



# OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

FEB. 1, 2017 • #18/22 OKLAHOMA 89, KANSAS 58 • POSTGAME QUOTES

## HEAD COACH SHERRI COALE

### Opening statement:

"I love elementary school day. I said on TV afterwards that I'm going to lobby the Big 12 to play all our mid-week games at 10:30 in the morning. The children will love it. We will love it. I don't know about our season ticket holders. They might lose their jobs if they take off that much. I love the energy in the building, and that is only made possible by public school principals and teachers, classrooms—a lot of people put a lot of time and effort to getting all those kids here and then back home, Lord willing, safely today. Also, our University of Oklahoma folks who have volunteered to make sure that this day could happen. There were a whole lot of people who invested in the sport of women's basketball today to have that moment, and my favorite thing about this game is the fact that a whole generation of kids (is) exposed to women's basketball. I think what they were exposed to today is something that they enjoyed and they'll want to come back and be a part of it in the future. A really good Wednesday morning."

### On how they shot so well:

"Quality of shots, our shot selection, our cadence and rhythm together. We changed sides of the floor, we played inside out, and those are high-quality possessions. Maddie (Manning) was, I think, 8 of 9—only missed one the whole night. We took a nice balance between paint finishes and three-point shots, and that's just the outgrowth of a bunch of guys staying with it and learning how to play and really starting to feel how to take advantage of what the defense gives you."

### On having confidence to shoot and the effect it has:

"I think when you say losing confidence, I don't think any confidence was lost at Baylor, but I think what they do is they get you out of the moment. When we're in the moment mentally, we're very confident shooters, but when they get you thinking about, 'Where am I going to be in defensive transition,' 'I didn't do my job on that last, I was supposed to help in the post and I didn't do my job,' 'Oh my gosh, here's a threshold, she's back too far, I should shoot it,' nobody's going to be a good shooter in that environment. I think what the Baylor game was, was an opportunity for us to learn how important it is, regardless of the circumstances, to control our own mind because the quality of shots we got at Baylor was pretty good."

### On today's defensive performance:

"What I loved about the defense performance today was, No. 1, I thought our energy was really good the entire game. I typically find myself yelling, 'energy,' on defense, and I don't think I said it one time tonight. We engaged the ball. We were down in the stance. Everybody was intense and locked in. But, early in the game, our hoop guy was too tight, so they're skipping it and getting a few shots and a few drives with a closeout. We talked at halftime about getting that hoop back out, let our big guys cover that if they can, and then we talked about limiting (Jessica) Washington's touches."

### On how the team is improving:

"I'm very pleased with our progression. I'm excited about it. I think that we've been talking all year about the compounding effect, that as our guys understand different pieces of what we're trying to, be it offense or defense, that there's a compounding effect. You don't get just a little bit better in a little while, you see these big jumps that come as a result of that. So while we're inching our way up the mountain, a very tough schedule—I feel like we have two games and then we've got a bear somewhere, no pun intended. It's hard to get a whole big head of steam when you've got a conference that's as talented as ours, where every other night, you're playing somebody who's ranked in the top 20, or you're going into a hostile environment."

## REDSHIRT SENIOR GUARD PEYTON LITTLE

### ON PLAYING WITH RHYTHM AND BALANCE AS A TEAM:

"It felt smooth. I felt like we shared the ball, we played inside out, and any time we're playing together as one, we're going to get good shots, and that's why we shot such a good percentage today."

## REDSHIRT SENIOR GUARD MADDIE MANNING

### On having confidence to shoot and the effect it has:

"I think it's just the way we move the ball on offense. I don't know that it's a confidence thing. I don't know that we didn't shoot with confidence at Baylor. They adjust your shot, maybe, but I think it's moving the ball and catching it in rhythm, and those are the shots that we know are going to go in."

### On elementary school day:

"Oh my gosh, it was awesome. It was so fun. I hope they had as much fun as we did. We were laughing every timeout. I've never heard a Frozen song sang so loud. It was hilarious. The energy early in the morning, you're not even thinking about it being early in the morning. The energy they provided was great."

## FRESHMAN CENTER NANCY MULKEY

### On how blocks translate into points:

"I don't want to just, 'Me, me, me, me, me,' but I love blocking the shots to make the transition play or running on the other team, so it has a factor in it, but the rest is up to them running the floor. Obviously, getting the rebound first, running the floor, and then taking the shot."

## KANSAS HEAD COACH BRANDON SCHNEIDER

### On his team's performance:

"I thought we played poorly today as a team. We played physically tired. I thought we played mentally tired. We just did an awful job keeping the ball out of the paint and keeping the ball in front of us. Didn't really have a good defensive stance. When they attacked us, our first line of defense got no paint protection, no rotation from our bigs. Just a poor team performance today. It's just frustrating, obviously, coming off of Saturday. I didn't feel like we showed a lot of fight or a lot of resistance. Mentally on the offensive end we had guys blowing assignments and forgetting responsibilities. I think we got caught up in the score and being behind. We have to be mentally tougher than that."

### On the play of Kylee Kopatch:

"I thought Kylee played really well. I thought she struggled down the stretch in the second half. The lack of focus from our team maybe contaminated her a little bit and she made a few mistakes. I thought for the most part that she had a good day."