



2010 BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

FIRST/SECOND ROUNDS

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, HOST



Sunday, March 21, 2010

Oklahoma

Postgame Quotes

Oklahoma Head Coach Sherri Coale

Opening statement:

"First, I would just like to congratulate South Dakota State. They are just an excellent basketball team. They are an extremely well-coached basketball team and I thought their kids came in here undaunted and competed for an entire 40 minutes. They pushed us and did what they needed to do and fortunately we made the plays down the stretch. I was a little disappointed in our second half. I didn't think we came out of the locker room with the fire and intensity of an NCAA tournament game. To be quite frank I was a little disappointed with our crowd. I mean this is a NCAA tournament game, we are in the Big Dance and we don't fill the arena. The people that were here were fantastic and involved in the game, but I sure was expecting to see that place filled up."

On if the zone bothered the team:

"We just got really tight. I said to them at one point don't act like you're shocked we are missing shots, haven't we done this all year? I told them to just keep playing. Our movement against the zone was hideous. We just stood around and we kind of locked up. We have a bunch of former players here and they came in the locker room after the game and everyone of them said, 'that was a great win' because they remember back when we had an opportunity to play here in the first and second round how tough that first game is, particularly when it's on your home floor. So they understood and I understood, but these girls were like 'what were we doing, why was it so tough.' But we were playing a really, really good team and they come with a knockout punch. We weathered the storm and came back and did what we needed to do to win the game. But back to your original question, we just missed shots and I think we got tight."

On SDSU pushing two Big 12 teams two years in a row in the NCAA and how close they are to being there:

"I think they are there. I mean they competed with us for an entire 40 minutes. I think they have two things that win them basketball games regardless of what league they are in and regardless of what's at stake. One of them is they are all skilled and can all shoot it. Anytime you put five guys on the floor and they can all shoot you have a chance to win and I don't care who you are playing against. The second thing is they just play their tails off every possession. That's a lethal combination regardless of your conference."

Oklahoma Senior Forward Nyeshia Stevenson

On why OU shot 20% less in the second half:

"I'm not exactly sure, but one of our assistant coaches came up to me and was like 'it doesn't matter just keep shooting.' I don't care how many times we miss we aren't going to win if no one will shoot. I don't know why we didn't shoot, but it was probably going through our head that we were missing a lot."

On how difficult it is to stay on their shooters since you can't stay off and give them space:

"No, you can't give them any space at all and we are used to pulling off and helping for each other. South Dakota does a great job away from the ball and getting the backside and weak side occupied just in case we do slip up and try to help. They set really good screens so they got open a lot and yes they are pretty good at getting open."

On scoring more tonight than last weekend in the Big 12 Tournament in Kansas City:

"I just said this a new week and know that it's not just all on you or anything. I have some good teammates and I just played through them. Danielle just gives great passes, I mean she had like eight assists, and when she gives me the ball of penetration I know I am going to knock it down."

Oklahoma Junior Guard Danielle Robinson

On tempo in the first half causing turnovers from SDSU:

"It was huge for us in the beginning. We knew coming in we would have to use our athleticism to our advantage and we caused some turnovers sometime and got some transitions that gave us a lead early."

On playing against the zone and if it was a struggle:

"Yes, they broke our rhythm. We stopped passing and cutting and moving like we were in man. We put Amanda Thompson at the high post and she did some good things there so that helped us."

On SDSU being a tough team to play:

"Yes, SDSU is a great team. They shoot the ball extremely well, I don't know how many threes they had, but they just play hard all the time. They go for loose balls and they play for each other. They are just a great basketball team."

On hitting a jumper to end the scoring drought in the second half:

“Definitely, they made their run but we handled it and that was just a rhythm jump shot, something I didn’t really make tonight, but I made it when it counted and that’s what it’s about. You have to make plays down the stretch.”

On stepping up the defense late in the game to really close them out:

“I mean we just looked up at the score and it was a seven-point game with three minutes and knowing that they are a great three-point shooting team we would have to grind it out.”



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South Dakota State

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South Dakota State Head Coach Aaron Johnston

Opening statement:

"Congratulations to Oklahoma. I thought they played very well. I can't remember who asked me about the secret of winning, but I don't think I should've given it up because I think I said you need to make shots. Oklahoma made shots in the first half. They shot the ball very well. They hit some big jump shots and maybe stretched us out a little bit. We didn't make shots. That wasn't the only thing that happened but we had a couple more of our shots within a couple feet going in. I think that could've changed the complexion of the game. Oklahoma showed a lot of toughness, a lot of energy. The crowd got going. They were the better team here tonight."

On fighting back in the second half:

"We just didn't play real well in the second half. Oklahoma did. There are always two sides to that. I'm not sour grapes at all. They played better than we did in the first half. We just played really out of character. We had post players that we had put on the floor that were probably too aggressive. We took some bad shots. A couple of poor turnovers, I thought. Oklahoma made shots. They made perimeter shots. That makes them really good because their inside game is awfully good. I wish we had the first half back."

On the fight for rebounds:

"I thought we rebounded the ball really well. I know you ask about that. They had 11 offensive rebounds, we had 11 offensive rebounds. I want to make sure our team gets credit for how well they did rebound. I know we didn't get every rebound and they got some when they needed them in that zone. If you don't play zone a lot it's really hard to rebound. Out of a zone, you really have to be ready to just go get the ball. We're probably better at rebounding for man. I think zone probably had as much to do with it as anything. I thought we handled it pretty well. We had some second chances. We needed them too."

South Dakota State Senior Forward Maria Boever

Opening statement:

"It is very emotional. I think our team did a great job of fighting back this season and Oklahoma is a really good team. I think we went out there and, especially in the second half, played our hearts out. We can't be too upset. We left everything on the floor."

On slowing down the pace in the second half:

"We talked about at halftime how we need to maintain composed. We need to play at our pace. I definitely think in the second half we started playing Jackrabbit basketball. It took a little bit but we eventually got it in the second half. Unfortunately, it was too late."

On not letting up:

"It was our last game so we knew we had to leave everything on the floor. We were going to go after every loose ball. We'd score and they'd score. We knew that in the end we'd have to give it everything we had."

On Oklahoma's posts:

"Oklahoma's posts are really good. They did a very good job. I think as a team we did a good job helping as whole down at the posts. They're a very good team and their posts are very skilled too."

South Dakota State Junior Guard Kristin Rotert

On Danielle Robinson:

"She's a phenomenal player and she's just everywhere on the court. Offensively, defensively, you need to be aware of that. The thing that impressed me the most was probably her explosiveness and her quickness. You would throw a pass to someone and she would be six feet off of them and the next thing you know she's taking it the other way. She's just a very good player."

On fighting back in the second half:

"I'm proud of our team, proud of the way we fought back. I thought we did a great job of representing South Dakota State and representing our program and what we're all about."

On Oklahoma's perimeter defense:

"They're very athletic and they're very good defensively. From a shooter's standpoint, you just have to be patient and try to find other ways to score and try to find other ways to get involved in the game like getting rebounds and stuff. They were very good on the perimeter defensively tonight."