
OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

AUBURN 74, OKLAHOMA 70 DECEMBER 21, 2016 • POSTGAME NOTES

- Oklahoma (6-5) fell to Auburn (9-2), 74-70, at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Conn., as part of the Birthday of Basketball. The Sooners fell victim to a 17-point deficit (45-28) with 16:41 left in the contest, but rallied to end the game within four. OU out-scored the Tigers 48-38 in the second half. OU's loss to Auburn snapped a six-game Sooner win streak against SEC opponents.
 - For the first time in four seasons, the Oklahoma lineup was without senior guard Jordan Woodard, who sat out due to a high leg injury. Woodard had started in 115 consecutive games for the Sooners – the second-longest starting streak among active NCAA Division I players (Valparaiso's Alec Peters leads the country with 116).
 - Oklahoma forced 23 Auburn turnovers - the most committed by the Tigers this season and the most by an OU opponent this year. The 23 miscues were the most by a Sooner opponent since Weber State committed 23 on Dec. 22, 2014.
 - After averaging just 8.8 minutes in the first nine games of the season, freshman Jordan Shepherd has contributed a combined 31 points in the past two outings (had scored 24 total in the first nine games). Shepherd scored 13 points on 4-of-8 shooting on Wednesday in his second career start.
 - Oklahoma's 17 offensive boards marked a season high for the squad. The previous best of 16 came against Oral Roberts on Dec. 7.
 - The freshmen trio of Kristian Doolittle (seven points) Matt Freeman (eight points) and Jordan Shepherd (13 points) combined for 28 points on the night.
 - The Sooners' starting lineup of Jordan Shepherd, Christian James, Rashard Odomes, Kristian Doolittle and Khadeem Lattin is the fifth lineup combination head coach Lon Kruger has used this season - the second-most starting lineup combinations during his six seasons at Oklahoma. Kruger sent out six different lineups during the 2012-13 campaign.
 - Oklahoma now transitions into conference play, opening its Big 12 schedule on Dec. 30 when it hosts No. 4/6 Baylor at 6 p.m. CT inside Lloyd Noble Center. The Sooners own a 44-12 all-time record against the Bears and have won 39 of the last 46 meetings. OU won both contests against Baylor last season and have been victorious in four straight home games against the Bears.
 - OU is 4-1 in Big 12 openers under Kruger and has opened conference play with a win in the past four seasons.
 - Should Baylor hold its position in the AP poll, it will be OU's highest-rated opponent to date in the 2016-17 season and the second team to face the Sooners while in the AP Top 25. Oklahoma is 14-5 at home against AP Top 25 teams in the Kruger era, including 4-4 against top 10 teams and 1-2 versus teams in the top five. OU has won 12 of its last 14 home games against AP Top 25 opponents.
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