March 9, 2012

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An Interview With:

BAYLOR
COACH SCOTT DREW
PIERRE JACKSON
PERRY JONES III
QUINCY ACY

THE MODERATOR: We're ready to begin with the Baylor Bears. We have Coach Scott Drew. The student-athletes will be here shortly. Comments on tonight's victory.

COACH DREW: First of all, very pleased with our guys from the standpoint we've been successful against Kansas before in spurts, and then they would have a spurt that we wouldn't be able to answer a run.

And tonight you knew they were going to make a run. When they took the lead, I was really pleased with the poise our guys had and the togetherness, character, we didn't have to call timeouts, and those guys just played through it and really did a great job in reestablishing and getting us the lead back.

And for three first-year-college guys and one second-year, I think they grew up a little bit tonight.

That's the great thing about playing in the 12, if you don't have that during the regular season, you're not seasoned and ready when postseason comes.

So that's the great thing about this league.

THE MODERATOR: Question for Coach.

Q. Scott, Brady had a couple of big 3s out there. Can you tell how y'all set those up?

COACH DREW: I think one of them was a play. Another one I think his teammates created an opportunity. He did a great job moving without the basketball. And at the end of the day 16 assists, nine turnovers, that can win you a lot of games.

I think we took really good care of the basketball, and because of that found the open guys. We had six in double figures. I thought just a great team effort.

Q. Quincy, can you talk about the offensive rebound off the missed free throw, how big was that, and how were you able to get inside there?

QUINCY ACY: Never assume a miss. It's been cases in the regular season where I've done the same thing. I just never assume a miss and I always try to outwork the person that's trying to guard me.

Q. Pierre, you guys go 0-4 against Kansas, Missouri in the regular season, looked like a different team tonight. What did you feel like was the difference between those games and what you're doing now?

PIERRE JACKSON: I think we're just all more focused and playing as a team. Once we all are clicking like that, we're hard to beat. We know what time of the year it is. So just trying to get a Big 12 Championship.

Q. Pierre or Quincy, are you guys -- there's some presumption in this question, but if Missouri wins this next game, are you guys ready for the rest of the Big 12 to be rooting for you tomorrow?

QUINCY ACY: I mean, we're ready for an away game. We're in their state, we know it's going to be tough.

But that's the same with all the teams we've played so far. So it's the same, really.

Q. For any of you, was it motivation

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that this final in this tournament was supposed to be KU versus Missouri according to most everybody?

QUINCY ACY: Well, yeah. I mean, we had to ourselves we had a disappointing conference. We felt we should have did a lot better. I mean, we knew that was going to be it. But you never want to get disrespected.

So we came in with an axe to grind and with the mindset to win every game.

Q. Perry, can you talk about -- Coach mentioned it -- the way you all responded. I think Kansas had like an 18-3 run. Finally took the lead. Can you talk about the way you all responded down the stretch?

PERRY JONES III: Just trying to defend a lot better. They're a great team. When they get on runs, it's hard to stop them. So just trying to get rebounds and trying to get second-chance points. And just trying to keep them out of the paint as much as possible. Because they're one of the best in the country at getting to the paint.

Q. Perry, it seemed like they were switching between Robinson and Withey on you. Were you surprised to see Withey on you a bunch down the stretch?

PERRY JONES III: No, I wasn't. That's the way they run their defense. They felt like they needed to switch back and forth, and that's what they did. But not at all.

Q. Did you feel more comfortable going against Withey?

PERRY JONES III: I mean, I felt the same. He's one of the top shot blockers in the nation. And he's a shot blocker in the nation because he blocked shots. That's what he does best. But, I mean --

COACH DREW: It's that Baylor education.

PERRY JONES III: I'm not sure. I don't know how to answer it.

Q. Pierre and Quincy, can you guys just talk a little bit about what A.J. brought, it's two games in a row he's really stepped up pretty big for you guys, double figures and other issues.

PIERRE JACKSON: A.J.'s -- y'all know this, he's a great defender, but he can also score the ball. He's showing that. And he has a lot to prove, and he's just coming up big for us. And he decided to keep his confidence up, and he helps us out on the other end too, keeping everybody's confidence up and staying positive.

Q. Pierre or Perry, could you talk about 3-pointers can change momentum a lot. But just the three that Brady hit and a couple off the scrambles, just what kind of feeling was it like on the court, what kind of lift did that give you guys?

PIERRE JACKSON: A big lift. Whenever Brady puts a shot up, we all think it's going in. So I'm glad he had the confidence to take it. I'm glad he hit both of those big 3s. We needed them.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

Questions for Coach.

Q. Scott, is there a story about how you found Brady up in Canada?

COACH DREW: Actually, no. Just he was transferring and somebody that wasn't really highly touted and came to Baylor, lost 24 pounds. Worked really hard. Got an unbelievable work ethic.

His uncle is Jay Triano, the former coach of the Raptors, so he's got some basketball in his family. His uncle is supposedly the Bob Cousy of Canadian basketball. Good bloodline and a very hard worker. He's by the hometown of our athletic director, Ian McCaw, so that probably sealed the deal.

