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# OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL

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## WEST VIRGINIA 61, OKLAHOMA 50 FEBRUARY 8, 2017 • POSTGAME QUOTES

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### OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH LON KRUGER

#### Opening Statement

"It was a tough battle. I thought obviously the West Virginia pressure bothered us a lot. We did not handle it nearly as well as we had to to have a chance to beat a good ball club. Defensively, in the half court we were fine, but again just too many turnovers with points and we fought that as hard as we have to. Receivers have got to be active, available, and have got to know where the guy with the ball is. West Virginia totally dictated that with good pressure."

#### On using Jordan Woodward and Jordan Shepard together tonight:

"We were just looking for him to compete to give a little activity out there and work to get open. I thought (Jordan) Shepherd came in and did a terrific job. He handled it with poise, moved and caught. I thought he did a really good job."

#### On the difference between beating the pressure in the first meeting and not being able to tonight:

"I think most importantly we did not think we moved with the same conviction and commitment to be available. West Virginia, you got to work hard. They do one of the best jobs in the country with their pressure. It did not kill us there, but it did tonight. They definitely won that battle."

#### On the quick start and trying to beat the pressure:

"When you do beat the pressure, you still have to make shots and finish with strong plays. We made a couple shots early and both teams had trouble scoring in the first half. The second half opened up kind of the same way, both teams had opportunities and did not finish. They had a couple buckets back to back and created a little bit of a margin."

### FRESHMAN GUARD KAMERON MCGUSTY

#### On what the problem was tonight:

"I just do not think we executed like we planned, and there were a few times where (Kristian) Doolittle brought the ball up and we did not do a good job coming up to the ball."

### FRESHMAN GUARD JORDAN SHEPHERD

#### On the mindset after a quick start:

"Our mindset should be to just keep pushing on, but I think we sort of just relaxed a little bit and got comfortable."

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### WEST VIRGINIA HEAD COACH BOB HUGGINS

#### On confidence in James Bolden:

"I think he is terrific. He has been doing well in practice. You try to work those guys up. I want to play Maciej (Bender) more but it is so hard to get Nathan (Adrian) out of the game. Esa (Ahmad) came in and gave us a big lift. So hopefully we are starting to grow up a little bit."

#### On overcoming the slow start:

"We need to stop doing that. We made some bonehead plays. They played well and made shots. I think Lon Kruger is one of the best coaches in the game. He always has his guys prepared. We need to do a better job from our side."

#### On the change in defensive play:

"We haven't played well here defensively. We spent more time in the film room then on the floor."

### WEST VIRGINIA JUNIOR F NATHAN ADRIAN

#### On what was different about tonight's game than other low-point games:

"We played pretty hard tonight. Played good defense. I don't know what they ended up with, but we held them to lower than what they scored at our place."

#### On if there were any bright spots:

"I think we played hard. Honestly, that's all we have to do to win. We know what we are supposed to do. As long as we play hard, we generally will come out on top. That's what we take pride in, winning games. We're not always going to shoot the ball well, or take care of the ball as well as we are supposed to, but as long as we play hard things should go our way."

#### On if he was thinking about past games against Oklahoma with late leads:

"Yes, but you can't think about that. You have to put that in the past because that's not going to affect this game. We just had to close out this game."

### WEST VIRGINIA FRESHMAN G JAMES BOLDEN

#### On having a big deficit early and overcoming it:

"It's the Bob Huggins way. Just come out and play and compete. Teams have just been going up on us early, and last game it was a dog fight. This time we just came together as one and said that we were going to dig ourselves out of this hole to come back."

#### On if he felt a burden to score:

"When I go in the game, I go in confident and feeling for my shot. If I can get a shot up, I'm going to get it up. If it goes in, I'm going to look for my next shot. The coaches know I can score so they don't get mad when I take a shot."

#### On not playing their best and still getting a win:

"That's what the Bob Huggins way is. We compete, we play hard and we just have to play hard for 40 minutes. If we do that and still play bad, then we can get a win."

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