

WSSU'S PEAKE DISCUSSES SEVERAL KEY POINTS

Winston-Salem State's senior point guard Roy Peake is my guy. There's so much that I like about Roy. He's got some nice basketball skills, but I'm more impressed with the things he's overcome to be a college basketball player.

Peake will tell you that he didn't come from the best environment. He will also tell you that life wasn't easy for him coming up. Now he's getting ready to become the first person from his family to graduate college when he walks in May. I couldn't be prouder of Roy for that accomplishment. He was a guy that many people doubted would make it academically once he got to college. And, he's done it.

He and I talked about his journey, as well as a few other things during a very fun conversation earlier this week. We also discussed his true feelings about the D-I move, future plans and helping out kids. Take a look at what Mr. Peake and I talked about on Tuesday evening.

Anthony: You know how this goes, man.

Roy: Yeah. We're going to do it like we did it last time?

Anthony: Yeah.

Roy: Aight.

Anthony: What's next for you now your career at Winston-Salem State is over?

Roy: Now I am just trying to look for a job. The real world has hit, so I got to try to take care of my baby.

Anthony: What's next? Are you gonna try out the overseas thing?

Roy: Oh, no. I'm just trying to look for a job. I am ready to make an impact with inner city kids. I love the kids. I want to start out at a recreation center or something. I want to get in the bad neighborhoods and try to be a positive role model to them.

Anthony: OK. I see you're doing your thing with the kids at Reynolds Park.

Roy: I'm loving that too. Mr. (Bryant) McCorkle is showing me the ropes. He's

showing me what to do, and what not to do. I'm just loving it. The kids are great. I'm trying to be a positive role model for them. I am really loving it.

Anthony: Cool. When did your focus change from making it to the professional ranks in hoops to the workforce?

Roy: It started to happen my sophomore year. I realized some things after we moved to Division I. I realized that we couldn't play for a championship. I felt like you had to perform on the highest stage to make it to the next level. We didn't even have a stage to perform on. All I've done is play ball my whole life. So, I knew I had to get adjusted to life without it before it hurt me. I just realized that I had to take care of my business. Professional ball isn't for everybody.

Anthony: I like asking WSSU athletes to give me their thoughts on moving up to Division I. Do you honestly regret moving up to Division I?

Roy: Yes, yes. Dearly. I regret it dearly. I had difficulties dealing with that. I was waiting on that question. (Both laugh.) We didn't have the personnel to compete on this level. We still don't. We don't have a big man. We only have a couple guards. It was just too much.

I think we would've destroyed the CIAA if we had stayed in it. I know that. I mean, I played two years in it. I was going to make all-conference, definitely. Division I took my motivation away. We didn't have anything to play for. We couldn't win a championship. That really hurt us.

I know it's a money thing, but I don't know. The school would still get money. I just wish we didn't go.

Anthony: I feel you, honestly. It's almost like you all are stuck playing catch up.

Roy: Definitely. It seems like we're trying to go too fast too. I know a lot of things have to change with Division I. But it just seemed to be moving too fast. I might be wrong.



WSSU Roy Peake goes up strong against Morgan State.

Photo by Mark Sutton

Anthony: You got to give me your feelings on losing to Central in the MEAC tournament.

Roy: That was a straight pride game right there. That didn't have anything to do with nothing. It hurt my pride. We had a couple good looks in the

Anthony: I hear you. Let's move on.

Roy: OK.

Anthony: You got to give me your picks for the NCAA championship game.

Roy: Memphis is going to win it. I think Memphis and Kansas will make it. Carolina



One-on-One with Anthony Hill

end. Didn't make them. I guess that was the Lord telling me that it was time to hang my shoes up.

ain't played nobody. I love Kevin Love (UCLA), but Memphis is just on a roll. Derrick Rose (Memphis) is the

best point in the nation to me.

Anthony: I'm going with Kansas. And, you know about Kansas (from last year).

Roy: Oh yeah. (Both laugh). Kansas has about eight guys that can really play. They play deep. They've got consistency in the post, wing players that can ball, and they have a point guard. Plus, they have a bench. But I'm going with Memphis. But Kansas will beat Carolina.

Anthony: OK. What's else is going on?

Roy: Just trying to find a place to live and work. I really don't want to go back home. My situation wasn't that good back home. So I'm trying to start a new life somewhere. I would love to help out in Winston, with the schools and recreation centers. That's what I really want to do.

I want to get involved in these kids lives. I want to show the kids that it can be done no matter what background you came from. I'm graduating in May. (Laughs.) That's going to shock the world. I'm just trying to be as influential as my high school coach, Lacardo Means, was for me. He still checks on me everyday. "Roy, you got your money for the cap and gown?" Roy, you turned in your money?" (Both laugh.) I just talked to coach Means the other day.

Anthony: That's cool. Chris Paul is one of he candidates for the MVP in the NBA. He should get it, but do you think they'll give it to him?

Roy: We talk about that everyday. They need to give it to CP. But LeBron James has also been doing some magnificent stuff. I can't say.

Anthony: Put LeBron or Kobe on the Hornets and they wouldn't be in first place. It's that simple.

Roy: True. I am saying that too. That's why Chris is so special. He makes his teammates better. I played beside him in AAU, and he made it look like I was going to the NBA. (Both laugh.) If he don't get it this year then he will next year.

Anthony: I heard that you're a big CNN viewer. Are you on it like that?

Roy: I love CNN. That tells you about what is happening in the world. I love to watch the news.

Anthony: What do you think about AAU hoops?

Roy: It's the best thing to happen to kids. They just don't know it. Some people get scholarships off what they've done in AAU games. AAU just open up the doors for a lot of things. You get to travel and see a lot of stuff at a young age.

Anthony: No doubt. I heard you can play the piano.

Roy: (Laughs.) Yeah, yeah. I love the piano. I love to play classical music. The melody is like therapy to me. Probably because my life has been so rough. It let's me forget about a lot of things.

Anthony: What's your favorite hobby?

Roy: (Laughs.) A lot of people don't know this, but my favorite hobby is fishing. I go fishing by High Point Lake, and down there by Salisbury. I love to fish.

Anthony: OK. Let's finish with free association.

Roy: (Laughs.) Aight.

Anthony: Jamal Durham.

Roy: He can make it. I'm not talking about overseas. He's going to make it to the NBA.

Anthony: OK. Roy Peake.

Roy: Going to make it. Already made it.

Anthony: Dr. Dennis Felder (WSSU professor).

Roy: One of my favorite professors on the yard. He tells you about life.

Anthony: "Black Magic."

Roy: History. I loved it.

Anthony: Chris Peezee (Chris Paul).

Roy: Oh, MVP. Yeah, MVP.

Anthony: We're done.

Roy: Hey, make sure you put that I am looking for a job working with inner city kids.

Anything. I just want to help the kids.

Anthony: I got you, Roy.

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