Q. You guys pretty much put the nail in the coffin of the Mizzou-Kansas rivalry tonight. Curious, how does that feel? I'm curious, what do you think college basketball is missing now that that's gone away?

COACH DREW: I think it's unfortunate that a lot of rivalries have disappeared because of realignment, and I think every fan should be saddened.

And I think from a personal standpoint I think people make decisions thinking they're going to keep rivalries and get to do other things, and sometimes that doesn't work out.

So I feel bad for the fans.

Q. Talk about after the subs you put Quincy Miller on Jeff Withey and then either rotated Perry or Quincy to guard Robinson. Talk about the decision to have Miller guard Withey.

COACH DREW: I think no matter who you
guard you're in for a tough assignment, and both of them played extremely well against us. I thought Quincy Miller was extremely efficient tonight, 18 minutes, 13 and 8. So I thought he did a great job.

Q. Between Robert Griffin and Kim Mulkey's team and yours, is there just something in the water this year or the uniforms, or what the heck is it for Baylor?

COACH DREW: I think, first of all, we're blessed. We have outstanding Christian leadership from Ian McCaw, President Starr, they've upgraded the facilities.

One thing about Baylor is -- people ask how you get kids. And whenever they come on campus, like most places, everyone's got good people, but I think Baylor, for some reason, people just feel part of the family. It's made recruiting a lot easier.

Once you get some good players, as we all know, players want to play with players, and we're blessed because we not only have good players, but they're good people. So now people want to come be teammates with them.

Q. (Question off microphone)?

COACH DREW: We'll find out. I like them right now.

Q. Two parts. One, Kansas took the lead late, 58-56. Just talk about how your team responded to that. And then, secondly, Quincy scored to go up 13 and you called a quick timeout. I wonder what that was about. That was earlier in the second half.

COACH DREW: Right. I think we had some tired people. And normally players give up more on the defensive end when they're tired than they do on the offensive end. They seem to get fresher when they've got the ball in their hands. So I just wanted to try to regroup, make sure we could get back to focus and try to get some defensive stops.

And then I thought that this was really a night that helped us grow up. We've won close games all year long against KU and Missouri, and I think they've made runs that we haven't had answers for.

And I think tonight when the crowd was going and Kansas was going, again, when you got three first-year-college guys and one second-year, talented, yes, but experience is something that you can't replace. And I think, again, playing in the Big 12 during the year has helped prepare us and make us better.

Earlier in the year we never had a game of 16 assists, nine turnovers.

Q. Scott, these last two games, are they the best two games you think your team's played this season?

COACH DREW: They would be up there, but we've played some really good teams in the non-conference, and we had some really good games. And those teams might have even played better basketball. Our West Virginia game at that time they were playing really well.

I mean, I put them up there, but I can't say they're our best as far as -- actually, you know what, execution-wise it's definitely the best as far as the guts that -- that -- to get wins early in the year is tough to do with a young team. So that's why it makes it kind of hard to say it was better execution-wise. No question. Our best execution the last two games was much better than earlier this year.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Coach.
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An Interview With:

KANSAS
COACH BILL SELF
TYSHAWN TAYLOR
JEFF WITHEY

THE MODERATOR: We're joined now by the Kansas Jayhawks, Coach Bill Self, and his two student-athletes Tyshawn Taylor and Jeff Withey.

Coach, your thoughts on tonight's game.

COACH SELF: I don't think that we played particularly well in any facet. But I thought Baylor, of course, they shot the ball great from deep, and they made their free throws.

We let them get comfortable early, which isn't a good sign when you're playing a really talented team. And even though we didn't play particularly well, you know, we took a lead and when we had a chance to have some good possessions both ends we just didn't get it done. So they were better than us tonight, no question.

THE MODERATOR: Questions for the student-athletes.

Q. Tyshawn, can you talk about the 18-3 run that got you back in the game, kind of what turned for you guys at that point?

TYSHAWN TAYLOR: I mean, we started playing how we play. We started moving the ball. We started defending a little bit. They were taking tough shots, and we were making some.

Q. Tyshawn, for a guy like you who plays 38 or 40 minutes a game, you guys played 33 times this year. You're going to be a 1 or a 2 seed. Is there any benefit to the rest, to the day off, heading into the NCAA Tournament? I'm sure it's hard to think about now, but is there any benefit to it?

TYSHAWN TAYLOR: I think it will help. I rather would have been playing tomorrow. But a day off, I think it might help.

Q. Tyshawn and Jeff, couple of weeks ago after you played Missouri, Coach had expressed concern about this team being able to get key stops. Do you feel like tonight's defensive performance offered an example that that's still a trouble spot for this team?

TYSHAWN TAYLOR: I mean, tonight we didn't get the stops we needed tonight. We left a shooter a couple of times and he made some big shots. I mean, when the game is that close and in that situation, we can't leave the best shooter on the court. And, I mean, we did. But I don't think that's what the game came down to. I think it kind of -- it came down to everything. Us not rebounding the ball, us not defending from the beginning. Us doing a lot of things that we shouldn't have done.

