



OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

NOV. 16, 2016 • #16/17 OKLAHOMA 68, LITTLE ROCK 58 • POSTGAME QUOTES

OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH SHERRI COALE

Opening statement:

"I love playing – well I don't love it, but I love the results when you get to play against Joe Foley's team because they're so well coached. Defensively, they're so hard-nosed and play so hard. They rebound with such abandon. You are forced to get better when you play them, so I appreciate having them on our pre-conference schedule because we had to work for everything we got tonight and it made us better"

On matching up with teams:

"We feel like we've got enough versatility on our roster that we can match up with whatever we see. I thought we had an advantage on the interior with Vivi (Vionise Pierre-Louis) tonight, and we maybe got away from using that as much in the first half as much as we wanted to, but I thought our offensive rhythm was fantastic. We weren't scoring a whole lot, but our rhythm and looks we were getting were terrific. That's so important. That's what is going to carry and win games in January and February, so I love the development of that. The second half, we made it a bit more of a point to get her the ball at the block and let her do some things. I thought when EJ (Ijeoma Odimgbe) came in and subbed her, that showed the depth and versatility that we have there at post as well. I think that's definitely going to be a strength and when we start playing these different sorts of teams, different kinds, like we will this weekend with BYU is completely different from Arkansas Little Rock. I think the versatility will show itself."

On Ijeoma Odimgbe's development:

"It's been terrific. She came in a raw athlete who could jump out of the gym, but the game just went too fast for her. She didn't understand enough to be able to keep up with it and she needed to develop a skill set around the rim, which she has done. You know, you don't do that by just coming to practice every day. You do that by getting your tail in the gym on your own, which she did this summer. Now you can really see that she owns it when she catches the ball. She doesn't hope she does something well – she knows she's going to do something and that's a tremendous difference. You only get that by getting in the gym and working on your game."

JUNIOR CENTER VIONISE PIERRE-LOUIS

On her confidence when playing a team that can't guard her down low:

"I think that I try to create more of an attack mindset. I am so comfortable passing, and I would rather have my teammates take the shot than me. I think that's what I have in my mind, like Coach (Coale) said, the paint was their weak spot, so I had to get in there and had to have an attack mindset going in."

On her performance tonight:

"I wouldn't say that I was attacking, but I wish that I would have rebounded more or been aggressive away from the ball more. I am content with what I did tonight."

REDSHIRT SENIOR GUARD PEYTON LITTLE

On what it felt like to have a strong first half:

"I think I was just feeling the rhythm of the game and letting it come to me. My team has done a great job of finding me. I think it was all about rhythm and all about creating and being aggressive whenever I was able to get in and attack the basket."

On how this type of performance can help her going forward:

"Anytime that you are in a rhythm like that can do nothing but be better for you. I think my teammates did a really good job of finding us tonight, finding me tonight, and we really played off that."

LITTLE ROCK HEAD COACH JOE FOLEY

On his team's effort tonight:

"We had great effort. For a bunch of young kids, we made some mistakes, but overall we played with a lot of effort and heart, and we made some good plays I think."

On what changed from their last game to this one:

"Preparation. The kids were ready and understanding. We've got so many young kids – they thought they were prepared when we went up there and beat North Texas – but we didn't really have a day to prepare because we had to travel. Today, we had their attention and it shows the difference through preparation."

On how playing top-25 teams like Oklahoma will help down the road:

"It gives us confidence for when we go into our conference. We know that teams in our conference aren't top 15 right now, so you know if you can compete against these kind of teams that you can compete against teams in your conference, so it gives you confidence."