
OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

WICHITA STATE 76, OKLAHOMA 73 DECEMBER 10, 2016 • OKLAHOMA POSTGAME QUOTES

OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH LON KRUGER

Opening statement:

"A tough ball game. I thought both teams fought like crazy in 40 minutes. We had a couple stretches where we had trouble getting some good looks. I thought Wichita State did a terrific job, they're a really good ball club. Gregg Marshall did a good job, and we'll learn a lot from them and from the result. We've got to get back to work by just taking the good and learning from the less than good to keep getting better. It's time to do some of that."

On OU's offense:

"We took the ball to the paint and got a little frantic. We were attacking in pretty good shape, but not really at a pace where we could finish comfortably or make good decisions at the end. We've got to be able to attack and still be under control. We need to finish with opportunity and again, Wichita State did a pretty good job defensively. We didn't handle that as well as we needed to."

On Woodard's performance in the last stretch of the game:

"He did very well down at the stretch. He made shots to keep us within reach. We couldn't quite get back to even, but all the guys kept fighting and battling and we've learned from that. Jordan was the key to that for sure."

On playing off the ball:

"We play more comfortably off the ball, and Darrion [Strong-Moore] gave us a good pop coming off the back of the court. Jordan could shoot the ball well. I want to give him as many looks as we can."

On where the team will make its biggest stride:

"Across the board, we've got to do so much to better each possession and value each possession more. We need to execute more quickly and defensively we need to be better. We want to rush along as quickly as we can. Every time we get to practice or play is great for this team. I think most important; we understand that there is a lot of stuff we need to do. There's a long way to go and our team is eager to stay after it."

On Wichita State's performance:

"They were a team that just played better during the stretch with a latter group. Wichita State travels great, it was a very good crowd. I thought our fans were great and we were doing well, but didn't finish."

On improvement since the Wisconsin game:

"Every game. I think every game we have seen improvements individually. We've seen guys stepping up a little more aggressively and more confidently. We've got to keep playing. It's not going to happen overnight. We'd like for it to, but we've got work to do. We've got a few days now with this final week to piece some practices together in preparation for Memphis next Saturday."

SENIOR GUARD JORDAN WOODARD

On 3-point shooting in a bigger arena with the NBA 3-point line:

"It wasn't that difficult, but it was a great environment. Our fans showed up to the game. It was a good atmosphere for a college basketball game."

On guarding Wichita State guard Dashion Smith in the first half versus the second:

"He had that huge dunk that changed the momentum of the game. He played very well down the stretch for his team."

On what it was like playing against former high school teammate Shaquille Morris:

"Yeah, it was good to just see his face again on the court. It's a good matchup for the team. Like I said, it was great to play in the Chesapeake Arena in a classic game here. It was fun."

SOPHOMORE GUARD CHRISTIAN JAMES

On effort to get to the free throw line:

"When they went one-on-one, we just started to attack and get to the free throw line."

On his failed attempt at a three-point play late in the game:

"It definitely changed the game and the momentum of the game in that one moment that we had."

On how tough it was to get a shot to fall:

"It was tough. They can kind of broke our rhythm a little bit. I had to start attacking more and going to the rim and try to get my rhythm back. They played great and they're a hard-nosed, tough team."

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WICHITA STATE HEAD COACH GREGG MARSHALL

Opening statement:

"I hoped it was an entertaining game to watch. Certainly, it was a back and forth slugfest, and we just made one more play than them. It was two good teams going toe-to-toe really hard and making tremendous plays. We're just appreciative of Oklahoma for doing this – doing a neutral-neutral and playing in the All-College Classic. We're going to take the trophy home back to Mr. Littleton."

On what he said to his team at half:

"I talked to everyone at halftime, I thought we were a little bit on our heels. They were the aggressor, and they got to the foul line a ton in the first half. We were kind of a half step behind them. I said, 'listen, to be down two points as poorly as we played, this is very winnable. We just need to go out and take it to them, don't be afraid.' I thought we were better at that in the second half."

On Shaq Morris' performance playing in his hometown:

"In the second half in particular, I thought Shaq Morris did a very nice job in his homecoming of protecting the rim. He had a number of shot blocks and a tremendous number of altered shots. I thought it was pretty cool. We had his mom in the locker room. He and JR (John Robert Simon) are both from Oklahoma City, and I could tell they both had a little pop in their step. We appreciate them (Oklahoma) doing this and playing this game."

On the atmosphere:

"I thought it was a great crowd. There was a lot of yellow and black and a lot of crimson and cream. It was impressive. It was back and forth with a tremendous crew from the refs and it really had a NCAA tournament feel to it."

On how a game like this will help his team down the road:

"I think this (Oklahoma) will be an NCAA tournament team. They're young, they're going to get better and they're very well coached. You're talking about a Hall of Fame-coach. When you see these guys on film you go, 'man, these guys have a lot of young talent.' Today was our day, but they're going to be really good and hopefully they'll make the NCAA tournament. We thought having the opportunity to play this game, for us, was big because of the quality of their program and the respect we have for them."

On Jordan Woodard:

"He's tremendous. I'm familiar with Jordan – I coached against his brother at Tulsa. I just talked to him in the hallway and told him, 'man, we couldn't guard you'. He had 28 points, got to the line and we also talked about Shaq (Morris). We just had a very nice interchange and I've watched his career. He's a Final Four point guard and he's cemented his legacy and hopefully he can finish up with another NCAA tournament run."

JUNIOR FORWARD ZACH BROWN

On Daishon Smith's dunk in the second half...

"It was amazing. I have not seen that from a point guard, in a long, long time. Someone that athletic and is able to wail himself to get to the rim and then finish on a big man. It was just so fearless and that was the big turning point in the game."

On the team's motivation after the dunk...

"We were like, we can do this. We can win. That is the mindset that we always have going into games. And for him (Daishon Smith) to do something like that, that showed a lot and I am so proud of him for doing that."

On his performance today coming off the bench...

"It was pretty good. There's not too much that I can say about my game. I am not one to critique my own game, as much, unless I am watching film or looking at things that I can do better. In hind sight, there were a couple of things that I could've done better but at the end of the day the game is over with and all I can do now is just check on it and get better from what I embarked on."

JUNIOR GUARD DAISHON SMITH

On his dunk being a momentum changer...

"That was by far the biggest momentum changer that I have been a part of."

On going against Jordan Woodard...

"He was very talented. I think in the first half, he was maybe winning the matchup but I think ultimately it was all about winning the game. I know the guys told me coming out in the second half, that they were going to need my energy to pick up."
