



BASKETBALL

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WEST VIRGINIA VS. OKLAHOMA / POSTGAME QUOTES WVU COLISEUM // JANUARY 6, 2018

West Virginia coach Bob Huggins

On having to take senior guard Jevon Carter out because of foul trouble

We've kind of played that way all year, really, if you think about it. It hasn't been all JC. I mean certainly what he does on the defensive end is special, but it hasn't been all him. Dax (senior guard Daxter Miles, Jr.) has had his moments. (Freshman forward) Teddy (Allen) has had moments. Beetle (Sophomore guard James Bolden) has had moments. Everyone talks about depth, and how they don't have depth, but if you don't play them, then you don't have depth. Beetle is getting better and better. The other guys that we are bringing in (are getting better). (Sophomore forward) Maciej (Bender), I thought Maciej played good minutes for us. As long as we can keep hamming and egging it. I think I said this last time, but it's like a golf scramble. Everyone doesn't have to hit a good shot, just somebody. That's kind of what has happened to us. Someone always steps up and makes plays. Teddy made some big plays. I thought when he rebounded it, dribbled it the length of the floor and shot a layup, I thought that was huge for us because we were going the wrong direction at that point in time.

On sophomore forward Sagaba Konate and freshman forward Teddy Allen's performance

Believe it or not, you watch the tape, obviously, and you go back and watch last year, and I didn't think they'd guard Sags. I thought they'd drop back and take away everything at the rim, which is a smart thing to do. But Sags made shots. If Sags doesn't make any shots, then that's a brilliant move. But I told them whenever it was, two days ago, three days ago, that you're going to have open jump shots. Then, the light went off and, 'Man, I better get in there and practice because I'm actually going to get to shoot it now.' He's getting better and better. The game has slowed down a bit for him. At the defensive end, he's pretty good.

On not being happy with one of sophomore forward Sagaba Konate's shots

Probably the one I wasn't happy with, he probably missed. That's kind of how it works. I told them, if they back off, you have to shoot it. You have to shoot it. He took one too quick. When they're playing like that, he's going to get a shot at any point in time on the clock. So why don't you see what else we can get first and then shoot that?

On if senior guard Jevon Carter has earned a new level of respect after tonight

I think he has it with the coaches. I think he has had it with the coaches for quite a while. It's your people that haven't recognized how good he is. That's not true; I guess because he was the NABC National Defensive Player of the Year. Maybe it's just ESPN. I take that back, maybe you're all right. I think it's the ESPN boys. You know you get enamored with something for whatever reason, and I don't know. He's good. He's good, and he makes plays that other people can't make. I think he gets fouls called that aren't fouls because they've never seen anyone make plays the way he makes those plays. He reaches in there and snatches the ball away from them, or knocks it out of their hand. And I'm sure he's hard to officiate; he's as good of an on-ball defender as I've ever had. You know, I'm just so frustrated with this cylinder thing. I think they put those guys in a bad spot. You have the best athletes in the country; they're going 100 miles per hour. Did the guy give into the defense or did the defense step into him? I mean how do you tell that? How do you tell that in a split second? I understand what they're trying to do, but we have to have something better than an invisible cylinder. That's just my opinion.

Oklahoma coach Lon Kruger

Opening Statement

Obviously, this was a tough battle. I thought they got away a little bit there in the later part of the first half. We made a good run to take the lead back there in the second half. Then, they had a stretch or two that gave them a little separation as well. They're tough. They're good. Coach (Bob) Huggins' club is always going to battle and do things well. I thought they did that tonight. We've got to learn from it, and we're going to keep getting better.

On why Oklahoma could not capitalize on West Virginia's foul trouble early in the second half

(West Virginia senior guard) (Jevon) Carter is terrific, of course, but when he's out, the other guys picked up the slack and did a good job for them. Again, their style and identity, they do a great job with it, and Carter is the heart of it. When he's not in there, that doesn't change what they do, and I thought that they continued to do what they wanted to do and did it well.

On Oklahoma's pace and scoring offense against West Virginia

We've been getting better, more reps and better attacks. Again, West Virginia is good. So, they had a lot to do with that. They did a good job. I don't know if they really wanted to slow it down necessarily, but they do a good job defensively and make us work to get some looks that might come a bit more quickly.

On how West Virginia contained freshman forward Brady Manek

They're a club that you just have to play. You have to space the floor and play. It's not like you're running plays necessarily against West Virginia. You just have to space the floor and try to create advantages, and they did a good job of staying home on Brady (Manek) and not giving him a lot of looks.