



## POSTGAME QUOTES

K-State 69, Wichita State 60 | December 21, 2023

### HEAD COACH JEROME TANG

#### *Opening statement...*

"I just want to thank our fans— what a crowd. I was stunned this year when I didn't see the curtains [in the nosebleeds] I thought "this is a little different." These games are always tough for a lot of different reasons. The game before Christmas, you're always concerned that your players go home and don't tell you. Some of them are flying out either tonight or tomorrow morning and you just wonder if they're already home for Christmas. Coach [Rodney] Perry did an unbelievable job with the scouting report and with his mentor today. I just thought our guys were just locked in, and we got to be a resilient tough group. We played 12 really terrible minutes of basketball against Nebraska last week. A lot of that credit goes to Nebraska and what they did, but we didn't play well for 12 minutes, and it cost us. Our guys didn't let it affect them in a negative way. They came back and they worked really hard. I was probably not nice to be around the last few days with them, just focusing on what we have to be about. You never want to lose at home and they responded. They took it and adjusted what we did in the second half, especially the first four to eight minutes of the second half. We set the tone for the game and in the second half that really helped us. I am so blessed, and so thankful to be here coaching with the people I'm with. We are really grateful for a win before Christmas, because we say everybody has Christmas but the difference between Christmas and a "Merry Christmas" is a win.

#### *On playing against former Baylor assistant coach, Paul Mills...*

"Coach Mills is not just an old coach from Baylor, he is really like a brother. We coached against each other in high school and did a lot of things together there, and supported each other's programs. We started out as coaches and then God blessed us to be at Baylor together for 14 years. We shared hotel rooms on the road and he was my roommate, he would watch Hoosiers before every basketball game, and for every game he had the Hoosiers playing on his computer. We had talked about our dreams that one day we would be head coaches and we'd have our own teams in the NCAA Tournament. We were 2-2 as high school coaches against each other. We always said that after we got through coaching in college, we'd go back and coach high school and then break the tie. He's not just a coach. Win or lose this game, it wasn't going to change our relationship. I absolutely love that guy. He's done so much for me and my family and helped me be a better man, a better husband and a better father. You never want to play these kinds of games when you're playing against someone that you love and care about, but I mean we see how good his team is. Immediately you see how well coached they are. Wichita State is blessed to have Paul Mills."

#### *On David N'Guessan's breakthrough in this game...*

"It's been great. We've just been letting David [N'Guessan] know that all his hard work is going to pay off. I said before the last game he was in the gym, and made a lot of free throws. Our thing is to not be result driven, right, rather than be process driven. Let's trust our work, all the work you're doing, because at some point in time hard work pays off. It makes you shoot in all the spots he shoots, and he's going to make his free throws because he puts a lot of work into these. He was 3-for-5 from the free throw line today. We showed him some film and talked about his plan this summer and how confident he was playing this summer with his international team. We wanted him to get back to that, because he's a good basketball player. Being able to go thirteen and nine and three blocks, that was great. I'm so proud of him."

#### *On Dorian Finister's performance tonight...*

"We tell people to be prepared and your opportunity will come. Dorian, especially the last week or so, has really locked in, and he's done some really good things in practice. We just felt like he could give us something. We don't have a big guard who can switch guard multiple position rebound. There's some other things that he can do. Today he did what we needed him to do. He was one of the celebrations in the locker room because he was ready for his opportunity and took advantage of it."



**FIFTH YEAR TYLOR PERRY**

*On the team picking up momentum in the second half...*

"Just staying together for 40 minutes, it's a long game, that's a very good team over there and with a very good coach so we knew we were gonna have to stay together, weather the storm, knew it was gonna be a game of runs and you know, I felt like we did that."

*On focusing on this game after losing to Nebraska...*

"You never want to lose at home, you know, Tang prides his teams on not losing at home, the record speaks for itself. So to come out and get this one was super important you know, super big for our fans felt like we let them down at home and so to come back and redeem ourselves was super important for us."

*On the team's lack of offensive plays...*

"Like David said it felt like a home game, you know I think we have some of the best fans of word if not the best. And I think our students are the best student section in the country. And so just to have them supporting us like they do you know, it makes the game so much more fun."

*On David N'Guessan close to a double double...*

"No surprise at all. Like we've been saying David stays in the gym, he's a gym rat and hard work always pays off in the end. So no matter what's going on throughout the season, and you know, cream always rises to the top and you know tonight was just one of those nights and I know now he's just got to continue to do it. And so we believe in him even though he's continuing to believe in himself and that's all we can ask out of him."

*On the emphasis of getting to the basket...*

"Yeah, absolutely. We wanted to enforce our will on them. And we felt like Nebraska punked us in our own house and so you know, it was a big emphasis on getting to the paint and like I say enforcing our will and I think we did a really good job of doing that tonight."

*On Dorian Finister playing for the*

"It speaks to who he is. Just staying ready when you get the opportunity and you know, anybody can take him as an example. Just anytime you get that opportunity and you're ready. You never know when it's your time, so I think he shined bright tonight."

*On the team's defense...*

"We knew we had to stop [Colby] Rogers from getting hot and so you know he's a really good scorer, make him shoot the ball over there and so just limiting good shots for them was the biggest thing. And so I think we play team defense like the way we can and we were capable of doing I think it's gonna be very hard to score on us."

**SENIOR DAVID N'GUESSAN**

*On his performance tonight...*

"My teammates was finding me the right time I feel like. I just want to thank God and coaching staff, my team, continuing to put that confidence and believe in me. They support me even though I'm not playing my greatest but I mean tonight shout out to my teammates. They was finding me at the right times and you know, I was able to finish."

*On the environment in T-Mobile Center...*

"It was a great environment. Appreciate all the fans coming out. It was a lot of fun. It felt like a home game really. Yes, That one felt good for sure."

*On bouncing back from the loss against Nebraska...*

"I mean a ton. I've been in the gym a whole lot. That's why coach Tang keeps telling me this is all gonna balance out. The work gonna pay off though, so don't get too frustrated with the results. I know you want to be better, but you know, just stay in the gym, stay doing what you're doing, it's all gonna pay off. Today it was one of those days."

*On Dorian Finister playing tonight...*

"I think he did well too. So proud of him man. You know, not being a notation is hard sometimes. But the way he was ready, ready to help our team that was big time."





**JUNIOR CAM CARTER**

*On staying in the lane...*

"We practice that every day so you know, get into the lane. We shot a ton of free throws and we shot well from the free throw line so you know why not keep doing it,"

**WICHITA STATE HEAD COACH, PAUL MILLS**

*Opening statement...*

"We knew that the Nebraska game was an aberration, and we would get their best. I am obviously familiar with Jerome Tang, he's not National Coach of the Year, because he doesn't know what he's doing. Those guys came in shooting 40% of their shots from the three and we took five shots in the first half so you could see the game plan. They did a good job, we usually don't get beat on the board. You have to give them a ton of credit for that. We were able to dominate paint points, especially in the first half, but just couldn't lend it to any free throws at all. Anytime you give up 29 free throws, you're probably not going to win a game regardless of how poorly you may shoot."

