



MEN'S BASKETBALL POSTGAME PRESS CONFERENCE

K-State 76, Washburn 49 | November 1, 2022

HEAD COACH JEROME TANG

Opening statement...

"Man the student section was incredible. Tonight the energy was great. It was fun to be out there and watch the guys really get after it. I thought they flew around in the first half and play with great passion. I thought they tried to share the ball and sometimes they shared a little bit too much, gave it to the other team and so we're gonna cut down on that but overall, it's a great start, and we got a long way to go."

On envisioning his first game...

"I mean I was nervous you know beforehand but once you get out there and tipped and going you don't really pay attention to any of that stuff. You have to get out of your own head going into it, but it was a blast. I just had a great time."

On Cam Carter's game...

"I just love kids from Louisiana. When I was at Baylor when we went to the Elite Eight we had Tweety Carter and Dunn called the Louisianimals. Won the national championship we had Jared Butler and Mark Vital, I called them the Louisianimals. And now we got Cam and Dorian (Finister) and I'm hoping to develop some Louisianimals."

On if his short time as coach developed the way he hoped...

"I thought we were where we would get it to. It wasn't so much about getting talent as it was about getting the right people and the right kind of guys. In the summertime I told the staff lets get guys that we don't mind losing with because you can win with anybody but if you have to go through tough times you want people that you like being around and this is a group of guys that I like being around."

On the environment and student section...

"For an exhibition game to have two sections filled with students, that was incredible. I'm so thankful for the students and the fans that were there and you just felt the energy in the building. So this is a good start and we're going to build it from here, the goal is to have this place called the Octagon of Doom again and so we have to do our part as a team though, we got to play at a level that they want to come see us play."

On Keyontae Johnson's performance...

"It was terrific. We played a private closed practice scrimmage and we probably played him too much, he played 31 minutes and had a double double. And so we purposefully said hey, we're gonna play him, it's not to for any other reason other than let's get some other dudes in there and not leave them out there as long. I mean he could have easily played 30 tonight and had a double double, it's just cool to see the young fellow out on the floor again and doing what he loves."

On the bigs and their rotation...

"Well I purposefully didn't play two guys in the first half because I wanted to be able to take a good look at some other guys because we have some decisions to make. And so Jerrell Colbert and Anthony Thomas were two that I told before, I'm not going to sub you in in the first half, be a great teammate you'll play in the second half. I just have to, we have to get a good look, we have to make some decisions, we got to decide who we're going to redshirt, if we're going to redshirt any guys. Just have to get a good look moving forward so it had nothing to do with Terrell being the third big, you know he played a lot more in the scrimmage and so I needed to see some other guys."

On the pace and amount of turnovers this game...

"Our goal is 11 or less turnovers a game and we have the guards, and the teams is versatile enough guys that if we play the right way and don't do some things that we're not supposed to do, the game of basketball is very simple but it's hard to do simple and our job is to do simple, better. And when we play simple and we do it better then we look really good, so pace does not determine the number of turnovers."

On players shooting percentages...



"I think we have six guys who are shooting better than 36 percent at practice and they also have a positive assist to turnover ratio in practice and we have four that are shooting better than 40 percent in practice. I thought we were okay in the first half, took a couple ones that you know, they probably weren't wise shots. And then in the second half, we just missed some open hoops."

On Desi Sills' improvement in his short time...

"It has been so impressive. For me as a coach I don't want guys to get comfortable and think, hey, we got to start in the lineup and that kind of thing. We go based on how you practice, this is how you're going to play and we have the depth to do it and Desi actually probably deserved to start tonight based on his practice. I just told him, look there's so long before you got here some other guys have been there I just want to bring you off the bench and he was fine with it. You know, he's just a winner man, he is, two state championships in high school, an Elite Eight with Arkansas. Young man's a winner, he loves basketball, he's passionate, he cares about his teammates, he's just a joy to be around."

On messages to fans and getting them to games...

"We'd love to sell out but we understand we have to earn it, but our fans have been unbelievable. They've been engaging, they've helped us in recruiting, you see what they do for the football team, so fans impact winning. They do impact winning and so I'm thankful that we have fans in Manhattan that they want to impact winning so they're gonna show up and they're going to help us."

On Nae'Qwan Tomlin and his journey...

