



OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

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

- Oklahoma opened the season with a 97-61 win over Northwestern State. The 36-point victory was the Sooners' largest margin of victory in a season opener since defeating Norfolk State, 99-36, at the start of the 2006-07 season. With the win, OU improved to 6-0 in season openers under head coach Lon Kruger.
 - The Sooners shot 37-of-63 (.587) from the field and 9-of-18 (.500) from 3-point range. OU's field goal percentage marked its best shooting performance in a season opener since shooting 33-for-55 (.600) in 1996 against Northeast Louisiana.
 - **Khadeem Lattin** led the Sooners with a career-high 19 points, 11 rebounds and two blocks. Lattin shot 7-of-9 from the field in his 24 minutes of action. His previous career high (17 points) came on Dec. 23, 2015 against Hawaii in the semifinals of the Diamond Head Classic in Honolulu, Hawaii. Lattin's performance was the third double-double of his career, adding to a pair from last season (Jan. 4 vs. Kansas and Jan. 9 vs. Kansas State).
 - OU led by double digits for 36 minutes after using an 18-2 run to open the game. The Sooners made nine of their first 11 shots while forcing four NSU turnovers in the first three minutes.
 - Six Sooners made their OU debut on Sunday, totaling 40 points. The newcomers were led by redshirt freshman forward **Matt Freeman**. The 6-10 forward from New Zealand shot 6-of-7 from the field and 3-of-4 from 3-point range. His 15 points are the most by a Sooner freshman in a season opener since Steven Pledger scored 21 to begin the 2009-10 season. Freeman's 15 were also the most points off the bench by an OU player since **Rashard Odomes** poured in 15 against McNeese State (Nov. 20, 2015).
 - Senior guard **Jordan Woodard** recorded 16 points with five rebounds and three assists. Sophomore guard **Christian James** notched double-figure scoring for the fifth time in his career - scoring 12 points on 5-of-7 shooting to go with three assists and three rebounds.
 - Oklahoma's starting lineup including freshman forward **Kristian Doolittle**, the first freshman to start for the Sooners since Woodard in the 2013-14 season. Doolittle finished his debut with five points and three rebounds in 19 minutes.
 - The Sooners outscored Northwestern State in the paint, 52-26. Oklahoma surpassed 50 paint points on just one occasion last season (53 vs. Incarnate Word on Nov. 24). In addition to Lattin's output, OU also saw a career night by redshirt sophomore center **Jamuni McNeace**. The center boasted career highs in points (six), rebounds (six), blocks (three) and minutes played (16).
 - Balanced scoring contributed heavily to the Sooners 36-point win. Ten different OU players scored at least three points and the Sooner bench tallied 41 points.
 - Oklahoma has won 123 of its last 128 non-conference games at Lloyd Noble Center, including 57 of the last 59. The Sooners are 58-14 (.806) against non-conference opponents under Kruger, including 31-2 (.939) at home.
 - Up next, Oklahoma heads to the Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Fla., for the eight-team Tire Pros Invitational. The Sooners open tournament play against Tulane on Thursday, Nov. 17, at 6 p.m. CT on ESPNU. OU will face either Arizona State or Northern Iowa in the second round. The remaining tournament participants are Clemson, Davidson, Missouri and Xavier.
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