



MEN'S BASKETBALL POSTGAME CONFERENCE

K-State 82, West Virginia 76 | December 31, 2022

HEAD COACH JEROME TANG

Opening statement...

"Very, very thankful for our fans who showed up and, you know, I thought their energy really gave us a boost when we didn't necessarily start the way we wanted to and that was not our fault, that was all credit to West Virginia. I thought their speed, their athleticism, their pressure, it was like nothing that we have faced yet all year long and very similar to the start at LSU. But our guys settled down and adjusted to the speed and the physicality and then started ramping it up. And so I was very proud of our composure and our togetherness, and I think anybody who watches these guys play can really see how much they love each other, how much they enjoy playing with each other. And there's such a joyful spirit and such a calm spirit about them in the tensest situations and so it's really cool to be around them and to work with them."

On how this game sets the standard for Big 12 conference play...

"Have you watched the games today? I think only one road team won today, that was Texas at Oklahoma by one point. You know it's just hard to win in this league and you just have to be able to do your darndest, be as prepared as possible. Play as hard as you can, and if you come out on top, then you got to wash it and move on to the next one. And if you don't come out on top you have to wash it and move on to the next one otherwise, then you start stacking L's."

On how coming back from 14-point deficit shows team resiliency...

"It says a lot and we do have some very mature guys. We've got some really tough kids and they are resilient and they work really really hard. And also they play with emotion, but they're not emotional, right, so when you're down they're never bickering at each other or the never saying things to each other that you know, like will fuel a fire like they're always speaking confidence to each other and we got this you know, and so so that's that it's a lot of fun to coach and to be around."

On Abayomi Iyiola playing in place of David N'Guessan...

"Next guy up, you know, that's what it is. Baybe [Abayomi Iyiola] was gonna play and Ish [Ismael Massoud] and Tykei [Grenne] had a great week of practice. We had some meetings and just tried to be as clear with them and what I wanted from them and they came out in practice and gave what we wanted and knew we were going to play them. The thing is we got to build depth, right, in this league you just can't play with six or seven, we're gonna get to eight, you know, maybe nine at times and we'll see the foul trouble and stuff so yeah, not having David [N'Guessan] hurt but guys just stepped up and kept going."

On David N'Guessan's injury...

"I don't think I'm allowed to talk about it, but it wasn't season ending and he's gonna work really hard and Luke and Phil do a great job and as soon as he can be back, he's gonna be back."

On Markquis Nowell's knowledge and play...

"That is wonderful, when you don't have to coach the ball as much, you can coach the other four guys out there, it makes life a lot better for you as a coach. His willingness to share the ball, his willingness to learn, and to grow, even within the game, seeing what they were doing and how we were going to attack it. Then when they switched in the second half, the ball screen coverage and then so then we attacked it differently, that's a great credit to him as a player, as a person."

On Cam Carter's offense and improving throughout the season...

"Cam's gonna keep working. I think somebody told me, I'm not positive on things, but I think his shooting percentage is up, his points and his rebound is up from the beginning of the season and so he's heading in the right direction. Tonight was a night where that wasn't gonna be the case the way they guard they don't allow you know, the second and third guard perimeter guy to be involved in the offense so you got to play three-on-three against him. So his job was to stand on an X and let him deny him create opportunities for other people and so he did his job today."





On starting conference play with a win before two road games...

"Well, you got to win at home, okay, and that's the most important thing, you have to control your home court to give you a chance in this league. And now we go on the road, but what two teams would you have named to me if it wasn't Texas and Baylor, what two teams would you name and say, 'Oh, you're gonna have an easy trip.' Right there's not, and so we're not preparing for a two game road trip, we're preparing for one game. And so tonight, we're preparing for them to get to bed at a decent time, you know, and then do what we got to do tomorrow. Because if we don't, we have to prepare to win and so that's the maturity this team has that they're embracing that game. So I'm looking forward to the next thing we do."

SENIOR KEYONTAE JOHNSON

On if West Virginia's physicality disrupted them...

"I would say some cause we thought it was fine. You just got into it with the ref and trying to justify why we do, why we want to call and stuff like that. But once we start playing through the foul calls and everything, just playing aggressive, matching their intensity, everyone we made a big change."

On his productivity after starting off slow...

"Just staying poise and staying consistent that's my main thing. I always try to go into a game to try to stay consistent and do what I'm capable of doing at a high level. So they need me to rebound, I try to go and rebound and get a big time rebound."

On playing his first Big 12 game and the difference from other conferences...

"I say definitely physical. I mean the refs let you play more than any other conference but that's probably the biggest right now."

SENIOR MARQUIS NOWELL

On coming back in the second half after trailing all game...

"We just stayed together, we stayed the course. It took us a minute to adjust to their speed and physicality. We got a good group discussion at halftime on what we needed to do to be better in the second half. And I feel like in the second half we did that pretty good."

On seeing the floor so well and a team effort...

"Through experience and film. You know, but I also have a good chemistry with my guys. Majority of the time today it was a total team effort. You know we got stuff from Baybe [Abayomi Iyiola], Ish [Ismael Maasoud], Tykei [Greene], Nae'Qwan [Tomlin], Desi [Sills], so this was a total team effort and you know West Virginia played really hard and they were really, really good team. And that's why they were top-24 prior to today, but you know, give credit to them when we execute at the end."

On starting conference play with a win...

"Anytime you can get a win across the board is good for you, but to get a conference win versus West Virginia, a really good coached team is always good."

HEAD COACH BOB HUGGINS

On turning the ball over...

"20 turnovers, 20. We've had numerous conversations about how we excessively turn the ball over and do stupid things, and we did some stupid things today, just turned the game over."

On their defensive play...

"To tell the honest to God's truth we did some really, really stupid things that enabled them to cut the lead, to get back into the game, to make it the situation where they were a couple possessions away from tying the score and taking the lead away. I don't know how you can consistently miss one footers, which we did. I don't know how you can consistently miss free throws. I don't know how you can consistently miss free throws when they're asked to make 100 before they leave practice. Make 100, not shoot 100, make 100, which obviously they cheated on. Catches up you, I think in any walk of life, you know, more you try to cheat it the more it comes back and bites you in the ass."





SENIOR KEDRIAN JOHNSON

On the amount of turnovers...

"For the most part, just lack of awareness and not wanting to take care of the ball, just out there just moving around, not paying attention, just being careless for the most part."

On Markquis Nowell's advantage as a point guard...

"Playing small, get in tight spaces, get in gaps, but it's me so I can guard anybody in the country, that starts with me. I feel like I can guard anybody, it was just me, you know, my lack of awareness at some points. Allow him to back cut me, make plays. So I put a lot of weight on my shoulders for this loss."