"Nae'Qwan's better tonight. He didn't start because he got beat in practice this week. And so we'll see what happens next week. Guys to get where they want to get individually and where we want to get to collectively as a team, right. You got to be every day guys and every play guys and develop those habits and that's what as a staff we are trying to do with this team is teach them how to do it every single day. And because that's what's going to allow us to accomplish what we want to accomplish as a team and allow them to accomplish what they want to accomplish individually."

On the guards facilitating shots...

"I think they had 14 assists and 10 turnovers so they facilitated to both teams tonight. And so it's going to take us a little time, we had multiple turnovers where they thought somebody was going to zig and zag, you know, we have to get to know each other and in that type of pace, and then we purposefully didn't run a lot of stuff tonight, and so you know very small package that allowed the other team to kind of know exactly what we were doing and stuff but you got to be able to execute when the other team knows what you're doing. But overall, I'm just telling you the wins are hard to come by, right, so we're gonna be excited about the win. And then we're gonna get to work again day after tomorrow."

On having role players on the team...

"I think we have a team full of role players right, and everybody's role will change on any given night based on what the other team is doing. And the goal is to have the open guy take shots. The goal is to have everyone play defense. The goal is to have the guys who are supposed to rebound go rebound, the guys that are supposed to get back, get back. That's it and then at the end of the night, I hope that at every press conference we have different dudes sitting up here, because that means that different guys stepped up at different times. If it's the same set of guys that's sitting up here all the time then we're not as balanced or as deep or the type of team that we want to be."

On working on turnovers...

"The number one thing that we're working on, and we're going to look at them and see what they were and how we can fix them but that's our job as a staff."

On creating turnovers...

"I was pleased. I was pleased with how we turned it into offense. I think we can definitely do better. I saw guys turnover and we quickly transition and sometimes early on we were causing turnovers in practice and then like holding the ball and now the quicker we can go from defense to offense and get easy buckets because especially when you get to the Big 12 it's so hard to score in the half court that you've got to be able to get up and get some transition buckets."





On challenging bigs to run the floor...

"We challenged Baybe (Abayomi Iyiola), David (N'Guessan), Jerrell (Colbert), get us some rim run buckets and I thought we did a good job of that, that they got out and ran and did a good job."

SENIOR MARKQUIS NOWELL

On the energy during the game...

"I think that we had a really good energy to start today off, to start shootout and that transferred over on the court. We have a great group of guys that want to win bad, we have a great coaching staff who wants to win just as bad so I think that energy transferred over to the game."

On the amount of turnovers...

"I feel like we got to make the game more simple. We have a lot of guys and we do different things with a basketball. So if we just be more simple, Coach always says simple is hard, simple is much more difficult to do. And so if we can be as simple as possible then limit those turnovers."

On shooting inside the arc...

"Definitely, we got a lot of offensive rebounds and that gave us second chance opportunities. I don't know how many points we got off that but that gave us a great momentum to shoot a greater percentage."

On Jerrell Colbert's big block...

"He does do that at practice, I mean he's been working tremendously hard and he's been putting in the work and you know the work showed today and all the guys were happy for Jerrell today."

On the atmosphere with the student section...

"It's pretty crazy to think about it because last year it probably wasn't as many fans as it was today. But it was fun. I mean I'm really happy for these guys to experience it for a chance and I'm glad that we pulled off a win. I'm glad that Coach Tang got his first win. Not officially but it's still a win, a win is a win."

JUNIOR NAE'QWAN TOMLIN

On the first game in Bramlage...

"First time it was crazy, definitely something I was expecting that it was gonna be crazy, especially for an exhibition game, just put in the work."

On playing his first game in a K-State uniform...

"It felt good. It started from warm-ups I had chills, my adrenaline was running, I was bouncing, it felt good."

On shooting from the outside...

"I most definitely feel comfortable shooting outside of the floor, shots just didn't go in today, but that's okay. Put in enough work that you can adjust the shots not falling, start getting to the basket. I felt like that's what I did. And my team, you know, they put me in positions that way I can get cuts and score."

SOPHOMORE CAM CARTER

On the amount of turnovers...

"Just being more disciplined, making more smart plays rather than trying to create for ourselves."

On playing his first game in a K-State uniform...

"Just from warming up and just coming in early, the energy was going to be crazy. So it was just something I was waiting for."

On playing in the Big 12 and looking forward to...

"Just winning. We will run it, we'll run a group of guys that want to win."

