



# 2010 BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

FIRST/SECOND ROUNDS

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, HOST



Tuesday, March 23, 2010

## Oklahoma

Postgame Quotes

### Oklahoma Head Coach Sherri Coale

#### *Opening statement:*

"A lot of credit to Arkansas-Little Rock. I thought they really competed and fought. They get after you and guard you and they have great speed and athleticism. Very well coached. Coach Foley does an outstanding job. Credit them with having a great game plan and playing very hard tonight. We are thrilled to have our season continue and have our seniors play their last game on the Lloyd Noble Center floor. Let that be a win for them. We're excited as can be to go to Kansas City and participate in the Sweet Sixteen."

#### *On Oklahoma's performance against big opponents:*

"It's funny how every team has its own identity. They become what they become over the course of a long season. We don't blow anybody out. We haven't blown anybody out all year. We beat Oklahoma State badly on senior day here. That might be the only one. This team has played great in every big game that we've had all year. Connecticut, Nebraska, we may not have won them all but we've played extremely well. The Sweet Sixteen is a big deal for this group of kids. To get back there and have the opportunity to go and play two opponents, potentially, that we've met before. This is what our guys have been shooting for."

#### *On what Oklahoma has had to overcome this season:*

"I don't really know if there are any words for how gratifying it is. It's been a remarkable year; one that none of us are ready to be over. It's a big deal to get back deep into the tournament after we've been to the Final Four. I think that speaks volumes about where your program is. To do it with not only losing Courtney and Ashley (Paris), but losing Whitney (Hand) too, speaks volumes about the kids we have on our basketball team and their character and their expectations for themselves and for this program. That's what I'm most proud of."

### Oklahoma Junior Guard Danielle Robinson

#### *On Abi Olajuwon:*

"Abi came out on fire. It started with her defensive pride. She defended their post players, got rebounds and then muscled on the other end of the floor and got easy looks. Definitely give credit to Abi for working so hard tonight."

#### *On turnovers in the first half:*

"It was all us. Everybody just sped up, starting with me. If I go too fast then everybody else is going to be sped up too. I had five turnovers in the first half. It's a matter of us reading. We could have gotten whatever we wanted offensively but we just have to be patient and look and see."

#### *On Oklahoma's defense:*

"Our defense was great. We defended them extremely well and made them turn it over. That was exactly what we knew we could do, was have them turn the ball over. It was just us not executing on the offensive end."

#### *On Notre Dame and the Sweet Sixteen:*

"We're definitely excited to be going back to Kansas City, first of all, to be one of the last 16 teams playing. Notre Dame had a great win tonight. Skylar (Diggins) played awesome. We just have to go in and focus on us. Of course you remember the game. It was right after Whitney (Hand) got hurt. We're a totally different team, I feel, than we were in November. We've definitely made some strides."

### Oklahoma Senior Center Abi Olajuwon

#### *On her size advantage down low:*

"I was happy for once to be the tallest one out of the group. I really tried to focus on getting angles and finishing. That's something we'll have to be able to do throughout the tournament. That was one thing I was really trying to focus on. I see the things I have to work on. A little bit of traveling here and there. Give credit to our guards. They really gave me great angles and positioning to finish the basket."

#### *On winning despite not playing their best:*

"A win is a win. Any game could be your last. We always strive to do our best but at the end of the day you have to grind it out and get the 'W.' That's what we had to do tonight."



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## UALR

Postgame Quotes

### UALR Head Coach Joe Foley

#### *Opening statement:*

"First of all, I'm completely proud of our kids for the second half, coming back. We didn't finish the first half real well and then second half we came back and played with a lot of intensity, a lot of enthusiasm, made some plays. I think we just got back on our heels a little bit missing some shots that we normally hit. It was just one of those games. The ball didn't go in the hole. We struggled a little bit. Especially against a great team like Oklahoma, we didn't shoot the ball extremely well. That's part of it. But the second half, I thought that we played with a lot of intensity, a lot of enthusiasm, made some plays, and kind of put a little heat on them."

#### *On the game:*

"I think it was two good defensive teams battling each other. The intensity that they played with and got after us, I thought we started the game a little bit back on our heels. They've been here so many times in this situation and I really didn't think our kids would but I thought we were a little bit back on our heels and not attacking and that's what I told them at halftime. If you attack, you're going to make some mistakes but you're still going to make some good things happen. I thought that we were so afraid of making mistakes that we made mistakes. You look at the chart, we made 20 turnovers and they made 22 turnovers so our defense is a different style, but both defensive teams did a good job."

#### *On OU's post play:*

"That was probably surprised me a little bit more than anything. I thought our post players got a little bit intimidated being sophomores and not playing against the big kids like that. I didn't think we did a good enough job being aggressive and keeping them pushed them off the block. I thought we waited until they got to the block. When you do that against the SEC and Big 12 post players like they have, you have to be the aggressive one. I thought we waited too long to be aggressive. When they get you in the paint they're going to score. We let them get in the paint too easy."

### UALR Senior Guard Kim Sitzmann

#### *On the season*

"It was a great year. I couldn't ask for a better year. Obviously, going to the Sweet 16 would have been pretty nice but to have the ride that we had and I think that we put UALR on the map this year so I can't be anything but proud of this team."

#### *On UALR's offense:*

"We uncharacteristically turned it over 15 times that first half. I don't know how many walks we had. Turnover after turnover. When you can't get an offense going, it's hard to put points on the board."

#### *On OU's defense:*

"We just weren't playing loose. We were really up tight and just weren't playing like we know how."

#### *On UALR's defense:*

"Our defense kept us from getting blown out really. Since the ball wasn't falling for us on the offense end, we had to make big stops on the defensive end. I thought we didn't well on defense. I mean, I slipped up a couple times and had some mental errors, but as a team I thought we did pretty well on defense."

### UALR Junior Forward Chastity Reed

#### *On trying to work through OU's defense:*

"I just kept going off screens basically. Once I caught the ball and they sent two people to me, I had to dish it out and get rid of it. I did some of the time. I probably could have done it a little bit more but I'm used to that, somebody waiting on me in the paint. That's what a lot of teams do to me. I'm sure they watched film on that and I'm sure I'll work on it. Get rid of the ball to the open person, hopefully somebody that's close to the basket. And if we finish right there then it's a different game."

#### *On expectations for next year:*

"I'm not going to get my expectations too high. What I'm going to do is work even harder because last year we had a good season. We thought we had a good season and now it's definitely going to happen. I know everybody is tired of listening to us talk about how we started on 5-5 but we realized that we have to work a lot harder. We're going to have good teams on the schedule now so we're getting people that want to come to our house and play against us and our motion offense. Our defense is pretty decent too no matter who we play. So I'm just going to work hard and I'm sure everybody is going to work hard, especially the people who are already here. And we're not going to take anything different from the recruits that we've been recruiting. If they come here then they're going to work even harder."