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# OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

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## OKLAHOMA 89, NO. 7 WEST VIRGINIA 87 JANUARY 18, 2017 • POSTGAME QUOTES

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### OKLAHOMA COACH LON KRUGER

#### Opening Statement

Obviously a really hard fought game. Guys on both sides competed like crazy and went back and forth. They made the run in the second half and I couldn't be more proud of our guys at that point to hang in there. We got a couple steals and easy buckets at that point. We cut into it a little bit, but this is a terrific effort. Our guys fought hard, held our own on the boards and battled great pressure that West Virginia puts on. Jordan (Woodard) was outstanding all night long and he got a lot of help from a lot of other people too. Good road win over a really good West Virginia team.

#### On experience with playing against West Virginia

Experience is always valuable. Of course, a lot of our guys hadn't been in this environment before and they really did a good job. Our guys have so much respect for West Virginia and how hard they play and how they rebound the basketball. I think because of that, you always want them to focus as well as possible, but I think they respect West Virginia. I think what they do is a little bit unique and different, and I think they focus a little better and they know how tough it's going to be. We've had good battles, we've had good games.

#### On being down during the game against West Virginia

Being young right there may have been better because they didn't know that they weren't supposed to do it, I guess. But again, a couple really good defensive plays there. We held them to one shot during that stretch when we came back into it. It's tough, it's tough to do that on the road against a really good team, so I'm proud of our guys.

#### On whether Oklahoma handled the press or attacked the press

Fine line there. You have to number one, get in bounds and that's never easy to do. Once you do, you have to get really good spacing and that's not easy because their traps are really good. I think it does a credit to our guys fighting double teams. Our receivers do a pretty good job of moving and being available, but their press is so good. You just can't take a possession off, you have to fight it every possession. I thought our guys did a pretty good job of that. So often you turn over once and that leads to seven points. I thought when we turned it over once we came back and had a pretty good next possession. We dwelled on playing the next play regardless of what happened, but their press is great we were just able to not let it kill us tonight.

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### WEST VIRGINIA COACH BOB HUGGINS

#### On playing with lack of energy

I have no idea why they would have lack of energy. They quit playing after two hours for two days. Shooting the ball shouldn't take energy, should it? Truth of the matter is we haven't ran the ball down from behind for how long? Which is what we are really good at. We haven't made a steal below the foul line in how long? That's effort. That's not lack of energy. That's lack of effort. They had the 'lack of' part right. He just substituted 'energy' for 'effort.'

#### On Oklahoma's Jordan Woodard game-winning basket

No, we probably had the wrong guys in the game. I mean how do you catch it and go the length of the floor in five seconds? We're supposed to be the best pressing team in America? How does that happen? You can't steer him one way or another? He straight-lined it from one end to the other. We had the wrong people in the game. It won't happen again.

#### On what was lacking with the press tonight

Well, I watched their film and they're really good at penetrating and just throwing it up to their bigs. Their bigs are both really bouncy and we were not supposed to help up. We worked yesterday and the day before on not helping up and we obviously didn't work hard enough or long enough, or they just didn't give a s\*\*\*. One of those three. Because they continually threw it up and we helped up.

#### On foul shooting

Oh, it plays a big part. Foul shooting plays a part. The fact that we had people wide open and we can't pass the ball had a lot to do with it. I listened to them, when we were up three, maybe. No, we were up more than that. We were up six. I listened to them to play off a flat screen and we turned it over twice. Turned it over twice, then we threw it to them again for a layup. Then we just, I don't know what we did. We tried to bounce it left-handed and it bounced up in the air and they got it and went and scored. I'm at a loss. If you can't drive it to the goal, if you can't make a shot, if you can't make a pass, it's hard. I sit there and look and I probably have a play-card that has 150 plays on it. My question constantly every time the assistants ask me is 'who passes the ball?' We have 13 turnovers, they have 12. We're not going to win. Thirty Two percent of our offense comes from our defense. Eighteen for twenty-nine (from the field). We're not going to win. Particularly when we went ten for our first eleven. So you go ten for your last eleven, so we are seven for our last eighteen. How are you going to win? And it's demoralizing. I think the most demoralizing thing in basketball is for some guy to stand up there and miss two free throws. One out of two you can kind of live with. I think it's very demoralizing. I'd just assume they throw it out of bounds. And you can become a proficient free throw shooter with just work. You know if you put enough time in you're going to end up being a decent free throw shooter.

#### On Jevon Carter's performance

I come in here every day and tell you the two that spend the most time in the gym are Jevon Carter and James Long. He deserves it. Billy (Hahn) talks about the basketball gods, that you can't cheat the basketball gods. You know, if you cheat the game the basketball gods are going to get you. He's had a pretty good year. He's been very consistent because he deserves it. When you don't come in the gym, when you don't respect the game, when you don't work at the game. I don't know if you wrote the story, but there's a story about Joe Alexander sleeping in the locker room because you know back in the old days in this place you had volleyball and wrestling and gymnastics and grad-uations and everything else going on. So he had a blowup mattress put in the locker room so that when all of that stuff got out of there he could go in there and get his shots up, get his workout in. These guys have access 24-7 to the best practice facility in America. They're not Joe Alexander, obviously. JC puts that kind of time in. He deserves it. The guys that aren't in the gym don't deserve it and you know they give you this 'lack of energy.' Come on man. These are guys that are going to be NBA players and play 100 games? One hundred. What are we? We're at what? They've played 18 games. They're 32 games from the all-star break. That's some phony stuff right there. 'Don't have any energy.' Come on man.