
OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

OKLAHOMA 70, TEXAS 66 FEB. 14, 2017 • POSTGAME QUOTES

OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH LON KRUGER

Opening statement:

"Just obviously a hard-fought game. Forty minutes, I thought both teams battled really hard. Very happy for our guys. We've had a few in position to finish and we haven't, yet they've stayed right there and hung together and they've worked hard and made progress. So, very proud for the guys tonight to feel what they're feeling. It's been a while. But, a long way to go and this group's going to keep making progress and look forward to getting back after it this week."

On Jamuni McNeace's performance:

"It was great. I thought from the star, he was engaged, he was active on both ends of the floor, rebounding the basketball, finishing offensively. He's got a terrific upside and he can get better and better and get more and more consistent now that we go forward, and it's great to see him do that."

On his players stepping up following Jordan Woodward's career-ending injury:

"I thought [Jordan Shepherd] and Darrion [Strong-Moore] stepped in there and played really well. [Jordan Shepherd] obviously down the stretch made a lot of good plays, a couple of threes that we had to have, obviously the late free throw to make it four, so the guys did a terrific job."

On his team's growth this season:

"This group's gotten better. They really have, and it's fun to watch them grow and it's disappointing to not win more games for them, as well as everyone. They continue to give great effort and work hard. That's a given. Now we've just got to work on making winning plays late and get better results late in the ball game. That's the area we need to work on most, and this group can do that."

REDSHIRT SOPHOMORE CENTER JAMUNI MCNEACE

On his performance tonight:

"Wood (Jordan Woodward) came up to me and said, 'we don't want to lose to Texas,' and I told him I would do everything possible, and my teammates helped me out with that."

On how big of a lift Jordan Shepherd's three pointers were:

"I mean, Shep (Shepherd) always can knock down that deep three, and he brought some energy out there."

On what his mindset was coming into tonight:

"In practice it's been really fast-paced. We've been focusing on trying not to let those big men catch it and trying to fight them more. It wasn't just me, it was everyone out there. Even C.J. (Cole) came in and got two offensive rebounds."

FRESHMAN GUARD JORDAN SHEPHERD:

On how good it felt to see his 3-pointers go down:

"It felt great, but I knew we still had more game to go."

On his composure down the stretch:

"I really thought we were going to close out the game, just keeping the ball in my hands or getting it to (Darrion) Strong (Moore) and getting into our sets. Everybody was knocking down shots."

On his confidence on the court tonight:

"It definitely grew. I felt really comfortable and felt like I was much older than a freshman out there."

On what Jordan Woodward told him before the game:

"I talked to him before the game, at halftime and at the bench. I picked his brain a lot to see what I can get. He told me, 'don't lose to Texas', but the main thing was to step up and that he believes in me."

SOPHOMORE FORWARD RASHARD ODOMES:

On the importance of not letting the game get away in the first half:

"We kept our composure. I feel like we did a great job of continuing to fight and keeping the energy. When you have a team that gets going like that, you've got to have energy."

On his late-game block:

"We needed a stop, so I was willing to do whatever it took."

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TEXAS HEAD COACH SHAKA SMART

Opening statement:

"I'm very disappointed. We were in this game and got beat. Give Oklahoma credit, they made the plays they needed to make. They made the shots they needed to make. Huge three by Jordan Shepherd there at the end. Really disappointed because I thought the last couple days coming off our last game the guys had a good understanding of what we needed to do tonight and it didn't carry over."

On the frustration that comes with a loss like this:

"You get angry about certain plays and certain situations where something's going well in practice, in terms of execution and game plan, and it doesn't carry over. We just have to fix it and be better."

On the long drought:

"I think a couple things. One, you have to work to get a great shot. When you get that great shot, you have to make them or get to the foul line. We didn't make free throws tonight. We didn't execute during that stretch anywhere near the way we needed to execute. You have to give Oklahoma credit. What happens is some of our guys get in their mind that they need to do something differently, but it takes five guys to execute."

On Jamuni McNeace's night:

"He was huge. He was a big difference maker, the way he rebounded, especially on the offensive glass, and he made some nice one-on-one post moves. I think in games like this when you can get a lift from someone that normally doesn't score in double figures, that's huge. As well as the number of free throws they shot and made compared to ours, that was probably the biggest difference of the game."

SOPHOMORE GUARD KERWIN ROACH JR.

On emotions after the game:

"Definitely angry, it was tough. We had a lot of self-inflicted wounds."

On the long droughts within the game:

"We just lost our aggressiveness. We come out at the half aggressive then we have droughts where we lose all focus."

SENIOR FORWARD SHAQUILLE CLEARE

On if the team has shown its full potential:

"No. Not even close. This team is not even close to peaking. I am not going to make excuses for these guys because there are some things we need to work on and grow on to become the team to beat."

On the tough upcoming opponents and tonight's performance:

"These guys understand that. They are prepared. No matter who we play or where we play we are always in the game. We just have to worry about the next opponent and study much on what they do. We just have to give it more than we did tonight. I think that at times consistency and effort could have helped a lot more. I think there were times where effort ran down. If we can be consistent from the beginning, we would be in the game the entire time."
