



OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

TEXAS 84, OKLAHOMA 83 JANUARY 23, 2017 • POSTGAME QUOTES

OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH LON KRUGER

Opening statement:

"I thought the guys fought like crazy. Texas did a terrific job all night long with pounding the ball inside and getting what they wanted. I thought the guys hung in there and scratched around a little bit. They did a terrific job in getting back in the ball game and back in the position to win the ball game, but I told them afterwards I'm very proud of their fight, their effort, and the way they hung together. Nothing else I say at this point will help with the loss as far as their feelings, but we'll bounce back. We'll keep getting better and there's another one on Saturday."

On Kristian Doolittle:

"This guy here was fantastic. You get a feel what he's really able to do in a ball game in terms of taking over – inside, outside, boards. Kristian was fantastic."

OKLAHOMA FRESHMAN FORWARD KRISTIAN DOOLITTLE

On game-winning shot for Texas:

"They set a double ball screen and I switched onto him. I knew the shot was coming because of how much time was left, and he shot it and he made it. He had some arc on the ball. He shot it up there and congrats to him. I know he's going to cherish this moment for a long time. But it's tough. I thought I was there on the release but it didn't go our way."

On his performance:

"I'm not one to care about personal stats. All I care about is winning. If we would have won, then that would be a different story. We just need to keep the momentum going for the next game, keep our head up. It sucks to lose but there's always the next game we can go win."



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TEXAS HEAD COACH SHAKA SMART

On the importance of the win:

"It was really important, because I think our guys obviously have been working hard in practice and battling hard to be in a lot of the games we have played and be highly competitive. But at the end of the day, guys want to win, coaches want to win, everybody wants to win. That was an unlikely finish for sure, but I like the way our guys just hung in there and kept fighting."

On the last seconds of the game:

"We were down five with, I believe, 19 seconds and we just wanted to get a quick shot. When you're down five, you don't necessarily need a three, you just need to get a quick score. We wanted to get a quick score. Eric [Davis] did a nice job rising up. His teammates did a good job finding him. Then we got fortunate because out of the timeout, and we wanted to fight it in. They did a good job getting the ball to Kam McGusty, who had a heck of a game. We tried to recruit him, he's really, really good. We're just fortunate he missed those free throws."

On the last shot:

"I was just hoping it went in. That's all you can do at a time like that. Like when McGusty was at the foul line, I was hoping he missed. We've had some plays like that, last-second shots, but we've had some late-game plays that haven't gone our way. There were some tonight – a couple of lay-ups we didn't finish. It sure felt like, uh-oh this one is slipping away. Oklahoma did a good job capitalizing, but our guys kept fighting and never gave up."

SOPHOMORE GUARD ERIC DAVIS JR.

On the difference in the last 12 seconds:

"We've been in that situation before when it's been a tight game, where it's a tied game, or we're down two. We've been unfortunate where we just wouldn't be able to finish it. Just from previous games, you could tell that the vibe was down and we were like, "just don't give up." That was my whole message, "just don't give up, we could still go on and win this game." A lot of the time, they'd get a quick shot off or we'd get a shot, that was just my message. We did a good job of executing, we didn't give up."

On the mood in the game's final huddles and the messages between the team:

"Like Shaq (Shaquille Cleare) said, we've been in situations where we haven't finished the game and as I said earlier, some guys' faces just kind of looked down. That's one thing Coach Smart preaches, it starts with the look on your face. And I look over to my teammates and I say, "don't give up." But the confidence was there. Everyone was engaged and nobody gave up. I think we did a great job with the look on our faces, it started right there."

FRESHMAN GUARD ANDREW JONES

On his game-winning 3-point shot:

"When it left my hand it felt real good. I had a momentum dribble that I've been working on and once I hit that shot after I'd pulled up, it felt good. Now with this win, which we really needed, I feel like it's going to give us a lot of momentum and we're going to carry on."

On if his game-winning shot was what Coach Smart drew up:

"Initially Coach wanted me to throw it back to Eric because he had just hit one, but he was covered and I just decided that I had a mismatch and we had to exploit it. I don't know (how far behind the line the shot was), I was just looking at it and to get the space away from him (Oklahoma freshman forward Kristian Doolittle) so that he couldn't block it. When I saw his hand, I had to shoot it all the way up in the air; and when it dropped I was happy."

SENIOR FORWARD SHAQUILLE CLEARE

On how much the team needed the win:

"We needed this game in the worst way possible. These guys, they work so hard in practice every day and it was just time to reward ourselves. I thought going into the ending part, "we really need a miracle right now." I said "something amazing is about to happen" and Andrew came out and put up a big shot and we needed it."

On why tonight was different:

"I think we wanted it. We wanted it bad. Once we start to close out games the way we start games, I think we put ourselves in a better position. We've got to enjoy the win, but moving forward we've got a lot of work to do."
