
OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

OKLAHOMA 73, TCU 68 MARCH 4, 2017 • OKLAHOMA POSTGAME QUOTES

OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH LON KRUGER

Opening statement:

"Big time battle. I thought guys on both teams fought really hard for 40 minutes, as they've been doing all year long. Jamie Dixon's done just a fantastic job getting his guys going and playing at a high level. Very proud of our guys. We fought and battled for 40 minutes, made some big plays late to get in the right column – something we may not have done a month ago, but ended tonight and I'm really happy for them."

On his team's growth:

"Down the stretch, (Kristian Doolittle, Kameron McGusty and Khadeem Lattin) really led the way. Kam scored, Khadeem got some blocks, Doo [Doolittle] making some really strong plays, all of them making free throws. It's a hard experience to simulate – you can't do that in practice, so to get some experience and get those results in the ball game is very valuable."

On his team's defensive stop at the end of the game:

"Games come down to that – getting a stop inside that last minute or two and then converting on the other end. In our last three or four possessions, we converted and got a stop at a critical juncture there. That's what games come down to and the guys stepped up."

On Khadeem Lattin's development on defense:

"It's been the main reason the last three weeks to a month that we've gotten a lot better defensively because of Khadeem at the starting point and what he's doing defensively, not just blocking shots but how he's playing ball screens, how he's communicating back and forth there behind the guys, just maintaining good position all the time. I think he started it and the other guys have bought into that and done a really good job."

On facing TCU in the first round on the Big 12 Championship:

"I know our guys respect like crazy how hard they fight, how hard they compete, and hopefully their guys feel the same way about our guys. Again, I felt like we had a good competition today and the guys went at each other for 40 minutes."

FRESHMAN FORWARD KRISTIAN DOOLITTLE

On the post battle:

"We just focused on being prepared to be physical the whole game, knowing they have good posts, offensively and defensively. For me, being able to lock in and convert when my number was called."

JUNIOR FORWARD KHADEEM LATTIN

On the late-game blocks:

"It felt good. I was just being a safety net for my teammates."

On his late-season development:

"I'm really just locking in more. We had some games that we really didn't like so I had a sit down with some coaches and they told me what I need to do and I just try to go out and execute well."

FRESHMAN GUARD KAMERON MCGUSTY

On winning a close game:

"We've been here before and we didn't want to slip up this time. We knew we had the experience so we just locked in and got it done."

On the feeling of winning close ones:

"It's definitely a good feeling. I feel like I have more confidence and I know our team has a lot more confidence shooting. We all gave off that positive vibe and we knew we could win."

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TCU HEAD COACH JAMIE DIXON

Opening statement:

"Obviously, we are a team that's lost a lot of close games here down the stretch. We are battling and battling. Certainly this one was similar in that we were up and then just didn't get it done. Give them (Oklahoma) credit for making their free throws. We didn't. It really does put you in a difficult situation. We got down, fought back and I like that. In some ways I thought our defense was better. We held them to 44 percent, but simply put, we got beat at the free throw line once again. It seems that that has been a common occurrence for us, and something that we have to address going forward. We'll have to improve in that area. Kenrich (Williams) I thought played terrific today for us. That was as good of all-around game that you can play. He did a lot of great things for us: rebounding, passing, and scoring. Give them credit. They beat us really on a lot of design isolation drives, where they just lowered the shoulder and got to the foul line."

On the confidence level of his team:

"You can say we lost seven in a row in all the close games here. If it was confidence, you wouldn't come out and be ahead by six. There is confidence, but we just have to figure out how to finish it out. How not to put people at the foul line. We need to make one of those shots down the stretch. Really, this came down to missing free throws. You don't all of a sudden lose confidence in the last minute or two minutes. We had a lead. We had a six point lead in the second half. We were up four with a couple minutes left. We had our chances. Give them credit. They kept coming at us. They kept driving and putting their head down, looking for fouls. We've got to do a better job of not fouling and putting them at the free throw line."

On Oklahoma's defense:

"We shot 42 percent, and 47 from three, so that's a good percentage. They are a good defensive team. They are a physical team, very physical. We really came in with the plan of getting to the foul line a lot and we didn't. We wanted to go inside and we wanted to drive the basketball. That was our plan and numbers indicate that we didn't do that."

On losing close games down the stretch:

"I keep emphasizing to our guys that we can't be in a position where we are relying on one play. It's got to be us deciding the game the initial minutes. So it doesn't come down to a tie game at the end and the play goes their way. That's where we need to be."

On having to play Oklahoma in back-to-back games:

"We've played them twice and there's a split. Usually that is the case where you end up playing someone in the tournament and you've played them twice. It's a quick turnaround, but, I'm sure based on the first two it will be a close game. It will come down to who gets to the foul line more."

JUNIOR CENTER KENRICH WILLIAMS

On the overall emotion:

"We just have to learn how to finish games. We have to just find ways to finish games, going into the Big 12 Tournament."

On facing Oklahoma again in a few days at the Big 12 Championship:

"I feel like we just have to go out there and play harder than the last few times that we have played them. We just have to win the game."

On the team's confidence level after this game:

"Our confidence level is still high, we just have to learn how to finish games. Coach is doing a great job, we just have to buy into it and translate it to the game. We just have to come to practice and work hard."

On the final few minutes of the game:

"They got to the free throw line more than we did. They outrebound and got a few more stops than we did and that is what wins the game."
