

Big 12 Conference Women's Basketball Championship

Saturday, March 4, 2017

Sherri Coale Maddie Manning Vionise Pierre-Louis Oklahoma

West Virginia - 82

Oklahoma - 580

THE MODERATOR: We're now joined by the Oklahoma Sooners, Coach Sherri Coale and her two student-athletes, Vionise Pierre-Louis and Maddie Manning. Coach, your thoughts about the game?

SHERRI COALE: I've been coaching a long time, and don't think that I've ever had a team take the floor and appear to be as ill-prepared or as unmotivated as we appeared tonight and it's hard to understand and I'm disappointed by it. I want to publicly apologize to our fans and our administration because that was not what the University of Oklahoma deserves. It is not the way our institution should be represented. Ultimately, that's on me. It's on me and my coaching staff. We have to find a way to reach our guys emotionally and mentally to get them in a position to perform better than we did tonight.

I want to give West Virginia credit. They were fantastic. They played with great urgency. They played with great purpose. They played with great intensity, and they're a very good basketball team.

Q. Coach, is there anything you can point to as to why you came out as flat as you did?

SHERRI COALE: No, if I could figure out why then I could correct it. My coaching staff and I'll get back to work immediately and see if we can unlock the formula, solve the riddle.

Q. Sherri, even though you only scored 10 points in the opening quarter, wasn't it on defense where it was frustrating? You couldn't stop 'em tonight.

SHERRI COALE: The very first defensive position of the game we did not adhere to the scout and knew it was a problem right then. We were guarding in a panicked sort of way, nobody doing their job on weak



side and that eroded trust and it went down the slippery slope really fast.

West Virginia made some plays, too, and it was like we were getting buried alive there. That's where you've got to have guys step up and remind one another, stick to the game plan, what did we prepare on today? Let's make sure we guard 'em in that way.

Q. Sherri, you talked about before the game that your team wants it so badly that sometimes that can be detrimental, maybe the will to win getting in their head. Did that play a part tonight?

SHERRI COALE: I don't know. I think you would have to ask players that. I think obviously we want to win. I think everybody out there wants to win. The more fun you have and the more you let loose the more success you have, and the more success you have the longer you get to pay. So it seems like a very logical cycle to me.

Q. From a players' perspective, did you feel that overwhelming urgency or too much that it was detrimental that you guys wanted to win too badly?

MADDIE MANNING: I don't know that it's that either. The bottom line is we're Division I basketball players. We need to perform.

Q. When you came out and it started to go wrong, did you know you weren't yourselves as quickly as Sherri mentioned, or did it feel like it was okay and then all of a sudden you are down 12-0 and it all sort of crumbles?

MADDIE MANNING: I thought we were going to get it. We missed a couple of layups and I thought they were going to go in and things were going to change, but you have to make a change and we didn't.

VIONISE PIERRE-LOUIS: It was 12-0 and we didn't have no leadership. Nobody stepped up and said, give me the ball or anything like that. It looked like we were scared out there, like Coach said, and we're Division I athletes. We need to be performing like that. We can't step on the court and it's automatically 12-0, and we have no leader stepping up. So lack of effort, lack of motivation on our part.

Q. Given what you just said, is this something the coaches can bring you out of, or is this something

you guys have to have a meeting of minds amongst yourselves?

VIONISE PIERRE-LOUIS: I feel like our coaches have done enough. They can't spoon feed us every single time we have a bad game. We need to find that amongst ourselves, dig down, figure that out. We can't have that type of mentality going into the Big 12 Tournament.

Q. You guys are coming off back-to-back 20-point losses going into the tournament. How do you as a coach get your players back on track, and how do you guys as players get back on track before the tournament?

SHERRI COALE: We didn't win 22 games this year by accident. So we'll take this time in the next two weeks and find a way. If I had an exact answer for you then we wouldn't be having this conversation right now, but we will figure it out. That's what we're paid to do.

THE MODERATOR: Good luck in the NCAAs.

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Mike Carey Teana Muldrow Tynice Martin West Virginia

West Virginia - 82

Oklahoma - 58

THE MODERATOR: We are now joined by the West Virginia Mountaineers, Coach Mike Carey and his two student-athletes, Tynice Martin and Teana Muldrow. Coach, congratulations and your thoughts on the game?

MIKE CAREY: We come out ready to play. I knew we was going to be ready to play. Our shootaround today earlier was probably the best shootaround we had all year. They were focused, a lot of energy. In fact I had to cut it down because they were going too hard, so we just cut things down. The other thing I thought was great is out of 33 field goals we had 20 assists and that means we were moving the ball and against their traps. 1-3-1 that's what you had to do, so I thought the players did a great job of doing that.

Q. Mike, you really took control of this game early, didn't you, 26-10 in the first quarter, of course you didn't let off the gas at all, you have to be proud of your team that they never let up.

MIKE CAREY: Oh, very proud. That's something we've talked about all year. We would get leads and then give up the leads and I thought second half we got in foul trouble again a little bit with Lanay, and I thought Des came in and did a good job. I thought it was a total team effort and our players at every timeout up 30 I kept reminding them we've got to continue to play hard, play hard, play hard because they're going to dribble/drive us.

Q. Coach Carey, you guys shot twenty 3s, 45% from 3, did you come into the game knowing you were going to shoot the ball well against Oklahoma?

MIKE CAREY: We took what they gave us, them



trapping and once we reversed the ball we had a lot of open looks. You never know what's going to be open, maybe the drive open, high-low, or maybe they're not going to guard the three. And they chose to sag on Lanay and Teana and we were able to hit some shots, which was big for us.

Q. You were able to hold on to the or the to two assists and she leads the Big 12 in assist-to-turnover ratio. What did you do to make her uncomfortable throughout the game?

MIKE CAREY: They have a bunch of good shooters. Oklahoma has a really good team. They just didn't play well, so let's give them credit. And we played pretty well. We've had those days, too. The shoe was on the other foot, so I totally understand that. I hope they do great in the NCAA Tournament because they're a lock for the NCAA Tournament. Give these two credit. They're going to try to take Tynice Martin out of the game, but she still got a lot of good looks and the players rotated the ball and when Teana plays well we play well as a team, because she can hit the three. She can guard a 5. She can guard a guard, and she is that versatile where we can use her unanimous different positions, so it's important that she stays out of foul trouble for us.

Q. Tynice, do you love playing against Oklahoma? You must. You've scored like 700 points against them. Tonight you had 21, but what is it about you and Oklahoma and your match-ups there that seems to favor you?

TYNICE MARTIN: I don't know. We started on defense today and we just kept it going. We kept our foot on the pedal and that's pretty much it. I didn't know that I was going to shoot well tonight. I didn't know how I was going to play, but I kept my energy high along with the team and, you know, we played well.

THE MODERATOR: We'll see you tomorrow.