JEFF WITHEY: I don't think it came down to -- it wasn't the last couple of minutes that really killed us. We put ourselves in a hole the first half by -- we never let a team outscore us really in the first half by that much or even get to 43 points. We just put ourselves in a hole. And we tried digging ourselves out of it. But at the end it just wasn't enough.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Questions for Coach.

Q. When Heslip's man left him to help...
out, is that what happened and should he have not done that?

COACH SELF: Yeah, the whole deal on Heslip is the most we're ever going to leave him is to bluff at the ball and get back to him. We made two critical mistakes. Critical.

But you can't just put it on Travis, because maybe if we got through the back screen -- I got to watch the tape -- maybe if we got through the back screen quicker on the back screen fade screen plan they ran, maybe we could have released and got to the shooter quicker. I don't know. I'll have to watch the tape. But that definitely went against the scouting report.

Q. Thomas set out for a lot of the first half. How much was due to foul trouble and he had the two fouls early, and looked like he might also be sitting, because you knew you'd need him for a lot in the second half and also in the front court, maybe expose some of the perceived lack of depth up there behind him and Jeff. So what are you looking to see in practice between now and the first of the NCAA Tournament?

COACH SELF: Well, the reason Thomas came out was because of two fouls. But let's call it like it is. Withey and Young were our best guys the first half. That wasn't the reason. We cut it to four shooting free throws. And they end up going up eight when we had a chance to do some things. We just had so many bad possessions.

But certainly the foul situation was the biggest reason why he came out.

Q. What's the most disappointing aspect of this? Was it the way you guys played. They just beat you?

COACH SELF: No, they beat us. Make no mistake about that. They beat us. But the thing that was most disappointing to me, I thought we played a style that is just good enough to get your butt beat. Average energy. Let them pass it wherever they want to. Never dictate a tempo defensively. Crappy traps on the post. Couldn't remember scouting report.

There were some things that happened tonight. And then also we didn't rebound the ball. Those are man plays or whatever. I thought even though the battle of the boards was even, it was totally identical. I don't think anybody thought watching the game that we controlled the glass. I think the perception would be is they controlled it.

So I think that if we can't make other teams play bad, then we're not going to advance very far in the NCAA Tournament. And we certainly didn't make Baylor play poorly at all.

Q. Some of the guys said after you guys made that run in the second half that they were really feeling it. They looked up at the clock. There was still ten minutes left. Did you see any of that down the stretch of just like some tired legs?

COACH SELF: We talked about that in the timeouts. But Baylor played as many minutes last night as we did. I ain't buying any of that stuff. If you're tired in that particular situation, then the reason you're probably tired is because your mind or your preparation level is such that it allows you to be tired.

When guys are geeked up and playing like the last possession of the -- the last possession you're going to play of your life, you don't get tired.

So there were some things I think that happened tonight that probably showed a lack of toughness on our part which allowed us to be soft on key possessions. Fatigue being one of them.

Q. What's your experience going into the tournament off of winning the Big 12 versus coming in off of a disappointing loss like this, how do you turn that around, I guess?

COACH SELF: We can practice -- I'm not sure Ty's going to get his wish on the day off tomorrow. But we'll go back to practicing. We gotta guard. We don't guard. Let's just call it like it is. We don't guard. This has to be a team that makes other people play poorly.

And I've said this many times. Defense, offense, you just don't say, okay, we're going to start doing this and it's going to -- the light's going to come on tomorrow. It has to be a mindset. And certainly we have some key players that aren't doing that right now.

So you don't have to kill them in practice, but practice an hour and work on certain things.

But this tonight to me hurts, because anytime you lose it hurts. But it's not -- if it makes us better next week, then it wasn't a bad loss. So if it doesn't make us better, then it's a bad loss.

And so we've usually recovered pretty good and responded pretty well to not playing well, losing a game, so hopefully that will be the case again.
Q. Is there any relief in not having to play Missouri again and deal with all the emotion that goes into a game like that?

COACH SELF: Zero.

Q. Kind of staying on that topic, you all right with how the rivalry ended this year?

COACH SELF: I've never said I was all right with the rivalry ending. I never said that. I'd like for it to go on. It's just not going to.

But I would rather be playing Saturday regardless of who we're playing, who we would be playing against, whether it be Texas or Missouri. But I didn't come over here thinking about the rivalry or anything like that. What we were trying to do was just win the day and focus on whatever would be the case tomorrow.

So we had two epic games with them this year. Two epic games. And it's unfortunate it's going to end.

Q. Do you agree with Tyshawn and Jeff that the game was lost because of things the guys did not do during the first half, or did it come down to not being able to make the key plays, especially defensive plays, in the last few minutes?

COACH SELF: Yes, on all fronts. We let them get comfortable the first half. But, I mean, it was a horse contest, guys shooting slush shots.

But, you're right, regardless of the situation, it's like a tennis match, you gotta win certain points. And we didn't win the key points down the stretch. They won them all. Sure, I think that had a lot to do with not getting key stops, absolutely.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Coach.

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