty of good to start the day. I think the seniors wanted to do well, being senior day. We got beat by a better basketball team. They're better than we are. They're deeper than we are and they did what they do very well today."

## Pitt Senior Forward Jamel Artis

### ***On the difficulty of losing on Senior Day:***

"Obviously we would have liked to come out with a win and it's very disappointing. We thought we had a good chance to win, but we didn't go out and play as hard as we could have. I think we learned how important the defensive side and rebounding are to winning a game."

### ***On North Carolina's rebounding:***

"They had a lot of long rebounds and a lot of late rebounds at the end of the shot clock. We have to be aggressive and go get those long rebounds. If we did that in this game, then I think we would have had a better chance."

### ***On whether North Carolina improved their defensive game:***

"Yes, they definitely improved since the last time we played them. They keyed on us and made us take shots outside the three-point line. We didn't get many inside chances, so they definitely were better defensively."

### ***On approaching the last games of the season:***

"We want to finish out strong. We can't give up right now, we still have a lot of confidence in ourselves. We're going to keep practicing hard, watching film, and putting in extra work in the gym. We're not going to give up. We're going to play our heart out for these next few games."

### ***On the pregame ceremony and Brandon Knight being there:***

"It meant a lot to me seeing Brandon Knight here today. He was one of the players I looked up to here at Pitt. I wish I could have gotten a win for him."

## **Pitt Senior Guard Chris Jones**

### ***On North Carolina's run at the end of the first half:***

"That was a tough stretch for us. [Justin] Jackson hit two really big shots that were contested, and he just knocked them down. That hurt us a little bit. I thought we had good chances in the beginning of the second half where we could have made a run, but, for whatever reason, we couldn't hold it together."

### ***On guarding North Carolina's size:***

"They are definitely tough to guard. They have a lot of size on the inside and good shooters around them. They are one of the best rebounding teams in the country. We knew that coming in for today's game, but it's different once you go out there and play against them. I thought in the first half we did a good job on defense, the only problem was that they were get second and third chances. That's what hurt us all day."

### ***On the pregame ceremony and Brandon Knight being there:***

"I didn't know he was going to be there. I just ran out there and saw him. It was really great to see him, because he helped recruit me to come here."