



MEN'S BASKETBALL POSTGAME CONFERENCE

K-State 79 vs Abilene Christian 62 | December 6, 2022

HEAD COACH JEROME TANG

Opening statement...

"Very thankful for the win. Blessed to be the coach of these guys, man. It's a lot of fun. Coach Malik, he did a great job with the scout. I thought at halftime our staff did a great job with adjustments, credit Abilene Christian for coming out and having a really good game plan. And they made 6 threes in the first 12 minutes and we held them to 1 three the last 28 minutes. And that was the adjustments that the staff made and so I credit my staff, I absolutely love those guys."

On playing seven guys ...

"Well, I'm trying to figure out how to get Dorian [Finister] in the game trying to get to eight. I have to do a better job of trusting him because he's doing a pretty good job at practice. And so I'm just trying to figure out how to win games right, like one at a time and what gives us the best chance at that moment and when they jumped out to the big lead like that it was hard to put him in that situation because then if he's not successful, you're killing his confidence. And confidence is, I mean, that's like the most important thing, but I thought the guys who were out there did a great job once we adjusted to what they wanted to do."

On David N'Guessan's offense at K-State ...

"Well, you know, at Virginia Tech, he played behind two All-Conference guys, right? And so it wasn't that he was a bad player, he was just stuck behind two All-Conference guys. And so in the limited minutes that he played, which you know about I think was about 13 to 17 a game somewhere in that area. We saw him do some really good things and thought man given more minutes, he could do more of those things. And he's a real mismatch at the paint to five, right? Because he's so fast. He can outrun fives down to court, he can spring out of ball screens you know, and he's starting to feel, they're developing confidence in each other. Because I mean, he went nine for nine, but you got to credit our guards for throwing the ball, right? He probably could have been 11 for 14 because he turned down some roles that he was open he caught it and didn't go up and try and score it, right, but our guards kept throwing him the ball so that was a credit there too. But I see David's game continuing to grow. I feel like he can shoot the three, right, I believe that he can make plays from the high posts and on a short roll as teams make adjustments and it's going to just give us more options and just put the defense in the bind more moving forward."

On what goes into being a good free throw coach...

"Confidence, repetition. You know, we had the guys shoot 100 threes yesterday, and they said the numbers and nobody was less than 74% and most people were in the high 80s with their 100 3's so it's not a lack of them putting in time you know, some nights it's like that. I would say I am glad that we can win games and look at this and say man we can get better here we can get better there. We can get better there because it means that we have a high ceiling, but I don't like missing free throws."

On adjusting to Abilene Christians hot start of three's...

"Oh, they were driving us baseline to force a rotation. They weren't trying to score it just to put two on the ball and then skip out on the backside or throw behind. And we just said we're going to guard it one on one and we're not going to help and if they go finish at the rim that's okay because that's not what they wanted to do. And that allowed us to be a little quicker on our rotations and be there on the couch and take away some of their actions."

On the importance of getting opportunities...

"Yeah, you know, I think that as we go along, teams make adjustments, right. So, I mean, we've been running some of the same stuff, we run different packages against different types of defenses. And their defense was geared to stop Keyontae [Johnson]. So where he was at, nobody was leaving there, right? Whereas in other games, they were tagging the roller, because if they tagged David on the rule, then somebody else is going to be open, right and it's up to our guards to make the right read. So his activity, I mean, he's been running the floor well, I mean, the last few games, you know, I think he's been rebounding well, he's probably like, you know, three and a half, three. One rebound every three and a half minutes, maybe almost three, that's elite, that's like, got to be top fifteen in the





country. When you get one rebound every three minutes, so he's been doing the things today, the defense, that's what the defense offered, and we were able to take advantage of it."

SENIOR MARKQUIS NOWELL

On David N'Guessan's performance...

"He's a competitor, he's fierce, he does all the little things to help his team win and that's why on nights like this he gets rewarded, because he sets screens, rolls hard, he gets on the glass. Any opportunity we have to get him the ball we try to do that as much as possible."

On the three man alley oop...

"We got the turnover and I heard Keyontae [Johnson] yelling to throw it up. I just threw it off the glass, I didn't know three guys were going to go jump for it. But it kind of looked like the Hartman drill we always work on before the game. So it was a cool little highlight."

On what defensive adjustments they made at the half..

"We made them guys dribble. In the first half and probably from the first media they were shooting 60 percent from three. Coach said a stat after the game that they only hit one three in 28 minutes. So, we just made those guys put the ball on the floor and that's when we saw success and so we kept with it."

On the message to the team after falling down 14 points...

"Stayed poised and just locked in defensively because when we do we are a really good team and we showed that in the second half. So that's really the message. There's no secret to what we have to do."

JUNIOR DAVID N'GUESSAN

On if he realized he scored 16 points in the first half...

"Not really to be honest. I just kept doing what Coach was telling me to do and they were finding me every time for easy layups."

On how it feels to contribute on this level...

"It feels great. It's the reason I transferred to be able to contribute more and help my team win more games. So I'm happy I was able to contribute more for my team and get the win."

On shooting the ball from outside more...

"Yes, for sure. I put in the work. Like Coach said, continue to get your confidence, continue to go up and you're going to see the results. So I'm just going to keep doing what I'm doing."

