



OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

JAN. 14, 2017 • OKLAHOMA 84, TEXAS TECH 75 • OKLAHOMA POSTGAME QUOTES

OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH LON KRUGER

Opening statement:

"I'm proud of our guys for getting the win. It's hard sometimes to maintain the positive approach they've maintained. The hard work is being rewarded with a great win tonight over a great Texas Tech club. These three have played terrific and it's great to see them win."

On Rashard Odomes' big night:

"He set a tone that is really important, in terms of attacking, going to attack, and getting downhill. Rashard's done that in many games, especially the last two. The other guys fed off of that and it was great to see him have a game like that."

On the improvements made this week:

"That was a big lift. I think guys have been improving individually over the last three weeks. But as a group, a guy like Jordan (Woodard) being a senior and a guy who's had great success and played in a lot of Big 12 games, it's hard to measure but it helps a lot."

On keeping positivity during the losing streak:

The effort's been really good. Especially in practice, not just in games. That's a credit to our coaches on our staff and certainly the players. They've worked hard and gotten better and I know they'll keep doing that. The Big 12 is so tough. It's hard to win games, it doesn't matter who you play. I think this group better understands that now. Because of that they'll keep working."

On the team's defensive effort:

"They're a very good rebounding team, Tech is. The one thing we've done consistently well if anything is block on the defensive boards and limit the offensive boards. We've done a pretty good job of that throughout and we did a good job tonight against a terrific rebounding team."

On Jordan Woodard's play coming off injury:

"To a certain degree. It's hard to measure how quickly you can get back in the flow and feel comfortable and obviously Jordan did so very quickly. I keep checking with him and he wanted to be out there so we wanted him out there."

On Jordan's response to Tech's late run:

"It was a very important stretch. They cut into the lead and had momentum. It was critical at that juncture to respond and Jordan was at the center of those next four or five possessions, in terms of creating something, whether it was him scoring or someone else and getting good results. It was a good answer to their run to cut into our lead."

On Khadeem Lattin:

"He had great confidence and great energy. I mentioned several times last ball game he played with the same tone that he played last year where he lets the offense come but he's blocking shots and rebounding. Very good to see that from Khadeem and it's helping the team."

JUNIOR FORWARD KHADEEM LATTIN:

On difference between last two games and the beginning of the year:

"We are playing, learning and growing. We still need to figure some things out."

On what the first win in the Big 12 means for rest of the season:

"Well, definitely we have been so close. We are a team that fights really hard. Now that we have a win under our belt it's a confidence booster going into the rest of the season. Now we are ready to fight some more."

On emotions at the end of the game:

"One: I was too excited for (Rashard) Odomes. Two: I was just excited for my team. It is tough to get a win in the Big 12 play. A lot of these guys have never had one before. Just the fact that we could get one and the way that we fought and the way that we got it... it was just phenomenal. I love my teammates. They did a great job today."

On how Rashard Odomes' aggressiveness sets the tone for the team:

"He helps a lot. He always attacks and he puts teams on their heels. We love that about him. We love his energy and aggressiveness. That's his role."



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SOPHOMORE GUARD RASHARD ODOMES

On the key to his career night:

"My teammates. They want me to bring energy and bring it on the defensive end and that transferred over tonight. I'm just feeding off them."

On what the key to his recent play has been:

"Just learning from each game and seeing the mistakes I'm making and learning from those."

SENIOR GUARD JORDAN WOODARD

On OU's second half scoring run to put the game away:

"We really had to execute down the stretch. They made some tough shots, credit to Tech for fighting back but we had to do some things to get us over the hump and win the game."

On his free throws and overall comfortability within the game:

"For sure, coach is giving me confidence to attack and get to the free throw line and knock those down. I'm just trying to move forward and win ball games."

On his mindset to attack Texas Tech's guards in the second half:

"Rashard set the tone in the first half and the coaches told us to keep attacking in the second half as Tech was pressing up so we just kept attacking."



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TEXAS TECH HEAD COACH CHRIS BEARD

On how difficult it was to contain Jordan Woodard:

"It is really hard to stay in front of Woodard. He's one of the best players in the Big 12. I have so much respect for him. To come back from an injury like that, and it was obvious to me that he wasn't going to let his team lose tonight. We can talk about what we did and didn't do but let's talk about what Oklahoma did. They have a Hall of Fame coach. They outrebounded us. They out-toughed us, and the best player on the floor tonight, Woodard, was special... Here's a guy that has gotten better from year one, two, three to four. He's just a tough matchup. He can really shoot the ball. We were so scared of him shooting that we tried to go over things. When you go over things he's just hard to keep in front of."

On how much Rashard Odomes surprised them with his scoring:

"It didn't surprise me. We knew he was an explosive driver. They spread you out so much. Coach (Lon) Kruger knows what he's doing. A lot of times the spacing was where if you want to help on Odomes, you're leaving a player to do it. You have to pick your poison. I thought he did a great job tonight. I don't think he forced anything."

On if there was any let down from his team after beating Kansas State:

"We got beat by a better team tonight. Oklahoma played well. They guarded us. They spread us out. Their best players stepped up. They were an inspired team looking for their first Big 12 win. Their best player was back in the starting lineup. Obviously we would have liked to have played better. I'm not going to sit here and say that that was the reason we lost. We lost tonight because Oklahoma outplayed us."

On if he felt that his team's defense took anything away from Oklahoma:

"I thought we were on our heels. I have to go back and watch the film. What was most concerning to me was that it seemed like from where I was sitting that every loose ball Oklahoma got. I thought that they went and got fouled. I thought the officiating was fine. I just felt that the more aggressive team won. Victory favors the more aggressive team. Again, hats off to Oklahoma. We got outrebounded. We got beat on the 50/50 balls. We'll just have to get back to practice and try to fix some of these things."