



POSTGAME QUOTES

K-State 100, Central Arkansas 56 | November 22, 2023

HEAD COACH JEROME TANG

Opening statement...

"Happy Thanksgiving. I'm very thankful during this time of year to be able to do the thing that I love, which is to help mentor young men through the game of basketball. I am so blessed to be here and am very thankful for our crowd. It's the day before Thanksgiving and I'm impressed with our crowd showing up. I know there aren't a lot of students on campus, but the ones that were close by came, so we are very thankful for that. Our guys were very workman-like in the game today. They approached it the right way, and they played it the right way. The results speak for themselves."

On Nae'Qwan Tomlin's status moving forward...

"Nothing's changed. There's a certain process in this that's been taken care of. Now we move on to the next part of things. I wanted Nae'Qwan [Tomlin] around the team, because it's not good for him to be by himself and isolated. It's never good for someone to not be around the people that love them, having gone through this by himself. He's been in practice with us. He hasn't been practicing because his ankle is still hurt, but he's been at practice and he's been in film sessions. He is still a part of this team, just not active."

On Arthur Kaluma's game in the early season...

"I think somebody asked about a game which he struggled with, and my answer was that he needed to buy in, and Arthur [Kaluma] is buying in. Today is one of those games where he could have easily tried to put up numbers, because he was more talented than the guys out there. I thought he played the game the right way. It looked really good. He had eight rebounds and 3-to-1 assist-to-turnover, so those are good. When turnovers have been an issue for me, he's a really good passer. I think Arthur [Kaluma] can be a triple double guy. I'm looking forward to that part of his game growing, and him being able to take advantage of those opportunities."

On Kaluma's adjustment taking place on the team...

"I'm not sure that he's fully bought in, or if anybody in our group is fully bought into what we need to do and how we need to do it. I honestly don't think that I'm fully bought in every day. As a staff, and as a team, we all have to give a little bit more of ourselves towards this becoming a team that we're capable of being. That's players and coaches included."

On focusing on rebounds...

"When you get that many rebounds, that means there's a whole bunch of shots missed. I was very pleased with the 26 offensive rebounds and the 34 second-chance points. Early in the year we were getting offensive rebounds but wouldn't get the paycheck. Now we're starting to get the paycheck. I think that we can be even more productive off of our offensive rebounding moving forward. That means we got guys who are paying attention. We chart every guy and every play, whether they go or block out, all those numbers are increasing. Over the next couple of weeks, I expect us to make another big jump."

On the freshmen's growth process...

"It's really exciting to see. Seeing Dai Dai [Ames] against Providence, and then not getting to see him against Miami. Tonight you get to see him in a situation where he gets to show more things that he can do, like his assist-to-turnover (ratio). He had a 3-to-1 assist-to-turnover (ratio) tonight, and I thought he made some point guard plays that don't show up in the stat sheet. Getting guys in position and talking more. For RJ [Jones] there's still a breakout for RJ to come. His defense has improved so we can trust them up there more. Macaleab Rich is just a freak, and when you saw him compete against Miami, you see that he's willing to compete at a level that gives you a chance against a team like that. Now we can get him out there against some teams that allow him to show some of the gifts that he has, just his competitiveness and toughness. I like what I'm seeing from them and there's a reason why we recruited them."





SENIOR DAVID N'GUESSAN

On his vision after his second double double this season...

"I mean it's about the vision that I had for myself. The coaching staff preparing me for these moments and preparing me for these games from the start of the season until now. It's just a blessing from God to have a coaching staff that believes in me the way they do."

On assessing his progress...

"Now I'm just slowing down and letting the game come to me and getting my teammates involved and my teammates do a great job of checking on me and checking me in practice about shots I should make and I feel like overall that's getting me to be a better player.."

On what kind of asset Arthur Kaluma is to his game so far this season...

"Having another older guy with experience on the team that played a lot of basketball games in the tournament and made a great run as well. So I feel like he brings a lot of different things not just scoring but defensively and getting those rebounds at a high level."

FRESHMAN MACALEAB RICH

On his potential...

"I feel like I have a lot. Me coming in as a freshman I play my role and just do whatever I need to do to help the team win. So, I feel like going forward just to continue to work and get better. I feel like I really do stuff that's special and can be a real big part of this team.."

On his one-handed put back...

"Something just clicked in my head. I knew it was going to come off this side so I hurried and made the play. To me it's pretty normal and everybody else thinks it's crazy."

On Bahamas experience to gel the team into what it is...

"Trying to play at a high level of competition and it also boosts your togetherness with the team because if you're not together out there, it could get bad. But the fact that we came together in that Miami game and we fought back. I feel like that really helped us improve and helped us find our identity."

