



OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

FEB. 18, 2017 • #19/19 OKLAHOMA 74, #8/8 TEXAS 73 • POSTGAME QUOTES

OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH SHERRI COALE

Opening statement:

"I'm going to start with what the day was all about, which was raising awareness for the fight against women's cancer today and raising money for the Kay Yow Cancer fund. What I loved maybe the most about this whole thing was that this game was so good from start to finish. People were compelled to watch. The more you're compelled to watch the more you hear the message of the Kay Yow fund and that's the thing that can make a difference. I'm very proud of that. Texas was fantastic and they are a terrific basketball team. They made plays, we made plays and there were never any bad stretches. Sometimes there are bad stretches in women's basketball games and there were no bad stretches today. It was good basketball for 40 minutes. Their kids are tough and they are well coached and they played really hard. We just made a few more plays today. I'm incredibly proud of our team. I think this was a great game for women's basketball. Regardless to what your connection is to this game, you watch this game and you can't help but appreciate the level of basketball that was played today and the strength of the Big 12 Conference."

On Peyton Little's go-ahead 3-pointer:

"Our inbounds are all about reads. We have the same set every time underneath the basket. It's just all about reads. The older these guys get, the better they are about the nuisances of the reads. It's one thing to know this is where you're going to be open. It's another thing to know all the nuisances that lead up to being able to get the ball there at the right time. We just moved our personnel around a little. Gioya (Carter) ran a really tough cut. To her credit she set it up beautifully. Gabbi (Ortiz's) presence and her patient gave us that nuisance to help make that decision."

On Nancy Mulkey's performance:

"I don't think this was the best game that she's had, but in the situation and circumstance, by far the best performance she has had in a live situation. I'm just super pleased about her growth. The first time we played Texas she looked like a deer in headlights. The athleticism, the length, the size and the pace of the game... everything was just a little too much for her. There were occasions today where there would be a play that looked like it was going to send her into a sense of overload and she just reset and got back in the moment. That's where she has grown so much. For her to be able to do that herself, it's enormous. Her confidence will grow."

On Vionise Pierre Louis' performance:

"Vivi" has really developed into a strong passer. She used to be really sped up when double teams would come. When there was a threat of the double team looming she would rush. She's a very good passer. Now she's in that space where she's not in a hurry. When she's just looking at making rational decisions, your guards get to show off."

OKLAHOMA JUNIOR GUARD GABBI ORTIZ

On how much her defense and steals energized the team:

"I was telling my teammates that in games like this with how talented Texas is, you have to make the little plays and do the little things. So I was really focused on that, and I knew you had to out-hustle them to win the game and I knew how big each possession was. I just wanted to give it my all to get a transition layup out of that. We needed that and we weren't getting so much transition buckets, so that helped."

On her she's seen herself develop over the past couple of games:

"I think just my overall calmness, presence and confidence. I knew all of us have to step up when a player is out and do extra things to make up for it, so I wanted to make sure I controlled that and controlled the team to just help our pace and what we're doing to be that floor general."

OKLAHOMA REDSHIRT SENIOR GUARD PEYTON LITTLE

On her 3-pointer to put OU ahead:

"Gioya (Carter) set that cut up perfectly, so Brooke (McCarty) had to step in and help that cut otherwise she was going to get a layup. When she bit, Gabbi (Ortiz) was just patient enough to give her a good pass."

On Gabbi's perception from the corner during Peyton Little's shot:

"Like Coach Coale said, I waited. I knew I needed to be patient, I knew what was happening and I knew what reads to look for. If I waited, it was probably going to be open because they had to cover that, and I looked out of the corner of my eye to see that she was wide open and I was like, 'alright, let's go.'"

On her improvement from the last game and confidence going into the three pointer:

"Last game, I let all that go. Shooters make shots and sometimes you can't make them all, so I knew that shot was going in. I've practiced that shot a million times and like I said, Gioya (Carter) set that cut up perfectly and Gabbi (Ortiz) delivered."

On bouncing back from Texas' half-court shot to end the third quarter:

"It was just, 'let that go.'" We just regrouped and emphasized that we had to get a stop on this possession coming up because we were about to be on defense and take it right back at them. It was all about regrouping and getting that stop on defense."



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OKLAHOMA JUNIOR CENTER VIONISE PIERRE-LOUIS

On how she has improved her game throughout the season:

"We've worked in practice a lot when I'm making my post moves on not bringing it down so they can block my shot. It's just being aggressive on my part, wanting the ball and wanting to score."

On if she knows what moves she's coming with or if it just happens:

"I feel like I'm just reacting to whatever they give me. If the post player was riding me, I felt that and went around her. If she pushes me too much, I'll step out on you and check you. I don't want to pre-determine anything."

On Gabbi Ortiz' leadership:

"For us, it feels like she's been a great leader. I feel comfortable on the court when Gabbi tells me where to go and she's talking to me on defense. When she talks on defense, everybody is going to listen. On offense, she waits for everybody to get in position and she leads, and that's when Gabbi plays her best game."

TEXAS HEAD COACH KAREN ASTON

Opening statement:

"Another really hard fought game in the Big 12. We knew this was going to be this way just from looking at film. Our team has been talking about being resilient, and their team has been ultra-resilient when you look at them on film and see moments when they've had deficits and have come back and won. The way they played today didn't surprise me at all."

On trying to contain Vionise Pierre-Louis:

"You know if we were to look back defensively, the first half wasn't very good for us. They executed very well and we didn't. I thought we did make some adjustments and were a little better in the second half. We slowed her down a little bit. I think any time you play Oklahoma well and get to the stretch that we're in, there are a lot of intangibles that come into winning and losing. We probably didn't do as many of those intangibles as Oklahoma."

On bouncing back from the first Big 12 loss:

"I think they're disappointed. They should be, but we've done this three weekends in a row so I think we understand what tomorrow's routine will be like and what Monday will be like. I'm disappointed for them and disappointed that we didn't play better today, but we still control our destiny so to say. We play at home in the (Frank) Erwin (Center) on Monday so we'll get ourselves ready."

On Lashann Higgs' 3-pointer to end the third quarter:

"I thought it gave us a big boost. There were a lot of ebbs and flows in this game. Oklahoma had some runs, we had some and I think if we could look back and play a little better defensively in the first half, we would do that, but I also know it's that time of the year where it's a possession game. At the end, we had the ball and we turned it over and they had the ball and made a three. Sometimes, that's how it goes."

On Oklahoma winning seven games in a row against Texas at Lloyd Noble Center:

"I think we're just both really good at home. Everybody is tough to beat on the road, but when they're getting energized and they're playing Texas on their home court, it gives them a little extra burst of energy. That's kind of how it's been the last several years. It's been the home team that has won. Credit to them again, I'm sure it's hard to think that kids don't play hard for their coaches. When you're on survivor day and all of those people in the stands are in pink, I'd find it hard to believe those kids wouldn't play hard."

TEXAS SENIOR CENTER KELSEY LANG

On the win streak being snapped:

"Like coach (Aston) said, we're all pretty disappointed but we can't dwell on it too long. We have a game in two days and we've done this the past three weekends so we'll be better prepared Monday."

On the seven-game losing streak at Oklahoma:

"Like coach said, both teams play very well at home. I think they're a great team and we just didn't play the full 40 minutes that we should have today."

On Vionise Pierre-Louis' big game:

"I think she uses her body really well. She has a lot of counter moves that she has mastered over the years."