



MEN'S BASKETBALL POSTGAME CONFERENCE

K-State 82, TCU 61 | February 7, 2023

HEAD COACH JEROME TANG

Opening statement...

"I first want to thank our fans. I was really upset last game more because like, our fans did such a great job and I felt as a coach I didn't have my team ready and so today to see our guys put that kind of effort out for 40 minutes, it showed how much they really appreciated our fans and what they bring to the table for us. Because this doesn't happen everywhere, right? Like, we can't take this thing for granted. And so secondly, I say this all the time, wins and losses, but I really, really, I'm so blessed by God to be the head coach here at Kansas State and I don't I mean, I don't take it lightly and to be able to work with these young man every day in this great environment with such wonderful people. I'm extremely blessed. Very, very thankful to Gene Taylor and President [Richard] Linton for giving me this opportunity."

On the intensity at practice leading up to this game...

"I'm really glad that they got the point. I am probably by nature a jackal, like I don't mind being the bad guy and I could do it every single day and it wouldn't bother me one bit. But it wouldn't be very fun for them and my staff wouldn't like me very much. So you hope that you have older guys and guys who understand the importance of, like that drive comes from within the locker room rather than from the coaching staff. But I just really felt like they needed that from me and so everybody up and down the hallway and the offices and in the locker room and in the gym and in the film room. Everybody was on eggshells these last few days on purpose, because there needed to be a heightened sense of urgency. And so yes, we did circle the wagon rebounding. We did a lot of things that maybe you might not do on a quick turnaround and stuff, but the message had to be sent and the guys received it. And now the hope is that on Thursday when we come back that I'm not the one that has to drive it. The players are the ones that drive it."

On Markquis Nowell breaking the single season assist record...

"Well man anytime you do like an all time record, like the most in the history. That's a really big deal. And Steve Henson is a really big deal around here and the guys that Steve Henson played with were really good players, right? And so it says two things. First of all, 'Quis was blessed with vision and he has a willingness to pass the ball. And secondly, he has some really good players around him too, because they're putting it in the hole. So it says a lot about him and a lot about our team. And so it's a great honor man. I'm proud of the kid. That young fella, he took the last loss really hard and I was proud of how he responded today."

On Tykei Greene's performance...

"We tell everybody that at some point in time during the season everybody on the team is going to have an opportunity to help us win a game. Tykei came to my office and he said 'Coach, man, is there anything that I could do to help us.' He said, 'Coach, whether you want me to play defense on the other team's best player and not let them touch the ball, whatever it is, I just want to be able to help contribute to our team winning. I told him I said, 'We're just trying to figure it out. Like we're working through some things it's not something you're not doing it's just, we're just trying to figure out how to like, get the most out of each guy. And all I asked him I said, 'Just to stay ready for me, just to stay ready and if you stay ready opportunities gonna come.' And tonight his opportunity came and he was ready."

On getting consistent bench production moving forward...

"Yeah, that's the key right? You know what coaches want is consistency, like you don't want 25 points one night and 2 the next, you just want to know what you're going to get. But I'm sure players want to know they're going to play a certain amount of minutes every night also, so we have to find that balance. But if we can get the production from Desi [Sills] and Tykei [Greene] off the bench, it makes us a much better team and harder to guard. So we're gonna keep trying to figure this thing out."

SENIOR GUARD MARKQUIS NOWELL

On breaking the single season assist record...

It's a blessing to be mentioned with those guys passing him, Steve Henson, is a blessing. It just shows how unselfish I am and he was at K-State. When you have a group of guys like we have here it's easy to get assists and it's easy to



make plays for others. I give credit to my teammates for finishing, from last year and this year for helping me break that record. I couldn't have done it without them."

On guys like Tykei and Desi stepping up...

"It's big time when we have guys contribute to the scoring load. They're going to key in on me and Keyontae [Johnson] for the most part so we have guys like Tykei and Desi who could finish and help us out. It's always good. Like Desi said, these guys have been putting in work since the summer. Tykei has been in the gym every morning shooting 500 threes since the summertime. Desi has been working at 7 in the morning. When you trust your work and when you stay ready, good things happen and that's what they've been doing."

SENIOR GUARD TYKEI GREENE

On his performance...

"It means a lot to have a game like this. I wanted to come in and help the team right away, especially after the two losses. So I just came in and did whatever I had to do to get the win."

On what part of his game gets him going...

"When the ball goes in the basket, when I dunk the ball or when I finish the tough layup, especially from people like 'Quis and Des, it means a lot. And that just boosts me up a lot to just keep falling."

SENIOR GUARD DESI SILLS

On if they got back to their brand of basketball...

"Yeah, Coach Tang said come out there just be aggressive. We've got to double team number 4 [Eddie Lampkin] then we just have to be us. We got away from that. I think we got too over the top. I mean we had I felt like we needed them L's even though we didn't want them L's. Now we're back to getting that greedy, now we back hungry, I feel like we're gonna make a run again. We all playing together, we know they're gonna key in on 'Quis and Keyontae [Johnson] so a couple guys got to step up. So we've got to keep playing together."

On guys adjusting to their roles...

"We the type of guys that we don't really care about we start or coming off the bench. We still gotta bring energy, effort, enthusiasm. Tykei is one good player, he stays ready. He's been in the lab, putting in the work and it's finally come to the light, that's what happens when you trust your work, and never get down on yourself. Always believe in yourself and bettering yourself. So I feel like he did that tonight."

TCU HEAD COACH JAMIE DIXON

Opening statement...

"Obviously congratulate them they played well, we didn't and I can't make it any more simple than that. Out rebounded by 12 and 19 turnovers so it didn't give us much of a chance. Plus we didn't shoot well so you know, we had it down to six and you think we can battle until the end but we just kind of shut down, missed some shots and it seemed like it just affected the defense down the stretch. So what was a closer game just got away from us. So congratulations to them. They responded, obviously we'd beat them before, so they were hungry, they were ready and they were coming off a loss, we were coming off a loss and they just seem to be more ready. We got some foul trouble, but you can expect that on the road and you got to play through it. I thought our minutes would keep a little bit better, which would help us as far as not playing too many minutes but it didn't. And so we've got to get better but congratulations to them, and a good win. Obviously I think they lost two in a row and we had lost so, got two teams coming in and they responded better than we did at their home place to get the split, so congratulations to them."

On the turnovers...

"There were some strange ones there, I mean, that's for sure. But you know, they were aggressive, they were into the ball and there's some strange ones too. I thought the end of the first half was strange. We got the foul away from the ball and we get the travel which I don't know how we dribbled and traveled. That could have been a two point and then it's six points. But yeah, we can analyze every one of the 19, but call it what you will, you can't have 19. So you if you want to put them in the forced or unforced category that's up to you, but 19 is a problem any way you look at it. We're a low turnover team too, so that's that's been one of our strengths but it's gone the other way a little bit. Probably Mike [Miles] being out has something to do with that. But we've got to get back to where we were."





On Eddie Lampkin...

"It's a hard one to figure out, I mean, you don't have many practices to see and he had a little bit of practice yesterday and you know, obviously, I thought he looked better as far as up and down the floor from what I can tell. He didn't seem to have the same lift, I think, but that's to be expected. I mean, you don't come back after being out that long and we've had a number of guys being out for long periods of time coming back and that just wears on you."

