



OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

FEB. 13, 2016 • NO. 6/6 KANSAS 76 , NO. 3/3 OKLAHOMA 72 • POSTGAME QUOTES

OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH LON KRUGER

Opening Statement:

"That was another tough ball game. We got off to a slow start and Kansas did a great job making shots and creating a bit of a margin from which we were battling uphill all night long. I'm proud of the guys' effort. They kept scratching on a night where they weren't making shots, but you have to credit Kansas for a lot of that too. Our guys kept working, kept calm and we were within reach and made a good run there in the second half to get the lead, but with the lead we couldn't get a stop. Credit Kansas for going down and making big plays. (Devonte) Graham of course was great during that stretch. We just have to keep working and regroup and we'll have to play a little bit better and get one next time."

On what Kansas was doing to make it difficult for Buddy Hield:

"Well that's what people are doing now. They're going to stay on Buddy and not leave him, and Buddy has realized that the last couple of games. He kept working, kept battling and made some big buckets in the second half."

On what the halftime adjustments were to get back in it:

"Nothing major, we just talked about attacking and trusting each other. 'X' and 'O' wise, there weren't a lot of changes. We just had a little bit better flow in the second half than we did in the first."

On being down just five at half with Oklahoma's poor shooting numbers:

"Given the percentages, to be within five was kind of fortunate. We got off to a good start in the second half and battled back and forth the rest of the way."

On going through tough shooting stretches like the last few games:

"We'd like to shoot 50 percent like we were three or four games ago, but teams aren't going to let you do that comfortably. You've got to figure out some other ways to score and we don't know exactly what that means at this point, but we've got to keep moving and create better looks for each other."

On today's crowd:

"They were fantastic, it was great. Early in the morning the students were there having a good time and they've been that way all year long. Today was obviously probably the best and the players appreciate that a lot and coaches do too."

On the low amount of points scored inside and what they can do to improve:

"We've got to get a little better movement and be more patient offensively, but we're not going to go a long way away from what we've done to get to this point. People are going to try to guard us a little better so we've got to win some battles, set better screens, use screens a little better and finish some opportunities."

OKLAHOMA SENIOR GUARD BUDDY HIELD

On the slow starts the last few games:

"We've just got to step up and make shots early. We're always used to making shots early, and getting out on teams, and we haven't been doing that lately. We just have to do a better job and it starts with me, Ryan (Spangler) and Isaiah (Cousins) getting every one together and making shots."

On if he is feeling pressure to put the ball on the floor with the way teams are guarding him:

"No, I don't feel pressure. I just know when I touch the ball everyone is collapsing on me. I'm trying not to make the wrong play, and guys are open."

On whether there was an adjustment period throughout the game on how Kansas was guarding him:

"I was trying to feel out and see what they were doing. I had good shots in the first half, and I didn't put them down. They guarded me really well, throwing a lot of bodies at me. I had some good shots, I just should have made them in the first half."

On whether he thought Oklahoma was due to win this one based on the last game against Kansas:

"For sure, that's how our confidence is as a group. They did a lot of things to win the game. We missed opportunities to box out, things like that. Like Isaiah said it was a learning experience and we have to find a way to get one back and hopefully see them again in the Big 12 Tournament."

OKLAHOMA SENIOR GUARD ISAIAH COUSINS

On if he felt the warning he received in the game took away from his aggressiveness:

"No, I just had to find a way to stay in the game for my team, and to be smart with how I was being aggressive."

On the challenge of coming back from a tough loss:

"I just feel like we just learn from it, and we can get better from here. With all that's happening with this team, we have key players and good chemistry, so I feel like this is a learning experience. Once we move on, we're going to be rolling again."

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KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF

On Devonte' Graham's effort:

"He didn't get tired. That's doesn't seem possible to me. He did a great job on Buddy (Hield). We held him to 24. He did a remarkable job. Some of the stuff he got was in transition off of offensive rebounds and what not. Then for him to be our best player offensively, by far, and make about two or three plays down the stretch. He had to hit one of them for us to have a chance. I think he grew up here."

