



OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

NOV. 23, 2016 • #13/12 OKLAHOMA 74, SOUTH DAKOTA STATE 60 • POSTGAME QUOTES

OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH SHERRI COALE

Opening statement:

"I'm really pleased with our team. I thought our focus and commitment to the moment was really good. We didn't live in the possession that had just occurred or get ahead of ourselves looking into the next one. We were really in the moment. I thought enduring the very difficult start in terms of the ball not going into the basket, we were guarding like crazy and I liked our shot selection. I liked our ball movement, but the ball just wasn't going into the basket. We were unfazed by that and I think that's a thing that people take for granted sometime. Maybe it's not celebrated, but it's incredibly significant when you have that trait as a team and I really believe that we do. They were just completely unfazed."

On competition from South Dakota State:

"They're good. They're a very talented team, and they didn't go away even when we pushed it up. I think they cut it to ten in the fourth and they were on our home court. They're a really good team who is going to win a lot of games and probably their league. They'll be in the tournament again for sure."

On the new changes to the offense:

"We're still in the baby stages. I love the way we're attacking the rim. I love our spacing and I really liked our shot selection tonight. I don't think we took many bad shots at all. The more we do it, experiencing the live action environment and running it against opponents, the better we'll be at the decisions we make. Right now we're making pretty good decisions, but we'll feel them and then the ball will go into the basket. It's just a matter of time."

On moving forward:

"Every game has given us a very specific area in which to grow. You come away and you're not contesting, and so the next game you've got to contest. You come away and you're not rebounding, so the next game you've got to rebound. It has just been a collection of one thing after the other, and as long as you put those in your tool belt and don't throw them on the ground afterward, then you really can come up with something special. So far, these guys have been really good at that."

REDSHIRT SENIOR GUARD MADDIE MANNING

On the team's position now against this time last year:

"Before the game, we had a quote that we focused on, 'Honor the space between no longer and not yet', and I feel like that is exactly where we are right now in this season. Last year, Coach (Coale) talked on how our response is so good this year. Last year, we would have freaked out if we heard this, but this year it is different. We just have that confidence right now that we can do things and that we don't have to panic in situations because we know what we can do."

JUNIOR CENTER VIONISE PIERRE-LOUIS

On personal change between the first and second half:

"I felt like I wasn't as tough as I should have been in the first half, so I knew I needed to be tougher the second half. I wanted to make it easier for my teammates by contesting on the inside and make their job on the outside easier."

On the feel of the team on the court:

"I feel like everyone on our team has a sense of confidence that is just blooming out of each and every individual. We are all genuinely excited to play this game and to be on the court with each other, you can feel that. Everyone knows what to do and where they are supposed to be."

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HEAD COACH AARON JOHNSTON

On the start of the game:

"Our start of the game was fine. We were in it. It was close the first five, six minutes of that first quarter. I thought we really had a break down towards the end of the first and going into the second. They had about a 10-point stretch there where we really had breakdowns. We gave up two threes. We gave up a lay-up. We lost someone for an open jumper. It just happened so fast. I just think we got down and got rattled. We just didn't take care of the ball well enough to really get in a rhythm and get into a flow offensively. They did a good job of just pressure, changing defenses on us, as we talked about and just kept us out of rhythm. We never really played great offensively and then, defensively, we just weren't quite sharp enough to make up for it. A lot of the stats are close. There wasn't any one area, other than turnovers, where we just really struggled. We just weren't sharp enough to play with a team of that caliber here tonight."

On the takeaways from tonight's game:

"Ten years ago, I probably would have been a lot madder. I'm still pretty mad right now, but maybe a few years has helped me not be quite as frustrated with it. I just talked to the team afterwards and said we're not going to spend a lot of time dwelling on the 'why'. We didn't play well. Was it because we've been on the road a lot? This is our third game in five days. They've all been traveling. They're getting ready to go on break so people weren't as focused. Did we not have the right game plan? There's a bunch of things that run through our head. I'm not really going to worry about it. I'm going to worry about how we didn't do well and how we just get better going forward. We still need to rebound better. We gave up some of those 50-50 rebounds that could make a difference in the game. We need to be able to handle a little bit of pressure and execute our offense a little bit better. Defensively, making sure we're really focused and just executing our plan. The game was a 14-point game at the end. I never really felt like we were out of it until the final minutes where you could just tell we just didn't have enough gas in the tank to get back. I didn't feel like individually we just didn't match up. I just think we just didn't play as well as we needed to in a game like this."