



OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

JAN. 4, 2017 • #20/24 OKLAHOMA 85, #25/RV KANSAS STATE 80 (OT) • POSTGAME QUOTES

OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH SHERRI COALE

Opening statement:

"I'm really proud of our team. I thought our response to some late adversity was really positive. Obviously Gabbi (Ortiz) hits a huge shot to get us to overtime and then our execution in overtime was just spot-on. We just went in and out of the game offensively. We had a great first quarter, but it went away in the second. We had a really strong third quarter, but it kind of went away in the fourth. Again, I think our response was terrific and it was good for us to have been in that situation. We fought our way through it to finish with a win."

On Gabbi Ortiz's game-changing shot:

"It was just the offense. I mean we knew what we were looking for, but their two guards ran to the ball, so she was wide open. There was not a person on the bench who thought it was going anywhere but in the basket. She was just wide open in rhythm."

On the momentum carried into overtime:

"Oh no doubt. The fact that Breanna Lewis fouled out too helped us take advantage of the posts a little bit. Our execution again, just holding (Kindred) Wesemann, she's a handful. We gave up (Karyla) Middlebrook a little bit in order to take away Wesemann. We're choosing a two over a three when we do that, so I thought our responses were good."

On the passing game:

"No, I think the biggest challenge is to make sure they are a threat to score first before they pass. We have so many guys who are good passers. If you get that thing out of sequence, it doesn't work very well. We've got a lot of really great core components who are guys that can shoot the 3s, can get to the rim and guys who can pass. It's great to have all of that, but you've got to get that in the right order. I thought that they shared the basketball really nicely tonight. There were only one or two times where I felt like we overpassed. We lean more that way than we do the other way. We really like to pass. Finding that happy medium, that space in the middle, is really important. I can think of one tonight where Maddie (Manning) had a wide open shot and tried to make an extra to Vivi (Pierre-Louis). That's one I'd like for her to get that sequence right. Overall, there's a lot of trust among these guys and I think good passing teams have that. I know these guys definitely do."

On Maddie Manning's influence:

"I thought she had a slow start honestly. I didn't think she was nearly as involved as we needed her to be. We take a lot of our rhythm and a lot of our body language animates from her play. I didn't think she got very involved in the beginning. That's when I pulled her out for a little bit just to remind her that we have to have her involved in what's going on. I don't think the zone is necessarily her favorite thing. It's very much a thing she knows intellectually. She can draw it up and she can show you this is where you're going to be open. It's a different thing to actually experience it. There a lot of nuances involved and she has just not reached a level where she is super confident with that, comfortable in that. I thought tonight she was better than she's ever been against it. We'll be better the next time we play them as a result of that. With her to come away with the scoring numbers that she did, feeling that discomfort, is pretty special I think. What I noticed tonight were her rebounds. I just kept saying 'Maddie is getting every rebound.' I had no idea how many she had until after the game, but I just felt like she just made a commitment to go get the ball off of the rim."

JUNIOR GUARD GABBI ORTIZ

On what she thought of her game-tying 3-pointer:

"I knew it was coming to me. I saw the two go and my feet and hands were ready, so I knew I wanted the shot."

On if she is playing with more confidence having re-entered the starting lineup:

"I'm just choosing to play free and choosing to play with joy. I'm feeling like myself, so I feel great, but that's my teammates helping me and I've just been having a lot more fun."

On if she wanted the ball at the end of regulation:

"Yeah, of course. I live for big moments like that. In order to make it you have to want to take it, so I was ready to take it."



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SENIOR GUARD MADDIE MANNING

On the team's offensive philosophy entering overtime:

"I think the plan was to be aggressive, we knew their big girl (center Breanna Lewis) was out of the game so we attacked the lane and both of us (Manning and Ortiz) want the ball late and to have the opportunity to make those plays and it just radiates off on our team when we do."

On the reason behind the team's inconsistent scoring:

"I'm not sure, if you have the answer let us know. I feel like tonight when we were moving the ball around things came so easily. Then, when it feels that easy you become kind of complacent. You begin to think that it's always going to be that easy and you don't have to work as much, so I'd say that was the thing tonight was we just stopped moving and expecting the wide-open layups to be there and not have to do the other things."

On how she was able to get a double-double:

"I think first it was just Coach Coale was telling me to get myself involved and then I picked up a couple of easy baskets in the second quarter which kind of got me going. Not thinking about what they're doing in the zone or where I should be here and there."

Senior Guard Gioya Carter

On the team's offensive philosophy entering overtime:

"Piggybacking off of what Maddie (Manning) said, that's what we did in the first half to get that big lead. We sliced up the zone so that's what my mentality was when I got back in to just attack the zone like we had done in the first half."

On attacking Kansas State's length near the post:

"Vivi (Pierre-Louis) set some a lot of good screens, I know the first layup I got she set a great screen and that really opened up the middle. We have a lot of good shooters so they were staying out on the shooters so that made for wide-open lanes."

KANSAS STATE HEAD COACH JEFF MITTIE

On the difference that led to the fourth-quarter comeback:

"I thought (Karyla) Middlebrook had a great fourth quarter, she was very aggressive at the rim. (Breanna) Lewis made some big buckets during that stretch, she was in foul trouble so we were able to get her on the floor. We were obviously more aggressive during that stretch and made some plays."

On the difference in overtime being without Breanna Lewis:

"Well I think the obvious answer is yeah. We were going to her down the stretch and felt like we had a decent option in there at the time. To lose her, that was big because she's a good player. Our group continued to battle and did some good things. I think any team that loses their leading scorer down the stretch, especially the overtime stretch, is critical."

On the Sooners not being able to stop Karyla Middlebrook:

"No they couldn't, but obviously there were things of theirs we couldn't stop either. She (Middlebrook) played really great, only two turnovers on the night and she played 44 minutes. She took high percentage shots and just made some really good plays."

On Gabbi Ortiz's three to send it to overtime:

"It was a big shot, it was a missed play by us and a made play by them. There were a lot of things in that play we did not do well. Us coaches need to draw that up better and that's on me. It's certainly a kick to the gut and we're going to have to regroup. I thought our kids played hard they just made more plays. So it's a tough one but I thought our kids really fought hard in overtime and Oklahoma made some tough shots on us in overtime."