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# OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

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## OKLAHOMA 108, OMAHA 89 NOVEMBER 12, 2017 • POSTGAME NOTES

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- Oklahoma opened the 2017-18 season with a 108-89 victory over Omaha on Sunday at Lloyd Noble Center. The win improved the Sooners to 7-0 in season openers under head coach Lon Kruger. Oklahoma has won 14 consecutive season openers and 20 straight openers played in Norman.
  - Sunday's contest was Kruger's 200th game as the head coach at Oklahoma. Through 200 games, Kruger has compiled a 123-77 (.615) record at Oklahoma and is just the fifth coach in program history to guide the Sooners in 200 games, joining Hugh McDermott, Bruce Drake, Billy Tubbs and Kelvin Sampson.
  - The Sooners hit the triple-digit mark for the fifth time in the Kruger era with 108 points. Oklahoma's output marked the second-most points scored in the Kruger era, only surpassed by a 111-68 performance against Central Arkansas on Dec. 3, 2015.
  - OU's 108 points are the third-most scored by the Sooners in a season opener and the most to begin the year since Oklahoma scored a program-record 173 points against U.S. International to open the 1989-90 campaign.
  - Six Sooners scored in double figures for the first time since Feb. 2, 2016 against TCU. All 11 Oklahoma players who touched the floor scored at least two points and nine players scored eight or more points.
  - Oklahoma was led by freshman guard Trae Young, making his collegiate debut in his hometown of Norman. Young is the first Oklahoma starter from the city of Norman in 50 years. The last OU starter to claim Norman as his hometown was Steve Ayers in the 1967-68 season.
  - Young stuffed the stat sheet with 15 points, 10 assists, six rebounds, two blocks and two steals in 26 minutes. Young is the first Sooner to record a points-assist double-double since Isaiah Cousins collected 19 points and 10 dimes against Villanova on Dec. 7, 2015.
  - The Sooners combined to dish out 21 assists, which would have tied a season high in 2016-17. Oklahoma only surpassed 20 assists on two occasions last season. Oklahoma's two point guards – Young and sophomore Jordan Shepherd – combined for 16 assists on Sunday.
  - Jamuni McNeace came off the bench to post career-highs in points (14), field goals (six) and blocked shots (six). McNeace shot 6-of-7 and pulled down five boards in his 24 minutes.
  - As a team, the Sooners rejected 13 Omaha shots – one block shy of tying the program record (14 vs. Texas Tech on Jan. 26, 2016).
  - Junior Christian James reached double figures for the 16th time in his career, scoring 14 on 5-of-10 shooting. Sophomore Matt Freeman was a perfect 3-for-3 from behind the 3-point line to pour in 13 points off the bench. Freshman Brady Manek went 5-of-7 from the field to post 11 points and six boards in his collegiate debut.
  - Up next, the Sooners welcome the Cardinals of Ball State to Norman on Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. CT for the first-ever meeting between the two programs. The non-conference contest is a campus game for the upcoming PK80 tournament in Portland, Ore., and will air on Fox Sports Southwest Plus. The Cardinals are coming off back-to-back 20-win seasons and have shared the MAC West Division title in each of the past two seasons. Ball State opened the season with a one-point loss (78-77) to defending Atlantic 10 champion Dayton on Friday.
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