On why he put Devonte' Graham on Buddy Hield:

"I thought the way, after playing Buddy the first time, and we held him to 46, I thought the best way was to play underneath him and Devonte' or Frank (Mason) has to do that. Our deal was when it gets under ten and nobody is in foul trouble, we'll move Frank to him and Devonte' wanted the challenge. We could've put Frank on him, but he was in foul trouble."

On his thought about OU's poor first half, yet still being down five at on point:

"I told our guys at halftime, I said, 'We guarded them well, but the law of percentages has a way of evening it out.' They shot it so poorly in the first half and then came out in the second half and the first two shots they made were threes. Next thing you know, it's a 9-0 run and they have all the momentum. We kind of locked in and played after that, but I thought we defended them well. I think they're a hard team to guard, all of them. You have to balance. I thought we took away Lattin on the ball screen and run to the rim. I thought, for the most part, we kept Buddy (Hield) and Jordan (Woodard) out of the paint, although Buddy still shot a lot of free throws. Isaiah had a really nice game. You can't guard them all. We did a really good job of running. That's about as good as we can play defensively against a team like this."

On his thoughts during the four-point play when Frank Mason fouled out:

"I was obviously not very happy. I think we were up one. It's a scramble play. It's nobody's fault. It's a scramble play. Buddy was supposed to come off a stagger on the baseline, which is a play he scored on earlier and Devonte' played in right, he just got gut-cuttied up the middle and had two steps on him. Frank runs to him and then Frank tries to get back to Jordan and Buddy made a good pass. Those things happen. We don't like playing without Frank. Today we showed we could."

On what this game told him about his team:

"It tells you that we're capable of being tough. It tells me that, obviously, both teams care an awful lot. That was a very competitive game and both teams battled hard. I think we can play through some stuff. When a game doesn't go as scripted, which I think is always tough teams can do that. To be honest, I expected us to play well. For some reason, we don't play well in Stillwater, but we usually play well here, even when we don't win. I came in here confident and I think the guys did too."

SOPHOMORE GUARD DEVONTE' GRAHAM

On his defensive mindset guarding Buddy Hield:

"Preparing for this game and for Oklahoma is not all about Buddy Hield, but everyone. You have to guard (Ryan) Spangler, (Jordan) Woodard, and (Isaiah) Cousins. We just tried to contain them and make every shot tough. Buddy still knocked down five threes, so he still got his shots off and had a good game. I just tried to play the very best defense I could."

On if the attention surrounding Buddy Hield challenged his pride:

"I definitely took it as a challenge. He still got 24 points, but I feel like I did a strong job on him, especially in the first half."

On how impressive Kansas' dominance over the Big 12 is:

"I don't think people realize how difficult this conference is. Night in and night out we face top-25 teams. We also have some of the best players in the country. So to hold 11 consecutive conference championships is huge."

On what it's like to hit a clutch shot in a tough atmosphere:

"It's big. I just try and enjoy the moment like our coaches tell us. When you're on this big of a stage, going out there and having fun is key."

On Buddy Hield's late-game missed free throw:

"I don't think I was really holding him enough to warrant a foul, but that was the call. Thankfully he missed one because there's no telling if we might've gone to another three overtimes had he made both of those."

JUNIOR FORWARD LANDEN LUCAS

On the impact his late-game charge had:

"I was just in the right spot in the right time. It was a small play in such a big game, so I don't think it had much impact. Fortunately, we were able finish strong and make the plays we needed to win."

On if it's a challenge playing through so many fouls:

"It is, but we know we're going to get a tough whistle on the road sometimes. Overall I think the refs called the game pretty fairly. That was a good officiating crew and we just knew that we'd have to come out here and make plays and I think we did that."
