

TEXAS LONGHORNS WBB POSTGAME QUOTES

OKLAHOMA AT TEXAS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017

TEXAS HEAD COACH KAREN ASTON

On tonight's win: I think tonight was a typical Big 12 night. It was a really competitive game from the tip. It was two competitive teams that really wanted to win, and we made some plays down the stretch but had some players make big buckets for us. I thought our first half was terrific in so many areas, but there were so many things that we'll look back on and wish we'll have had a bigger lead. I think we squandered away some possessions in the first half when we were playing really well, and they were in foul trouble and we didn't take advantage of that. That's how we really allowed them to stay in the game and stay in striking distance.

On the team getting the running game going: It was good tonight, and there have been some games that I just think it's been lacking for us for a lack of better words. Some of it's just been the pace of some of the games, but this was an up-tempo game and both teams were able to get out and run quite a bit today.

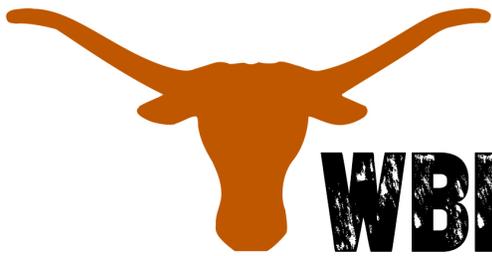
On the 20 to four run in the last quarter of the game: They fouled, so we made our free throws and that's incredibly encouraging for us. I think that the scoring was not indicative of the game. As we know, it was much closer than that, and I really thought what they showed us was grit down the stretch just to be able to get some stops. We struggled at times trying to defend them, trying to get some distance between us and them after they caught back up and most of it just was us not being able to guard the ball or being isolated in the post and not being able to help down in there. But down the stretch, I thought we made the stops that we had to make.

On senior guard Brianna Taylor's key role for the team despite not scoring a lot of points in the game: I looked at her line at half time and it was as good a half as I have ever seen a person play that didn't score a point. She had ten rebounds, she had four assists, she had two turnovers, and she probably created many more from their side. There's no question that I'm leaning on her pretty heavily right now, and I think it'll help her if we'll get somebody else that wants to take that responsibility, which I think Ariel tried to step up to the plate. But again, we're asking Ariel to do a whole lot on the offensive end and it takes a team.

TEXAS JUNIOR GUARD ARIEL ATKINS

On the big shots: Honestly I don't know if they were clutch shots or big shots. My teammates gave me the ball and when the clock was running out, I knew I had to put it up. We went over that in practice not too long ago.

On freshman guard/forward Joyner Holmes: She has a lot. I think coach hit it on the money when she said is a freshman and a half. There are things she needs to work on, but I think she is growing up mentally and that's really big for her.



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TEXAS FRESHMAN GUARD/FORWARD JOYNER HOLMES

On remaining perfect in conference play: It feels good. At the beginning of the year, we were on that stretch where we had a couple of losses back-to-back. Just going here and knowing that we had a big game, we pulled it off and now we are 7-0. It is just a great feeling.

On her comfort level and role on the team: Everyday I get more comfortable. I'm not going to into a stable position but I feel like I'm still coming into my role on this team as a basketball player and as a person. My teammates have my back 100 percent, so just knowing that they have my back I feel comfortable.

TEXAS SENIOR GUARD BRIANNA TAYLOR

On coming back after her injury during the game: Just seeing my team fighting and giving everything they have, that just fueled me. We just feed off each other and I think this rivalry goes beyond everything that you know. It's what we work for; it's tradition. I think it was a very fun game, and I think the crowd fueled that. I think that gave me all the energy to get back in there.

On the way the scorers of the team allowed her to settle in: I think there is a lot of trust there, knowing that I have teammates that can go out there and drop. Anybody of the bench that can drop 20 or 16. It is just part of our team, and it is character of our team knowing that everyone has a role. I think that will gel us more as a team as the year goes on.

OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH SHERRI COALE

On how the game got away in the fourth quarter: It was a big momentum play when T'ona [Edwards] scored and was called for taunting. It was big because we had it, it stopped play, it was her fourth foul, and she had to come out of the game. That changed the complexion of things. It looked like she's a kid who's really excited to have a big play, and if a kid ever deserved to be excited on a big play it was T'ona Edwards this week.

On Ariel Atkins: Atkins is always good. When I get my Big 12 ballot at the end of the year I always put her immediately because she's just such a complete basketball player. She's poised and she always hurts us. She's always steady.

On the offense in the final minutes: Maybe I'll feel differently when I look at the film, but I don't feel like our offense shut down. It was crazy physical and we missed some shots, but it was more them [Texas] getting to the free-throw line and getting shots late in the shot clock that really effected momentum.