



# OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

FEB. 7, 2017 • #19/20 OKLAHOMA 90, WEST VIRGINIA 87 (2OT) • POSTGAME QUOTES

## OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH SHERRI COALE

### Opening statement:

"How do you make an opening statement about that? I really – I've always got all these words, but I've got no words right now. I told my guys it was just grit and that's all that was. Just grit. Obviously, we started poorly and we were trying to find ourselves – 'who are we without (senior forward) Maddie (Manning)? Where do we go? Who are we going to lean on when the storm comes?' The storm came and we figured it out and made great decisions. There's always a moment in time in your season when you have an opportunity to make a decision and that decision will determine your destiny. The decision we made tonight was to compete and to give everything that we had and I don't feel like anyone who participated in the second half held anything back. That's all you can ask as a coach. So, winning the game is golden but that decision that they made to be all-in no matter what was a beautiful thing. That's why you do what you do."

### On her team's comeback:

"Actually, there was a point in the third quarter at one of the timeouts when we were talking about how much time there was remaining. Then, we made a couple baskets and we made the point, 'okay, we're scoring now. Now we can get this thing back where we want it.' We really felt better about it then and didn't feel so labored. (Gioya Carter) hit a three in there sometime and that sort of made us relax a little, just to see the ball go through the basket."

### On her team's urgency in the third and fourth quarters:

"Early on, we were reeling. It was like we were a bunch of bodies without a head. It's weird – a point differential of 11 looks so different than a point differential of nine and it's just one basket but it just looks and feels so much different. We cut it to single digits and it's like we looked around and said, 'oh, this is doable, let's just play. It's not that bad'. Once we did, once we lost ourselves in just competing, it got a lot easier."

### On the level of play:

"First thing I would say is, that's the Big 12 Conference for you. This conference is tough, and for (Tynice) Martin, what can you say? How good was she tonight? She was unbelievable. When she rose up and made that jumper with Stu (Peyton Little) just tightly contesting her, I thought the stars might not be in line tonight, that was a tough one. She made big, big plays. But we did, too. You could say that about a bunch of (Vionise Pierre-Louis). So, the fourth quarter and the final stretch was just really, really high-level women's basketball. So, for all of our fans who hung around tonight and stayed up way past their bedtime to see those two overtimes, they'd better tell their friends, tell their neighbors, people they sit with at church this team is fun to watch. That was high-level basketball."

## JUNIOR GUARD GABBI ORTIZ

### On getting better throughout the game:

"We grew up a lot and had amazing grit. We fought and brought it back together. Anytime you play an overtime game, or any time you came back from that deficit, you learn and grow, and I definitely felt that tonight."

### On if there was any doubt that they could come back:

"I can remember the moment when (Gioya Carter) hit that three, I remember looking at the scoreboard and getting confidence. When you see yourself down by double digits, you feel uncomfortable, but once we started getting a little more flow and seeing the ball go through that gave us some more calmness. I think we just settled in, believed in ourselves and found a way."

### On Vionise Pierre-Louis' performance:

"I remember a play where coach called something, and I said 'no', I want 'flash'. I was just so determined to get her the ball. I knew I could get it there even though I knew they were doubling – I wasn't going to force anything. It was a little difficult but she's such a big body and she was working her butt off. I wanted to keep going back to her."

## SENIOR GUARD DERICA WYATT

### On her confidence coming off the bench:

"You've got to stay ready and that's always my mindset. All credit goes to my teammates who found me. I think (Vionise Pierre-Louis), both times actually, she found me. One was on a perfect backdoor pass and the other, everyone was swarming her, and she found me on the wing. All credit to my teammates for that."

## JUNIOR CENTER VIONISE PIERRE-LOUIS

### On what changed in the second half:

"Gabbi (Ortiz) really took initiative as a point guard and she controlled the tempo of the game. Her initiative gave us all security playing around her."

## REDSHIRT SENIOR GUARD PEYTON LITTLE

### On playing the whole 50 minutes:

"I didn't want to come out of the game. If we were to have had another overtime I would still be playing another five minutes. I love the game and I love playing with my teammates and I tried to leave it all on the court tonight."



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**WEST VIRGINIA HEAD COACH MIKE CAREY**

**Opening statement:**

"They executed down the stretch. We did not and that was the difference in the game. Tynice (Martin) had a great game, and I thought Teana (Muldrow) played well. We just could not get that third or fourth person to step up at the end. Give them credit, they executed down the stretch and we did not."

**On Lanay Montgomery's foul trouble and the difference it made:**

"It made a great difference. I probably put her back in too soon, but she's a senior and they were making a big run and we didn't want to go into overtime. So, we just figured we would put her back in and then she fouled from behind. That really hurt us. We had a much better matchup with Lanay."

**On losing the lead after holding a lead for most of the game:**

"We made too many mistakes and we did not execute well - that is what it came down to. Whenever Lanay (Montgomery) picked up her fifth foul we had to go to the bench. When we go two-deep off the bench, this is what happens."

**SOPHOMORE GUARD TYNICE MARTIN**

**On the turning point in the game:**

"I feel like we just stopped playing defense and when we stopped playing defense they started hitting shots. The crowd got into it, and then it was hard to get back into the game."