



MEN'S BASKETBALL POSTGAME CONFERENCE

K-State 68, Texas Tech 58 | January 21, 2023

HEAD COACH JEROME TANG

Opening statement...

"First of all, this is such a blessing and I'm so thankful that God picked me to be here at this time. I mean it just sometimes it's kind of overwhelming when you sit there before the game and you see our student body. I mean how about that crowd right, and it was just incredible. I'm just super thankful. I'm thankful for our young men who have this grit and resolve about him that it doesn't matter what's going on. Like they figured out a way and they've got this great belief not just in themselves but in our staff and what we're telling them and asked him to do, and they just stay together. And so the most important thing about today was that we protected our home court. Right and that was the most important thing."

On today being a study in perseverance...

"Perseverance is such a big word, we knew this game was gonna be like this. We knew it was gonna be a 40 minute grinder, and every possession was going to matter, and they would make runs and we would make runs. I think our guys understanding that mindset going in didn't allow themselves to get flustered by anything."

On being down and working hard to come back during the three-minute stretch...

"Yeah, I mean, I just remembered the noise the crowd was making, right, like every deflection, every tip, every bucket like the decimal meters just kept going up and up. And you know, when your crowd is loud, the louder they are, the faster you should play. And, our guys bought into that so it was pretty cool."

On Sandstorm being played...

"I'm very proud to hear that. I actually did not know when they played it, but [Director of Athletics] Gene [Taylor] told me afterwards. And so proud of our student body, I mean we got a great group of students and they are buying into what it means to build a championship culture, to really love our university, and what we are about and so just proud."

On being down and coming back...

"I knew we had that kind of result in a timeout, I told them, hey, we're going to score right and then it's going to be a six point game, two possession game. And there's a lot of time on the clock and they said okay, and they went out and they executed."

SENIOR KEYONTAE JOHNSON

On the turning point for the second half...

"The coaches told me to come out and be more aggressive. Just keep fighting and rebounding, trying to make the hustle plays for the team. Markquis was going, so just keep giving the hot person the ball and just keep winning basically."

On flipping the switch in the last 10 minutes...

"I feel like we applied more pressure in the second half, trying to make it hard for them to get the ball in and then just capitalized off of their turnovers. We made big possessions and better transitions of getting to the line more. We tried to get to the paint more in the second half rather than the first half, taking the 3s that they were giving us."

SENIOR MARQUIS NOWELL

On playing Sandstorm in the arena...

"I didn't really hear and to be honest, I was locked into what we had to do. But I heard that song is really good when they play it and we win a lot."

On after the Kansas game and coming into this game locked in...

"We have a really good coaching staff and we have a lot of seniors on the team that keep things level headed. We don't try to get too high, we don't try to get too low. We just try to focus on the next right thing. So, you know after you know we celebrated that night, we just went back to work."





On how Ismael Massoud is playing...

"I mean, he's been playing big. He's doing things on the defensive end that really translate into the offensive end. He's given a lot of energy. He's rebounding more. He's just you know, doing anything possible to help us and when you do stuff like that good things happen. Today he showed that just coming in and locking in on defense and his shot was falling."

JUNIOR ISMAEL MASSOUD

On what started to click this season...

"It really was going home and trying to get my mind right. It took realizing this team is winning and I want to be a part of it and do whatever it takes to be a part of it and help us continue winning."

On his confidence this season compared to the past...

"I don't think my confidence ever really wavered in the sense that I had belief and I had faith in myself. I felt like God was always going to help me get through it and I always figure it out in any situation I'm in. Obviously when you're playing against high level competition like Texas Tech and all the other Big 12 teams and you see that you're able to produce, it definitely helps raise it a lot."

TEXAS TECH HEAD COACH MARK ADAMS

On K-State strengths as a team...

"They've got great speed and on the offensive, quickness. We knew it was going to be difficult matching up with them one on one. I thought, second half they got away from us a little bit, driving us. They're well coached, they've got really good players. They knew what to do and they made some big plays down the stretch when they needed it."

On Ismael Massoud...

"I remember from last year as well, he's just a solid player. He shot 50 percent from the three-point line, he goes two for three. He's a deadly shooter and he accepts his role, knows what he's supposed to do and that's what a good team is all about. Everybody's got something that they do exceptionally well and, this team knows he's a great shooter, he knows he's a great shooter and they give him the ball."

On the pieces of the K-State team...

"They've got a lot of important pieces, but he's [Massoud] just one of them. They've got an excellent point guard, runs the show, he's got experience. With Keyonte Johnson, a [future] NBA player, I'd assume, first-round draft pick, he's just a three level scorer and it helps them with their momentum on the floor. Then again, they play hard on defense. They've got a really good team and their record indicates that as well."

