OKLAHOMA 97, NORTHWESTERN STATE 61
NOVEMBER 13, 2016 • OKLAHOMA POSTGAME QUOTES

OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH LON KRUGER
Opening statement:
"Good step from the exhibition game. I thought several guys played with more confidence, more comfort. We got off to a good start, moving the ball to each other, making plays for each other. Defensively, converted made some good stops there to offense going the other way right out of the chute in a good way. I thought for the most part they made good plays for each other. Defensively, pretty solid, a little trouble on that weak side… but a lot of good stuff to learn from."

On having a senior (Jordan Woodward) at point guard:
"I thought the way Jordan opened the game today was great. Very aggressive, attacking, getting defense on their heels, kicking to others. I think that others fed off of that so that's huge. That's a big part of what this group needs in pushing the ball out of the back court and pushing the pace and trying to dictate on both ends."

On his reserves coming off the bench to score:
"I think the depth of this team will be a strength as we get into the year. Different guys providing different things. Obviously, Matt (Freeman) knocking down shots, and Darrion (Strong-Moore) pushing the ball in transition, I thought Jordan Shepherd played well today. Kameron (McGusty) can give us some scoring, different guys at different times. Jamuni (McNeace) getting us the second game in a row with 10 buckets out of that five spot out of Khadeem (Lattin) and Jamuni, so that's awfully good production out of there so, this will be a deep group."

On his team's shooting:
"Well, not given the shots, we were selective in taking the shots we had to take and I think we'll be a group that shoots pretty well. I thought the other night, we probably expected to win and we've got to avoid those and that won't happen all the time, but I think we make plays for each other and create opportunities from the three for each other and this team will shoot for a good percentage."

On what he expects of his team going forward:
"This group's going to make progress all the way through March. Different guys getting to the free throw line now and getting more comfortable there. Identifying their role offensively, identifying when they come off the bench what their role is going to be, it's going to be a work in progress for a while. But, it'll be exciting to see where they go and who's steps up and who assumes what roles. This team being that much different from last year, that's one of the more intriguing and enjoyable parts of this team – the uncertainty of what lies ahead and seeing who does what."

OKLAHOMA SENIOR GUARD JORDAN WOODARD
On being a point guard and facilitating other people getting the ball:
"Yeah, that is what we work on in practice. Coach preaches that to us to move the ball, let others drive and kick and make plays. It helps me of course down low like Khadeem (Lattin). It makes it easier on the guards and being able to produce. We had 19 assists and 14 turnovers, we can clean some things up, but overall we just want to trust each other on offense and make plays for each other."

OKLAHOMA JUNIOR FORWARD KHADEEM LATTIN
On how the dunk in the first half allowed him to getting going:
"Well, just my teammates found me at the right spot and that was a big energy booster for us come out strong. We fed off big plays like that."

On being the offensive vocal point of the team:
"It is definitely new, but my teammates all just do a really good job moving the ball. We are a pretty well balanced team, so we are able to attack it and do things from all parts of the floor, so that is really exciting."

OKLAHOMA REDSHIRT FRESHMAN FORWARD MATT FREEMAN
On making his Sooner debut tonight:
"It's fun having (family in the crowd) them, but I think whatever the stat sheet says at the end of the day, only one stat that matters and we came together as a team after halftime. My stats were a reflection of all the hard work that my team has put in."

On making his playing look easy in his debut:
"It was tough the first time I came out, the nerves are going and stuff like that. The more you get up and down the court like that you get used to it and it becomes like any other basketball game."

OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

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NORTHWESTERN STATE HEAD COACH MIKE MCCONATHY

On Oklahoma:
"I was very surprised on their speed and shooting ability. I really think they are going to surprise some people. I knew they were going to be good but their speed was unbelievable as well as their length. We cannot get that length at our level. Just their length and speed, the general program Coach Kruger has built here. He has a great culture and it makes a huge difference."

On the early deficit:
"It was interesting because they were messing up and we were messing up, but they were getting layups and we weren't getting anything. It was a ragged game and that was because we weren't performing at a high level and they were performing at a high level."

On if the big games help in the future:
"If you don't lose your team before you get to the conference the big games of the season do help. I have been doing this a long time and it is a struggle sometimes losing your team. I am really worried right now about my team. We have to figure out a way to get them back because no one likes to be kicked, but you have to do something about it. You have to stay in between your man and the goal, and the struggle we are having is we like to play fast. We are trying to slow the ball down against these big schools because we still got beat 97-61, if we are running up and down the court what will the score be?"

On his players' performance:
"I thought we had two players who played particularly well. Ishmael Lane played hard but he couldn't finish plays. Zeek Woodley had a good line and Malik Metoyer lead us to six rebounds and 10 points and had a lot of pop to him. Zeek is a non-traditional player, he is very efficient offensively and competed very well."