



MEN'S BASKETBALL POSTGAME CONFERENCE

Texas 69, K-State 66 | February 4, 2023

HEAD COACH JEROME TANG

Opening statement...

"First of all I want to thank our fans, it was an incredible environment. Everything that you dream about as a coach and our players to get to play in front of them. They were into the game, they were incredible and I just can't thank them enough. Blessed by the good Lord to be able to do this. I know normally I'm up here and we talk about watching things. I don't want to watch this one though. I want us to live with this feeling for the next 48 hours because our fans deserve better than what I did as a head coach and what we did as a staff and what we did as players on the floor in that second half and we will be different on Tuesday night."

On Keyontae Johnson's early foul trouble...

"It's tough when one of your best players picks up two fouls in the first couple seconds of the game and there are things that you feel like are inconsistent in what's considered a foul and what's not considered a foul, so that's got to be frustrating for him as a player and then we're putting him in and out of the game and really can't get into a rhythm. Hats off to Keyontae for being able to come in for the spurts he did in the first half and was effective offensively, but he wasn't able to help us rebounding, he wasn't able to help us defensively. And so it took a lot away from us in the first half."

On Marquis Nowell's turnovers...

"It's something that he has to do. And so he's got to play with his feet on the ground. I think teams are putting two guys on him and speeding him up and he's probably a little pressed right now and so we just got to get him to relax and make the simple play and trust that the ball will come back to him."

On what they needed to do better at the start of the second half...

"Well, they just came out and was way more physical than we were and more aggressive than we were. I don't know what the mindset was but we talked about coming out and owning the paint again because, I mean, in the first half it was I think 14 to 8 in the second half and it was flipped the other way. I think it was like 22 to, whatever, 6, they killed us in the paint and that was the difference in the ballgame. The points off of turnovers and the points in the paint and we just did not set the tone of the game. We let them set the tone of the second half."

SENIOR KEYONTAE JOHNSON

On how they can bounce back...

"Just going to practice tomorrow, just learn from film. Both games it was our mistakes that we messed up on and things we can fix. Good thing it wasn't nothing serious, just bad defensively, we turned the ball over a lot and they capitalized on it. So just limiting our turnovers, just giving us a chance to win."

On if the foul trouble limited his ability to defend and rebound...

"Yes, I did get into my head like when I had those early fouls. So I'm just trying to limit myself in gaining fouls and just find a way to stay on the floor really."

SENIOR MARKQUIS NOWELL

On if they felt rushed in the second half...

"That's not a thought but I felt like at a point in times we did get rushed which led to turnovers and fast break points for them. Also, in the second half, I feel like they came out and were the tougher team. They got a lot of second chance points, offensive rebounds, which led them to have momentum and be able to come back and win."

On what changed offensively when Keyontae Johnson got into foul trouble...

"I mean he's our go to player so it changes a lot when he gets two or three quick fouls. But we managed to fight through and continue to keep battling while he was out. But yeah, those two quick ones could change the whole narrative of a half or the game."



On if teams are defending him differently..

"It is different, I've got to adjust to what teams throw at me. Tonight I wasn't really good. I turned the ball over way too much which is something I take pride in. But in the first half of the season, they kind of let me catch the ball and let me do whatever I wanted to do. Now it's a little different with the second half of the season because they're trying to deny me and they're trying to keep the ball out of my hands. So I just got to watch film, and find out ways to be aggressive, but not hurt my team. I feel like tonight there was a point in times where I was over dribbling or trying to make the homerun play and that kind of cost us. So I'll watch film, and be better as a point guard and a leader so this won't happen again."

TEXAS HEAD COACH RODNEY TERRY

On Christian Bishop tonight..

"Chris has been working really hard over the last couple of games to kind of get himself back at the level he was playing about four or five games ago and he had some really good looks early in the first half. He missed a couple right around the basket that he normally makes and he was really hard on himself at halftime. We came in as a group collectively and watched a lot of turnovers. Wasn't so much that we were missing shots. We missed some easy shots but we had really bad turnovers in the first half so guys got a chance to visually see that on video. And we really just need to make simple plays. I mean, we need to base hits, we're trying to make home runs, we don't need home run plays, keep it simple and just value taking care of the basketball really."

On what they did to improve in the second half..

"Well really I think we got it pretty decent in the first half. There were three areas that we really needed to try to address and get better with and we, you know, we went right to the video with our turnovers. We had really bad turnovers in the first half and we knew coming into this ballgame here that we could not turn the ball and we need to value taking care of the ball. We knew we had to keep these guys off the glass and we gave him some second chance opportunities. So we sold offensive rebounds as well. And then we needed to move back, we didn't do a great job. We kind of stood around a lot in the first half, you know, we didn't have good cuts. We missed them easy shots, but we felt like we were a more efficient team that we showed in the first half and I thought the second half we kind of settled in a little bit and we didn't settle for some shots and we earned some baskets. We really want to try to get to the paint against these guys. And we were able to get to the foul line I think 21 times, which was huge for us. I think we had 11 free throws at the half which was big for us."

On Jabari Rice and his rebounds in the second half..

"Jarabari played a great game, you know, the courts and conference play. He came up big tonight, you know, not only from scoring, making free throws, but also you know, rebound the basketball for us and he's a good and big guard. He also did a great job trying to contain Keyontae Johnson. You're not gonna stop Johnson, Johnson is a terrific player for K-State and one of the better players in the league. You just have to try to contain him."

