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# OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

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## KANSAS 81, OKLAHOMA 70 JANUARY 10, 2017 • OKLAHOMA QUOTES

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### **OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH LON KRUGER**

#### **Opening statement:**

"It was a good opening 20 minutes. Good effort, enthusiasm, and intensity was terrific. Kansas came out with that same advantage the second half and cut into that lead very quickly. Good steps in a lot of ways, just have to do that for forty minutes, we're still searching for that. These two guys (McGusty and Odomes) played great and played hard. Jordan (Woodard) came in and gave us a good lift. Khadeem (Lattin) perhaps had his best overall game of the year. Credit Kansas, they're very good. They came out the second half and did what they needed to do to win."

#### **On the first half:**

"Given the opponent, certainly. No question Kansas is a terrific ball club, to be down a little bit early and come back and tie and take the lead into half, that was a good stretch. But we have to play more good minutes."

#### **On Jordan Woodard's return:**

"It's been a while since he's played a game. It's been weeks since he's played and he just practiced yesterday a little bit. I didn't really expect him to play that many minutes. He got tired, naturally, but I thought overall he was very good."

#### **On a possible minute restriction for Woodard:**

"No, as long as he felt good. Certainly didn't expect that many minutes but he felt good. I didn't know how he would play, considering he hasn't played very much. But we certainly needed him on the floor as long as he could be. I thought he did a very good job."

#### **On Khadeem Lattin's game:**

"He played a game tonight very similar to games he played last year. His energy, aggressiveness on the boards, defensively blocking shots and just letting the offense come as it might. I think his focus is where it beings and that will help him get better results."

#### **On Frank Mason:**

"He's terrific. Outstanding player, he's a winner. He takes things on his shoulders and makes his team-mates around him better. Makes big-time plays in big points of games. He's just a great player."

### **OKLAHOMA FRESHMAN KAMERON MCGUSTY**

#### **On the impact of Jordan Woodard's return:**

"It was big, and we really needed him tonight. He's missed the past couple games, but he's a leader. He's got three years under his belt and he gave us that spark we needed in the first and second halves."

#### **On if he's playing with more confidence:**

"Definitely. As the season goes on, I feel like I'm getting more comfortable each game. We all do as a team, so hopefully we can just keep growing and getting better."

#### **On Kansas coming out on fire to start the second half:**

"When you play teams and players like that, you know they can't just keep missing shots, they're eventually going to make some. We just have to learn to come out faster in the second half - we can't come out flat. We have to come out strong and finish fast, so we've got to put together a full 40 minutes of a game."

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### **KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF**

#### **On if he liked how his team responded after being down nine at half:**

"We were so passive and soft. OU was better than us in the first half without question. We didn't rebound at all. We didn't compete. The second half we challenged our guys a little bit and they came out and they responded well. I thought when Svi (Sviatoslav Mykhailiuk) made that three to start the second half it got the lid off for him. Little things like that make a big difference. We guarded better and rebounded a little better and then Frank (Mason) took over. I think Frank had 27 with 10 minutes left and only scored like one point the last 10 minutes, but he took over. And everybody else just kind of followed."

#### **On Frank Mason's mentality in the second half:**

"To me I can't read him. And if you think you can you're only kidding yourself because nobody can. He's a unique guy. He's stone faced. He doesn't show a lot of emotion but you could tell that there was something different about him in the second half tonight."

#### **On if he was more pleased with the offensive or defensive effort tonight:**

"I never get too giddy just because you make shots. We executed better in the second half. I don't know how many turnovers we had but we only ended up with 11 so we did a better job in the second half of taking care of the ball. And when we didn't score it appeared to me that we got the shots that we wanted and either got it in tight or missed dunks. I was pleased with that, but I thought our energy level defensively was a lot better the second half."

#### **On Oklahoma's roster:**

"Their pieces are going to be good. They were better than us for 20 minutes, a lot better than us. That game could have easily gone the other way. To me they look like- and I'm not there everyday- but to me they look like a bunch of talented young kids that are still trying to figure it out. Not having Jordan (Woodard) I'm sure has hurt them. I thought he gave them a spark even though he's not 100 percent. That was pretty obvious tonight. They are going to continue to get better as the season progresses. It's just the league is hard. When you are playing with young guys and you're off just a little bit, and you're going against veterans that have been there and done that, it makes it hard. But they're going to be fine."

#### **On if he knew they could come back:**

"I had doubt whether or not they had it or not, but based on the performance in the first half. That was one of those games where you had to flip the switch at halftime. Usually you don't do that. There are no nine point plays or seven point plays. It's just one possession at a time but it makes a big difference when you score on your first six or seven possessions. All of a sudden that lead evaporated in two minutes."

### **SENIOR GUARD FRANK MASON III**

#### **On what he thought of the first and second halves:**

"I think we came out more aggressive on the defensive end, we rebounded the ball the way coach wanted us to there in the second half and that was the difference in the game."

#### **On what the message from Coach Self was at halftime:**

"I can't tell you the message but coach got onto us and I think we responded pretty well as a team. We just have to come out better starting games in the first half."

### **FRESHMAN GUARD JOSH JACKSON**

#### **On Frank Mason's leadership and takeover during the second half:**

"It's just amazing, he's one of the toughest guys in the country. We all trust him a lot and when he gets it going we make sure to try and find him in transition and half court. He did a really good job today."

#### **On Coach Self's tone at halftime:**

"He definitely got onto us but he gets onto us a lot, and we all know that most of the time he's right. So, we had to come out with more energy in the second half, rebound, and play better defensively. I think we did that."

#### **On if it surprises him how quickly the team is able to erase deficits:**

"Today it surprised me, but normally no. It's really supposed to start on the defensive end, but we find that if we play really good defense and get stops, it's pretty easy to score on the opposite end of the court."

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