



OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

JAN. 22, 2017 • #20/20 OKLAHOMA 68, OKLAHOMA STATE 62 • POSTGAME QUOTES

OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH SHERRI COALE:

Opening Statement

"I am really proud of our team. We came out so strong in the second half. We were really focused and showed belief in one another, personal belief, and we did it together. It started with defense and we knew that if we defended with enough integrity for long enough that the ball would begin to go on the other end and that is exactly what happened. I am really proud of our effort. I also want to give credit to Oklahoma State. I thought the way they shot it to open the game was really special and they were gritty as well. They are very difficult to guard. I thought Jentry Holt had a great game."

On the defense press:

"They have one primary ball handler and when we were able to get the ball out of her hand they were a little sped up and did not know what to do next. I thought our aggression had a lot to do with it though. It was not just a one trap and done, we continued with pressure. I think what is special is when you find a way to win without shooting it well and when your opponent is shooting it well."

On the message at halftime:

"We talked about how important it was for us to play together in the second half and not try to do it one on one. We also talked about how important it was for Maddie (Manning) to own the game as a scorer and we needed her involved. We also needed to continue to get them in foul trouble when we go to ViVi (Pierre-Louis) at the block and get (Kaylee) Jensen off balance."

On Chelsea Dungee's performance:

"When I looked at the stat sheet I could not believe there was not 18 rebounds. I expected her stats to jump off the page because her plays came at such important times. The thing about Chelsea that we know is that she thrives when it is tough. She is a tough kid and her response in those moments has always been so positive. I thought Chelsea was just a little too wound up at the start of the game. I think if we could have gotten her calmed down earlier it would have been good. It was her first Bedlam and she was just going a little too fast."

On the first half performance:

"I thought we fought the fact that there could have been an energy deficit very well. They were 100 percent shooting late in the first quarter and 70 percent in the second quarter shooting from the field and we could not buy one. It is very difficult to keep your energy high when that is happening and I thought we did that very well. I thought our fight in terms of not letting their shooting success suck the energy out of us was something I was really pleased with and we can use moving on."

OKLAHOMA REDSHIRT SENIOR GUARD MADDIE MANNING

On the halftime talk getting to her:

"I heard from Coach Coale and my teammates, so anytime they challenge you like that you want to step up to it and do it for them."

On how it felt shooting in the fourth quarter:

"Honestly, you are not even thinking about it. In a way, I am not worried about how it is coming off your hand or what your footwork is like, so just the freedom and putting it up, and my teammates found me in good position."

On how the game's momentum changed in the third quarter:

"I think we came out right away after halftime and we started off the third quarter the way we needed to. We were aggressive on offense, and then Coach (Coale) said start doing it with our defense."

OKLAHOMA JUNIOR CENTER VIONISE PIERRE-LOUIS

On the matchup with Oklahoma State's Kaylee Jensen:

"She is a tough player to guard like Coach (Coale) said and I just had fun going at it. She went at me and I went at her and it was just a fun experience. Every time that we play she makes me better."

On the battle in the post:

"I was think about getting her in foul trouble right off the bat and just going into her because I knew if she has to work on defense then she would wear down on offense."

On pressing in the second half and forcing turnovers:

"That is the momentum that we need out there on the court to propel us on offense. That defensive grittiness and getting to the ball and even if they made a shot we came right back at them as if we were punching them."

On growth from the past few games:

"Looking back to that very first exhibition game, I have come a long way. I'm proud of myself. Honestly, I didn't think that I would grow this fast or dominate this fast as a freshman. Starting off Big 12 play like that gives me a lot of confidence, and I look forward to growing more."



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OKLAHOMA STATE HEAD COACH JIM LITTELL

Opening Statement:

"I'm proud of our team. I thought we came in and competed very hard. To hold them to 22 in the first half is pretty amazing. I think our foul-trouble issues were a big factor as the game progressed. When (Mandy) Coleman and some other people get into foul trouble, we lost the matchup for Maddie Manning. We were having to guard basically with a five on her and had to switch it up. Then, Peyton Little hits a three. You know, credit to them because they had some seniors and they are a good team. They are very experienced, they have played a lot together and they make plays with the game on the line in the fourth quarter. I believe they were 5-for-6 from three in the fourth quarter. We held off when we should have held off, and we should have had someone hit a contested layup before we left Maddie Manning open."

On OU's press:

"I probably didn't help our kids enough on breaking the press and attack. We wanted to control the tempo of the game, but there were a lot of misses and we got a little passive attacking the press. We split it a few times and had good results, but not enough. The big difference in the game was 21 to nine turnovers. I think that was the difference of the game. We didn't handle some of the pressure we needed to. I think we did a nice job against the half-court trap, but their full court pressure gave us some problems."

On moving forward:

"We're playing some young people in guard positions. If we can build off of this, this is a tough place to play. We need to use this as a learning tool. We have the opportunity to win a lot of games before the season is over. Again, I'm proud of our kids' effort and the way they came in here and competed. We just didn't have enough to hold on. I thought their experience in the fourth quarter took away."

On OU's adjustment:

"Even when we had a nine-point lead at half, I thought we had thrown a lot of soft passes and a lot of questionable passes. That either cost us turnovers or they were nearly picked off. I wasn't overly impressed with the way we played in the first half, despite the lead. We were just careless with the basketball and you don't give good shooting teams extra opportunities. There was an eight shot difference and that makes a big difference. A lot of those, you can look at our turnovers, are 21-9 there's 12 possessions right there that are the difference in winning in the Big 12 and losing in the Big 12."

OKLAHOMA STATE JUNIOR CENTER KAYLEE JENSEN

On younger players' early contributions:

"Sometimes at first, I got a little nervous because I wanted to stay on the floor but as the game was progressing and we were taking more and more of a lead, I was just so proud of how well they were playing. It's amazing and it makes me feel great when our guards want to step up and make some shots and our younger players want to step up and hit some shots, so I was actually very proud of how they played in the first half."