
OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

MEMPHIS 99, OKLAHOMA 94 DECEMBER 17, 2016 • OKLAHOMA POSTGAME QUOTES

OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH LON KRUGER

Opening statement:

"It was a good ball game from start to finish. There was good enthusiasm from both squads, and I thought everybody made a lot of good plays. We couldn't get stops defensively there in the second half - there were too many breakdowns when we needed to maintain a margin. They did a great job of finishing off the game at the line late. We'll learn - we're getting better. Our guys know that we've got a ways to go. We're getting better each week and we're working at it."

On the number of easy baskets for Memphis:

"Well, we gave up a lot of buckets right at the rim and you can't afford to do that against a good ball club. (Jeremiah) Martin made some good plays on the perimeter and made some shots, but there were too many in the rim and in the paint. We've got to do a better job of keeping them out of there."

On Jordan Shepherd's performance:

"It was a fantastic game to do that against an excellent defender in (Jeremiah) Martin. Offensively, he had a pretty good flow from the start, especially in the first half. To do that for as many minutes as he did with no turnovers and a good pace was terrific."

On what the difference was in a game like this:

"There's a feeling or an expectation that you have to have. When they made their run, I don't know that we approached each possession with the energy that you have to have to get a stop. We've got to do a better job of making a play during that run, someone getting a deflection, block or rebound. We're kind of waiting to see who's going to do that right now. We've got to grow through that and keep stepping up."

On letting leads slip away in these losses:

"We'd prefer it didn't happen and it's something we've got to keep working on. It's hard to simulate in practice because it's not a game where pressure is a little different. For the most part, our offensive possessions were much better today. On defense, there wasn't enough of keeping the ball out of the paint. They got too many easy buckets. We've got to react and read each other a little better and get stops."

On how much the team misses Buddy Hield, Isaiah Cousins and in particular Ryan Spangler:

"All three of them brought a lot to the game last year. Ryan, as you know, was a great communicator defensively with great awareness, no question about that. It's hard to replace that in one guy right away, so everyone's got to collectively step up and talk a little bit more and do a little more."

On Jamuni McNeace's performance:

"Jamuni (McNeace) was great. He's been doing more and more throughout the year, especially in practice, and I'm glad to see him transfer that to the game. He had some big buckets at key times there late, and he had good awareness defensively - he's always had that. So I'm happy for Muni because he works hard and spends a lot of time, and you'll see continued progress there for sure."

SENIOR GUARD JORDAN WOODARD

On how tough the loss was:

"It's a new year so it comes with the results that we put in, and we've got to get back to putting in more work, and Coach (Kruger) is going to get us ready for the next game. It's tough, but Big 12 is coming. It's big-time basketball; we need to be ready."

On where the game went away:

"That's where we just have to regroup, come back, and really lock in in film. I'm sure the film's going to tell us everything. I know they made key free throws down the stretch. We probably had a couple turnovers late. We got some good shots. Muni (Jamuni McNeace) really did it for us down low. Shep (Jordan Shepherd), he took some good shots late, some shots that really gave us second chances. He had some big shots for us, and you've just got to watch film and see as a team to keep going forward."

FRESHMAN GUARD JORDAN SHEPHERD

On if getting his first career start made anything feel different:

"Yeah. I've been more locked in, just for my whole day. In the morning, I had to come walk in and watch film."

On what happened when he went down in the second half:

"I went for the layup. Mari (Memphis junior forward Jimario Rivers) kind of swiped me across the face, in my eye."

On playing in key situations late in the game:

"When I was out there, I felt like I was a senior out there. I felt really confident. I was really comfortable. I really believed in my team, and we were fighting out there."

SOPHOMORE CENTER JAMUNI MCNEACE

On if his mindset was different going into a personal-record-setting game:

"No, we were all locked in after practice, and we just transfer what we do in practice into the game, so no, everything was the same. I just do what my teammates would have done."

OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

MEMPHIS 99, OKLAHOMA 94 DECEMBER 17, 2016 • MEMPHIS POSTGAME QUOTES

MEMPHIS HEAD COACH TUBBY SMITH

Opening statement:

"It was a really hard-fought game. I thought our kids showed a lot of heart and character, especially after Jordan Woodard knocked that 3 in off the side to send the game to overtime. Winning this game on the road against a really good Sooner team is a big plus for us."

On the late game situations:

"I was pleased. We made our free throws, which is something we didn't do last game. We executed and made free throws and secured rebounds there at the end. I liked the way they recovered. Mon-mouth was a very good team and they made shots and we didn't last game."

On the injury to Chad Rykhoek:

"I think it helped get the team fired up. They love Chad and this is a really tight group. The update was it wasn't a dislocation, we'll have to talk to our team doctors when we get back. He seemed to be in good spirits, he was in the locker room and he's flying back with us. He's really been playing well, it's a real bummer because here's a kid who can finally play. He's been through a number of surgeries and this was his first time getting to play in four years, really. He's got quite the story. It hurts when anyone gets injured but especially Chad because he has really come a long way and was finally getting his opportunity."

On staying close despite OU's hot shooting:

"That was one of the things we talked about that they wouldn't keep that kind of scoring up but we're going to have to match them if they do. We did as far as getting the ball inside, took ad-vantage of some fouls they had inside. Khadeem Lattin is a real rim protector, that helped not hav-ing him in there. With Dedic (Lawson) and KJ (Lawson), we had length and size to attack the rim which proved to be a big difference."

On what this win means to the team at this point:

"It makes us 8-3, that's about it. A loss is a loss and are bad but a win is a win. We've got a lot of games left to play and we'll go back and look at the things we can do better. That's what we tell our guys, good is not good enough when you're expecting to be better. You expect to get better as the season progresses and this was a step toward getting better. We're learning from the losses and learning from the wins. I was encouraged by the guys but we have to find some more people to step up as well."

SOPHOMORE GUARD JEREMIAH MARTIN

On what he thought of Jordan Woodard's 3-pointer to send the game into overtime:

"Lucky. No but shout out to him, he hit a big shot. He's a big time player so I mean he just stepped up and made a shot. There's nothing we could've done on that play other than get that rebound, but that's what happens."

SOPHOMORE FORWARD DEDRIC LAWSON

On if he was surprised at how easy the team was able to score in the paint:

"Really that's the strength of our team going inside out. Guys were attacking the hole and just playing our style of game. We're not really a 3-point shooting team, so we just scored in the paint."

On the impact of this road non-conference win early on in the season:

"One thing I learned about playing division I basketball is that any win is a good win. Coming here into the Big 12 and playing a powerhouse like Oklahoma, this is a great game to get confidence out of our guys. To see that we can get these types of wins going into conference play and this is what we need to get us going towards January."

FRESHMAN GUARD K.J. LAWSON

On the team's ability to stay in the game:

"We definitely knew we were going to come back in the game. Teams go through stretches and we knew they couldn't keep making shots the whole game. They came out firing in the first and second half, but we stayed together and we kept making runs. It was about who could get stops at the end of the day."

On the late game momentum swings:

"We just knew we had to go up by five and get that cushion and pull away and knock down our free throws."

On the late game free-throws:

"That's just something we practice on is making our free throws. We shoot 50 or so after each practice each day so we put a big emphasis on that. We played smart as a team today, and everyone wanted to win, so at the end of the day that's what we're looking forward to."
