



MEN'S BASKETBALL POSTGAME CONFERENCE

K-State 71 vs Nebraska 56 | December 17, 2022

HEAD COACH JEROME TANG

Opening statement...

"I was blown away by our fans' support. The staff they came back in, I think it was after the first warmup period, and Dream was like, 'coach, the energy out there is different. It's like an NCAA Tournament game, it's buzzing.' So I was like, okay, and I didn't want to look, I was trying not to let everybody see me look up in the rafters and go crap there's people up there too, like there was all around, it was really cool. I've played in T-Mobile before, but we've never had a home court advantage, and T-Mobile, this is pretty awesome to play in there and have a home court advantage."

On how the team performed tonight...

"We got some competitors, right, and they want to win, you know, and I think every day, our care factor is growing, that we care more about winning, and we care about individual stats and stuff. And I mean, Desi Seals, I mean, he played great defense, I don't think he played his best game statistically, but the energy and effort and the contributions that made up there like we can't do it without him right. And David N'Guessan wasn't really great, you know? I mean, he scored three points, but he had 11 rebounds, right, eight rebounds as the season high. But I mean his ball screen roll, his rim runs, all the things that he did, I mean, those things are valuable. So I know it was 'Qwan and Keyontae up here, but they'll be the first to tell you like, Keyontae gets the wide open three in the corner in the first half because David rim ran right under and we were able to hit him for a wide open three. If he doesn't do that, you know, everybody is doing their part and I'm really proud of that. The couple guys I think as we go along, if I couldn't get them to just get a little bit more buying, right, we can have a deeper rotation than we have right now. And we're going to need it for the Big 12 but a lot of dudes, they're fun to coach and fun to watch and compete out there."

On limiting Derrick Walker's touches...

"A player like [Derrick] Walker, right? You don't stop him, okay, you try to limit his touches. I don't know if y'all watch the Purdue game and the Creighton game, but man in the Creighton game, he looked like a man among boys and he just kept getting touches in areas that he could go make something happen. So our job was to limit his touches and the less times he touched the ball, the better of us and then when he touched it, you know, people think of Fred Hoiberg and Nebraska and they think of three point shooting, right but they're really a paint team. And so our thing was keep the ball off the paint. They had more paint points than we did for a while there they were ahead then we evened it did up and then they took the lead in paint points but they want to live in the paint both with Walker and [Sam] Griesel. They did they do a great job of getting them in position where they can attack the paint and draw attention and then make place for people and so we just made just touch his heart and then tried to put him in a crowd and rather than give him space."

On what he said in the timeout after Nebraska cut the lead to 9...

"It was exactly the way we drew it up. We said the ball is gonna go here, it's gonna go there and then it's gonna get to him and he's gonna shoot it. I should have called a timeout probably two plays earlier, rather than allowing them to be on, I think it was like a 10-0 run that they were on, and I didn't so when we called it we just settled them down and said, 'Hey, let's just get some ball movement. Let's make the right people tag and then the open guys shoot the shot.' I really didn't want a three, I was hoping to get a paint touch bucket but that's what was available. And he had I mean, he [Keyontae] works at it. So he stepped up and drilled the shot."

On running the shot clock down during multiple plays...

"Well, we try not to panic, right? We do some stuff where it's, you know, 10 seconds on the clock and we'll work on termination stuff but it's like with everything that we do we just try to have poise. Poise at the end of the shot clock because there's always time you know. Early on our guys get 10 seconds on the shot clock and they'd be jacking the ball up and in practice, it's like dude, do you realize how much we can do with 10 seconds on the clock and now they're figuring out they can do a lot with four seconds on the clock. I think somebody told me a stat, that we're from 12 to 7 seconds on the shot clock, we're like in the top 1% in the country on execution, and that's pretty good. Now, I don't know who, where that stat came from, they showed it to me. But we're pretty good in late shot clock situations."





On five dunks in the first half...

"Yeah, the energy. I mean, like they're really a team that doesn't allow paint, their defense is built to keep you off the paint. And if we can get to the rim and get dunks, I mean some good things that happened offensively where they're out of position, or we're causing turnovers and then the crowd gets loud and those dudes get to flying around and they have a little more energy, you know, on defense. So when the ball goes through the hole whether dunks or threes, the guys, it just fires them up."

On multiple threes in the first half...

"That was big because I mean, I think I don't know this for a fact, but just watching them, they're probably a team that wants you to shoot 30 threes, 35 threes a game because they don't, for the most part, college kids don't shoot well from three. But the fact that we raised, I think we were like 6 for 15 in the first half. And two of them were terrible shots like, should have never been taken, right. So we were really like 6 for 13 in the first half so I think that really changed how they were going to guard in the second half and they spread out some more in the second half."

SENIOR KEYONTAE JOHNSON

On the celebration of his rebirth day...

"Oh yeah, it was very special. Just seeing my teammates, showing how much they care about me and just recognizing that that day for me was a big day. So it was called a rebirth day from the day I had collapsed, I think that's why everybody thought it was my birthday."

On what got him going offensively...

"Coach Perry and Coach Tang, they just told me that they want me to drive anytime they try to double me and go baseline and stuff like that. When I was driving, I told the guys when I catch it in the post or anything, just start cutting right away, don't wait till I make a move. I think the first time we did that Nae'Qwan [Tomlin] got the dunk and that's when everything started opening back up and the game just got slower for me."

On letting the game come to him...

"Yes. And again, I feel like I was rushing just trying to force things. Just adrenaline running, real close to the Nebraska guys and my parents were here at the game so just trying to do too much but after a while once, like the first five minutes, I started settling in and I just started getting back to my normal stuff and just playing how I play."

On the emphasis to get more rebounds...

"Well Coach Tang, he tells everybody who he wants to crash and we don't get subbed. Just got to keep going out there every possession when the shot go up just at least get myself in the paint where I can get myself a better chance to rebound. I just try to get extra opportunities with second chance points or defensive rebounds."

JUNIOR NAE'QWAN TOMLIN

On his three point shot late in the game to halt the Nebraska momentum...

"I felt that we needed a score. It was at a certain point in time where we weren't scoring for a while and I think it was Desi [Sills] that drove and kicked out. It was going up."

On playing against the physical bigs from Nebraska...

"Oh yeah, most definitely. I feel like we got him [Derrick Walker] frustrated in the first half and he was getting a lot of fouls. So yeah me and David [N'Guessan] most definitely did."

On his preference between shooting or getting to the rim...

"I'd say get to the basket. I like to dunk. So I would prefer if I could get to the basket but if the shots there then I'll definitely shoot it."

