
OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

OKLAHOMA 72, ABILENE CHRISTIAN 64 NOVEMBER 25, 2016 • OKLAHOMA POSTGAME QUOTES

OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH LON KRUGER

Opening Statement:

"I thought Abilene Christian was much the aggressor in the first half. We reacted from start to finish, and then came back with a little bit better energy in the second half. Again, not the number of possessions we need to have in a ball game. There is a lot to learn from that one, but again, credit to Abilene Christian for how well they played and how hard they played, and hopefully that caught our attention a little bit."

On the negative energy in the first half:

"It seemed like they recruited the loose balls and recruited the offensive boards and not making free throws and missed some opportunities, but again we've got to prepare to compete a little better on each possession. Whether it be a loose ball, a rebound or even going to the free-throw line, you have to battle and make shots."

On Woodard's energy in the second half:

"I thought it was huge, he along with Rashard (Odomes) when he came into the ball game, I thought those two guys really were key to the better production in the second half. Whether it be defensively coming up with the steal, or converting a deflection into offense or driving and kicking the way Rashard did, and he finished a couple of them as well. I thought combined they were key."

On free throw accuracy:

"That can be taken either direction. I think we missed some free throws when we kind of just stepped up there, and it takes a little more to make shots at that point. We have to just keep working on it. We need to step up there and concentrate a little more and spend a little more time in practice perhaps. It's one of those things that has a magic solution to it. Individually our team is totally different so we just need to individually focus a little better, concentrate a little more and spend a little more time on it."

OKLAHOMA GUARD JORDAN WOODARD

On the ball movement today:

"Abilene Christian, they did a good job of making us move the ball, and we had turn-down first options and go to the second option. Khadeem [Lattin] had some good one-on-one moves in the post. Rashard [Odomes] had some good drives to the basket. Sometimes, we're going to have games like that where we have to create plays off the bounce."

On his inbounds play:

"Funny story about that. I noticed they were in the zone [defense], but Coach [Kruger] doesn't encourage me to do that too often. He wants me to take care of the ball. You only get five seconds. You only get a certain amount of time on the inbounds, so I just wanted to create a play, kind of like [Russell] Westbrook."

OKLAHOMA GUARD RASHARD ODOMES

On his aggressiveness in the second half:

"My team. They convinced me to pick up the energy and they brought it, so I had to pick it up, so I brought it as well in the second half."

On how this season is going to be a work-in-progress:

"Playing in the conference we play in, each team is going to be a tough game. Just like them [Abilene Christian], how they came out with intensity from start to finish. That's how every game in the Big 12 is going to be."

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ABILENE CHRISTIAN HEAD COACH JOE GOLDING

On how the game played out differently than most people thought:

"I think we expected it, we really think our program is going. We're in year four of our transition and we've got some pieces this year that we think we can compete with. We're obviously still a work in progress. Every game it's a different thing and tonight it was turnovers. One night it's rebounding, the next night it's something else. We're obviously continuing to learn, but I'm proud of the way our guys competed."

On how aggressive his team was in a tough environment:

"I think a lot of that has to do with them coming off a tournament trip and having to come back and play here. I can see how it may be tough to get them motivated as we probably don't motivate them as some other teams do. I'm sure there was some waking up on them, but they woke up. Their a good team and they'll be really good down the road. You can tell the pieces are there for them and their just trying to figure some things out. We're kind of the same at our level. But again I'm proud of the fight in our guys and I thought we went out and competed."

On the free throw discrepancy:

"They didn't shoot well that first half, but the second half they started to make their free throws. We just can't put them on the line and win. When you come in here you can't turn the ball over, and some of our fouls were fouls because we were excited and over eager. You just can't put a good team like Oklahoma at the free throw line."

On the impact of Jaylen Franklin's injury:

"Yeah he's a really good player and he created a lot for us. I thought when Payten Ricks came in he handled the situation pretty well. I don't know what his numbers were but I think he'll grow from this. Sometimes when a situation arises like that you have guys step up and play well. They continue to move on and earn more minutes, as they all want minutes, but I was proud of him taking care of some minutes and doing well there."

On if this game is a confidence boost going forward:

"Yeah it is. We've been on the road in a bunch of these games when you go through these transitions. We're obviously trying to turn this program around and we came in here and competed. If we keep doing that eventually we'll get one. Last year we lost to Colorado State in double overtime, which is obviously a different level than this, but we came in here tonight and competed and hopefully down the stretch we can go to a place and get one."
