
OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

OKLAHOMA 92, ORAL ROBERTS 66 DECEMBER 7, 2016 • OKLAHOMA POSTGAME QUOTES

OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH LON KRUGER

Opening Statement:

"That was a good ball game, in which a lot of guys played well. They made a lot of good plays for each other, and I thought we had good energy to start with. I thought defensively we created some opportunities in transition from our defense. Again, a lot of guys stepped up and made good plays for each other and shot the ball well. We have to keep working at it and keep making progress."

On coming out with energy:

"I thought the energy from the start was really good. I thought we had some deflections when the ball went inside. We had some good activity there and dug a couple out of there. We had some good things in transition, which was really good, so again I like the activity."

On many guys having the opportunity to score:

"It's great to see. Guys work hard in practice and to see them go into a game, get good results and make shots is great. I think any time we can have good results and improve our confidence helps going into the next couple days of practice."

On this game, having lost on Saturday:

"Well, Saturday had a lot of good things but we we just didn't finish it the way we wanted to. We got a little careless with the ball about midway there in the second half, but the bounce back was good. We had two good days of practice on Monday and Tuesday, and the guys transferred a lot of that to the games tonight."

On Kristian Doolittle coming off the bench:

"I think he's getting more comfortable. I think if he was starting now he would do maybe the same thing. I don't know that the starting/not starting is the reason. He's done a good job though stepping in, and gave us good production tonight."

On guys he was impressed with tonight:

"Matt Freeman, you know, and Jordan Shepard came in the second half. A lot of guys did a good job tonight. You know (Rashard) Odomes did a good job of driving and kicking offensively. Christian (James) was doing a lot of good things on both ends of the floor."

On free throws and turnovers:

"Free throws were very confident tonight. When you start making them, it gets a little contagious and the next guy steps up there and makes them. We had fewer turnovers tonight, but still we need to improve that. It seemed that we had an advantage and several opportunities that we didn't finish from that advantage. We need to make sure that we finish those opportunities."

OKLAHOMA GUARD CHRISTIAN JAMES

On the key to getting so many steals tonight:

"Just being active down on the low post. We made a lot of digs. We've been working on our digs in the low post and we came up with a lot of steals."

OKLAHOMA GUARD RASHARD ODOMES

On running the press:

"I like to get after it on defense. We have a long, athletic team, so anyone that's out there is going to pressure the ball."

On feeling more comfortable now than when the season started:

"Definitely. I'm still learning as I'm going, but I'm definitely getting a better feel for the game. My teammates are definitely helping me out with that."

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ORAL ROBERTS HEAD COACH SCOTT SUTTON

Opening Statement:

"That was bad basketball on our part, I give OU credit. I'm disappointed in how we played. We took a couple steps backwards after playing Michigan State and having a chance to win that game on Saturday. I really thought our guys would come in here and play much better. We just didn't handle the situation – didn't handle the pressure. They took us out of what we wanted to do offensively. Every time we would try to make a run at them, they would answer with a bigger run. As bad as we were in the first half, we still came out and cut it to nine thanks to (Kris) Martin when he got hot. We didn't follow our scouting report. We went for a ball fake on (Christian) James, he drives in there and we have no help and he gets a three-point play. We just got rattled. Experienced guards would run and jump at us and we were throwing the ball everywhere, and pretty much the game is over. I'm just disappointed in our guys."

On if Oklahoma's pressure bothered them the most:

"It was their run and jump in the second half. I don't think it's bothered anybody all year, to make it more disappointing. Our guys just panicked instead of retreat dribbling and seeing the whole floor and hitting the open man. We just kind of threw it to the first person we thought was open, and they did a nice job, so give them credit. We told our guys, you have to move the ball and move yourself. You can't just pass and screen away, that's not going to work. They're just going to switch that screen. We were very stagnant offensively, and when we did get it inside – I thought we could take advantage of (Albert) Owens, (Emmanuel) Nzekwesi and (Chris) Miller – but they were pretty much non-factors. They did a nice job early when we did get it to them. (Jordan) Woodard is good at digging down there and getting his hands on balls, so it was just a bad night. We're disappointed. When you get this opportunity to go and play one of your state schools, you should be so fired up when you're a school like ORU, and I think you guys saw a team that didn't play with much enthusiasm or confidence. That's what I'm most disappointed about."

On the impact of this game psychologically:

"Coming in, we felt pretty good. I never like losing, but I can accept losing when our guys battle and play with toughness. Michigan State may get there this year, and they're not a typical Tom Izzo team, but we went up there and played with as much toughness, if not more, than they did. We outrebounded them, took care of the ball in front of 14,000 people and I felt good. Getting (Aaron) Anderson back I thought would make us better, but obviously he was a little rusty tonight. We took a few steps backwards tonight."