
OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

OKLAHOMA 105, NORTHWESTERN STATE 68 DECEMBER 19, 2017 • POSTGAME NOTES

- It was a historic evening at Lloyd Noble Center as No. 17/17 Oklahoma (9-1) defeated Northwestern State (3-7), 105-68. The Sooners were led by freshman guard Trae Young, who produced 26 points, 22 assists and four rebounds in 29 minutes while shooting 9-of-16 from the field and 3-of-6 from 3-point range.
 - Young's 22 assists tied an NCAA record for most assists in a game (assists became official in 1983-84) while breaking both Oklahoma and Big 12 records (both were 18 assists). Young is the fourth player in recorded college basketball history to register 22 assists and the first since Sherman Douglas of Syracuse in 1989. Since the NCAA began recording assists in 1983, Young is the only freshman to dish out 20 or more assists in a game.
 - Oklahoma's single-game assist record was previously held by Michael Johnson (1997) and Jan Pannell (1983). Johnson was tied with Oklahoma State's Doug Gotlieb (1998) for the previous Big 12 record.
 - Young is the first NCAA player to record over 20 points and 20 assists in at least 20 years. Young's performance is also the first 20-point, 20-assist game in Big 12 history and the first 20-20 game of any kind in the conference since Rico Gathers of Baylor had 31 points and 21 rebounds in 2015 (also against Northwestern State).
 - Not only does Young continue to lead the country in scoring (28.5 points per game), but he now also leads the nation in assists per game with 10.2 dimes per contest. He has scored at least 26 points in eight consecutive games and 20 points in nine straight contests. Young's double-double was his fifth of the season (in 10 games played).
 - Freshman Brady Manek earned a career-high 22 points against Northwestern State, finishing 9-11 (.818) from the field and 4-6 (.667) from behind the arc. His performance marked his second straight game with over 20 points.
 - Tuesday's game was the second straight that two OU freshmen scored 20 or more points in one game, as Young and Manek recorded 29 and 21, respectively, on Saturday vs. Wichita State. The other such game occurred last season at Texas when Kristian Doolittle and Kameron McGusty each eclipsed 20 points.
 - Oklahoma's victory marked the 610th career win for head coach Lon Kruger, who surpasses Sooner coaching great Billy Tubbs (609) on the all-time Division I coaching wins list. Kruger's 610 wins are the ninth-most among active head coaches and 32nd all-time.
 - The win was OU's seventh consecutive victory, marking the longest win streak for the program since the start of the 2015-16 season, when it opened the year 12-0. Dating back to last season, the Sooners have won eight straight home games.
 - Oklahoma's 105 points marked the third time this season the squad passed the century mark (108 vs. Omaha on Nov. 12; 108 vs. Ball State on Nov. 15). The last time a Sooner team had three games with 100 points came during the 2001-2002 season, when OU scored 107, 102 and 109 in consecutive contests.
 - The Sooners shot a season-high .594 (41-69) from the field overall, marking OU's best field-goal percentage since it shot .620 (31-50) at Baylor on Jan. 23, 2016. Additionally, 27 total assists marked the most by an OU team since the Sooners dished out 29 at Baylor in 2016.
 - With 53 first-half points and 52 in the second, the Sooners have posted over 50 points in seven halves this season. This is the second time this year that OU has crossed the 50-point mark in both halves of a game, with the first coming against Omaha on Nov. 12 (52 first half; 56 second half).
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- Defensively, the Sooners recorded double-digit steals for the first time this season with 12 against the Demons. Twelve steals marked the most by Oklahoma since it tallied 16 against Oral Roberts on Dec. 7, 2016.
 - OU forced 23 Northwestern State turnovers – the most committed by the Demons this season and the most by an OU opponent this year. The 23 turnovers were the most by an OU opponent since Auburn committed 23 on Dec. 21, 2016.
 - The Sooners will conclude non-conference play when they welcome Northwestern to Lloyd Noble Center on Friday, Dec. 22 at 6 p.m. CT. Oklahoma's matchup with Northwestern is the first meeting between the two programs and will air nationally on ESPN2. Tickets start at just \$10 and are available at the OU Athletics Ticket Office (800-456-4668) and SoonerSports.com/tickets.
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