
OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

OKLAHOMA 81, KANSAS STATE 51 NOVEMBER 17, 2016 • POSTGAME QUOTES

OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH LON KRUGER

Opening statement:

"Really, really good to win one. The guys – I'm really happy for them. They continue to work hard individually and as a group. Had some tough finishes that we might not have been able to complete, but I thought we were consistent from start to finish and I couldn't be more pleased with the guys."

On achieving his 600th career win:

"I think about how happy I am for these guys to get this one in this year, which has been a grind, but they've hung in there and continued to work at it and dig in to get better, and that's not easy to do."

On Khadeem Lattin's performance:

"He was very aggressive early and blocked some shots, got a couple buckets, did things that we need him to do... really pleased to see him do that."

On his team's shooting percentage from the first to second half:

"We got some buckets in transition in the second half, so any time you get some layups mixed in there you're going to shoot for a better percentage. I thought we made a good extra pass, had some driving kicks and some rhythm jumpers. So there was probably a little better ball movement in the second half. In the first half, it wasn't bad, but maybe not quite the same rhythm as the second half."

On freshman Jordan Shepherd's growth as a player:

"Statistically, it's hard to measure, but just from... the confidence and security, composure standpoint, the more you're out there, the more reps you're getting and he's taking full advantage of that. Against the press today – there was a lot of press there in the last 10 minutes – I thought he was terrific... I thought he handled that very well."

JUNIOR FORWARD KHADEEM LATTIN:

On Kruger's 600th win:

"Since I've been through a few more battles than any one else on the team, I'm just really happy we were able to get Coach Kruger's 600th win. That's a big milestone."

On preparing his teammates for Kansas:

"I just prepare them the way that I was prepared. We're going to go in, we're going to fight and we're not going to give them anything easy. Of course it is their home, so we can't let them have easy looks. We just want to attack everything and just be aggressive."

On the game mentality:

"I mean, whenever we're on the court we're playing for our brother who's next to us. We just don't want to give up on them and we're not going to give up on each other. We're going to finish out the season as strong as we can and take our business from there."

SOPHOMORE GUARD RASHARD ODOMES:

On tonight's lead:

"I mean it was always good. We just learn from the mistakes we made before and we know that no matter what the lead is they can still come back. We just got down, spaced out and kept on playing."

On difference between scoring 12 straight points compared to other games:

"Just like I said, learning from previous mistakes. We've been through it so many times so we don't want that to happen again. We just get down... stay solid... and grinded it out to get the win."

On being contributing to Lon Kruger's 600 wins:

"It was great. It was great to get 600 wins. I feel like that just topped it off, being able to give him (Lon Kruger) something like that. It was a great game. We were all out there just having fun."

FRESHMAN GUARD JORDAN SHEPHERD:

On confidence level:

"It's pretty high I would say. It just comes from working hard and preparing for the moment."

On Rashard Odomes:

"It gives us energy. It helps me get the ball to him more because I know he's going to convert pretty much every time he gets there."

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KSU HEAD COACH BRUCE WEBER

Opening statement:

"I didn't think we were horrible defensively in the first half but you just cant go 1-13 from three and miss some easy ones. I thought we forced some things, but I thought after halftime we would fight back. We had some possessions and missed a couple plays to start the (second) half then they hit a few threes to stretch it out. We cut it to 12 and the guys kept fighting and kept battling, but other than Isaiah (Maurice) playing well, no one really gave us anything. It's just sad for our guys. I don't think they've quit and that's what we're going to talk about is having competitive character and battling and fighting out through the end. I hope the seniors can have a good finish to the season."

On his future putting pressure on the team:

"I don't know about that. There's pressure on everyone here at the end that are fighting their tails off. It's a shame we can't focus on the kids and helping them. This is about their season and their last year, our five seniors. That's the most important thing and that's what I'm worried about is making sure those seniors have success."

On the effort:

"I thought the effort was fine. We just missed shots and then you see what happens. We got to a point in the second half where we emotionally just weren't there, there's no doubt that happened. Everyone has to play better and maybe they care too much. We just have to help them and be there for them and they'll come back."

On what he told the team following the loss:

"You got your butt smacked. I let them talk. I say, 'What're you thinking? What can we do better?' I let them do the talking. Obviously I had some things to say at the end but it's about the kids. That's the most important thing. I want to help them have a great experience and a good finish. That's the most important thing. I'm so proud of them, the seniors, I just have to be there for them and help them."
