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# OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

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## OKLAHOMA 105, NORTHWESTERN STATE 68 DECEMBER 19, 2017 • OKLAHOMA POSTGAME QUOTES

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### OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH LON KRUGER

#### Opening Statement:

"Good offensive performance again, I thought we got better defensively as the game went along. Obviously what Trae did tonight was exceptional and off the charts. He said in the locker room afterwards a lot of guys made a lot of shots for him, but he made a lot of good plays for guys as well. Good to see us moving the ball, good to see guys getting out of the backcourt at a good rate. I thought we improved defensively as the game went along. We just have to keep getting better."

#### On the offense being so fluid:

"Anytime you move the ball, shoot a good percentage, and be efficient with it, you put pressure on the defense all the time. You love seeing that."

#### On if he's seen a single game point guard performance like Trae Young's tonight:

"Can't be many, obviously, when you tie a record like that. He also shot the ball efficiently and maybe the most impressive part was coming off after we played the No. 3 ranked team Saturday. I thought he approached the game and made really good plays, the first ten minutes especially. His tendency to make the right basketball plays, which we talk about all the time, was as impressive as anything else, given there could've been a letdown and there wasn't."

#### On not having letdowns:

"The goal with any team is to win ball games and keep making progress. You can't buy in to people patting you on the back and the rankings, you just have to get better. If we keep doing that, we'll get better. We have to do that in the Big 12 when we play ranked teams every night. We have to keep getting better as other people are, we have to be one of the teams in the Big 12 that keeps improving and keeps getting better."

### FRESHMAN GUARD TRAE YOUNG

#### On breaking multiple assist records:

"I owe a lot of credit to my teammates. That's big time, but I wouldn't be able to get assists without my teammates knocking shots down. They did a tremendous job making shots tonight. That's a big accomplishment because it's not only an individual award but I think it's a team thing, that's big for me before anything else."

#### On if he knew he was close to breaking assist records:

"I didn't know that was the record. First, I wanted to win. Then I knew I was close to twenty (assists) so I just wanted to keep getting everybody involved. The guys were knocking down shots so it made it a lot easier for me, it felt good."

#### On his passing ability:

"I think I've always been a pretty good passer. Even in high school, I felt like I could get people involved and get it to guys in the right spots."

#### On the energy inside the Lloyd Noble Center:

"That's what I want it to be. That's what I wanted to come here to help do. I wanted to get the Lloyd Noble Center like I used to see it as a kid. I love it; I love when the fans come out. We have a big one Friday. I know we're going to need a lot of support from them. Baker (Mayfield) said in one of his interviews how important our fan base is when it comes to coming to games. We have a big one Friday and we're going to need them there."

#### On Kameron McGusty's impact:

"Kam has been outstanding these past couple of games. When we were in Wichita he had some big shots. When you go on the road it is definitely a team effort. Especially when we went up to Wichita that is the team that you need everyone to play well. Kam did outstanding up there and tonight he did the same thing. He has been playing well and we know what he is capable of. He is capable of doing this every game."

### SOPHOMORE GUARD KAMERON MCGUSTY

#### On Trae Young's passing ability:

"It's made the game a lot easier. We're getting a lot more layups and open shots. It's always a pleasure to have a point guard that can find you the way he does and with the defense, he's always causing double teams which opens up shots for me and everyone else on the team."

#### On the joy this season has been after last year:

"Very. It's crazy to see Lloyd Noble how it is and all the success we're getting. When I was little my dad always told me he wanted me to lose because you appreciate winning more when you lose. So I'm appreciating every one (win). It's crazy, I love it, and I can't wait to continue on the progress we've made"

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### **On anything different in the last few games:**

"Yeah two weeks ago I did some soul searching just between me and myself. I just decided to set some goals for myself. That included being in the gym and what I could do on the court. I just found a lot more time being in the gym. I have the best teammates and support system that I could have asked for, so that is what has always kept me going and motivated me."

### **On what was the turning point:**

"I just looked in the mirror and knew that I could do better. The potential I have I cannot put that to waste. I know that my team can do some much better if I play better. We were already doing very well but I feel like the sky is the limit if everyone plays to their full potential. My team needed me to kick it up a gear, kick it up a notch so I feel like it was time for me to really focus and buckle down and do what I had to do to keep winning."

### **On having Doolittle back:**

"It was definitely good to have him back... He is going to adjust and be a huge part for us coming into the season. Hopefully making a tournament run, which I think we are very capable of doing. I am glad to have him back and I cannot wait to see him on the court more."

## **FRESHMAN FORWARD BRADY MANEK**

### **On being involved in the offense:**

"Yeah that was a crazy play. Coming off the steal and the push ahead then to get a good result off of it is always good. Just playing with a team like this is great. Winning games right now and playing well. Still learning and finding each other on the court, we are just doing a great job overall."

### **On taking charges:**

"I love taking charges. I had not taken charges up until last year and realized you are going to have to do it if you are going to do it. You cannot just halfway do it. It is not going to hurt that bad. It helps out the team and gets us the ball. So anything to help the team."

### **On finding rhythm and settling in:**

"Yeah, we are playing some good competition lately. To have guys like Trae putting up that many assists and finding me open and everyone is shooting the ball well and moving the ball well. It is a great team effort and yeah I am finding my spot well."

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