



OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

JAN. 14, 2017 • #22/25 OKLAHOMA 66, TEXAS TECH 45 • POSTGAME QUOTES

OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH SHERRI COALE

Opening statement:

"I'm really proud of our team. We played with great intensity and focus and the numbers aren't real pretty, but the final score is pretty and we like that. Just thought we were connected and dialed in. It started with great defense and guarding Texas Tech starts with guarding Reece Caldwell, and that was really a team effort. Offensively I thought the shots we were able to get were terrific, our shot selection was outstanding. We didn't shoot it particularly well, but that is the least of my worries. We got great, great looks. I'm really proud of TT (Edwards) and amazed by her courage and bravery. I think she is such a special kid. She inspires me and I know she inspires our players so it was a good afternoon for Oklahoma women's basketball."

On the opening 11-0 run:

"It set the pace, for sure. The opening possession all five guys touched the ball so Tech knew they were going to have to defend. Then we locked down on defense and I think made them uncomfortable. They weren't able to run their stuff with any sort of rhythm or cadence. It got away from us there for a minute on the offensive end; we were getting great shots and they weren't going in the basket but we were able to get the ball inside and Vivi (Pierre-Louis) answered and it kind of calmed the ship for a little bit. Then we were able to take off again. It felt like we at first had this punch, then we had another one and that's kind of how the day went. We had another one in the third quarter and that's what did it."

On the defensive effort:

"I think collectively it was one of our best defensive efforts because, to the outside eye, it looked like it was pretty easy today but they are a mess to guard. They have athleticism, speed, they have shooters, Caldwell keeps you on a string all the time, and they got a big guy. It was not easy and there were times that we made it look pretty easy, so yes it was definitely one of our best."

On playing the game on both sides of the court:

"I think what they've done is they've all figured out how to play a possession at a time. If you've noticed they've learned to guard when we're not hitting shots. The real magic lies in being in the possession that you're in, individually and collectively. I think defensively where the confidence emanates from is we're giving them enough information but not too much information so they understand how to defend particular actions but have to rely on each other to know when those actions are coming. The ownership of each defensive possession is on their shoulders, and they know they have to talk their way through that and there's a certain bravado that comes with that."

REDSHIRT SENIOR GUARD PEYTON LITTLE

On Oklahoma's defense today:

"I think defense is all about communication and all about trusting each other. I think when we are able to communicate, we are able to guard anybody. Eventually our shots will fall so we don't need to worry about that. We're just worried about trying to get stops."

JUNIOR CENTER VIONISE PIERRE-LOUIS

On the entire team's play on defense:

"Like what Peyton was saying... the communication and when we play together I feel like we can stop any team in our league. That communication also propelled us on offense, as well. We were getting good looks but not knocking them down. That didn't stop us from communicating and seeing open plays and open spots. We just shared the ball."

On communication for the entire game:

"There's focus off the bench, too. We had a lot of people coming off the bench and they were dialed in for every possession. It's all about communication. You have to communicate through every single possession."

TEXAS TECH HEAD COACH CANDACE WHITAKER

On what more she was looking for from her team:

"We didn't really execute. We weren't getting to more than one side, we weren't beating screens and we weren't setting screens. We were sped up for whatever reason. Once the shots weren't going for us, our execution got worse, and that's where your execution has to get better – when shots aren't falling."

On what the early Oklahoma 11-0 run did to them:

"I thought we were getting good looks on the other end, we just didn't make them. We weren't getting people where they should be defensively, and we had to do a better job. They got a lot of open looks that they missed, so it could've been worse. But, offensively, I thought some of our looks were really good, we were just missing layups and open shots. Shots weren't going down, and I don't think we responded well to that."