



POSTGAME QUOTES

K-State 70, Oklahoma State 66 | January 20, 2024

HEAD COACH JEROME TANG

Opening statement...

"I know I sound like a broken record but man, our fans, students, the legends weekend, having 30 former players or managers, trainers, and different people back. It was just an awesome weekend and you know they gave us a boost because we really lacked energy. I can't tell you that I didn't see it coming because I did and we were on them but this time of year— it's not an excuse, right? We had some guys who were under the weather, but Oklahoma State made us look even further under the weather with how they played, their energy and their togetherness. Mike's [Boynton] got those guys. You can't look at their record and determine what kind of team they are and I think this might be six games that were less than five points that they could have won, and so I mean, they're right there and they got young talented dudes. Grateful for our fans. Told our guys that when you live right you try to do the right things. You honor God and God honors you and I just feel it's one of those nights where God allowed bank shot to go in and honored our guys to make some of the right plays at the right time. So thankful to him for this blessing to coach, be a steward of this program, and just so blessed to be here."

On Arthur Kaluma coming up clutch...

"Arthur's clutch. I think we got several dudes who are clutch. I think what Arthur did at the end of the half was he stopped trying to just drive the ball or make plays for other people which were leading to turnovers and he just shot the ball. I just told him, just shoot, like don't turn it over, just you catch it and just shoot it. I freed him up and he saw it go in and then I mean he was really good."

On winning ugly...

"Well, I like the fact that we embrace winning. I've never really seen an ugly win, I've seen a lot of ugly losses, right? And in this league, man, all you have to do is figure out how to win. We have a team and if we're all honest with ourselves, we look at our roster and stuff, we don't have a team that you think we're gonna go out there and score 90 points and it's gonna look really pretty. We have to make it like games like this where we get 10 steals, that's just what has to happen. Human nature takes over in situations like this where our guys even as much as we tell them and we show them and they look at the record and all of that and it all plays into it. So I'm just thankful for winning man, and we'll figure out how to make it look cute some other time but right now let's just keep winning."

On Kaluma defending his teammates and leadership roles evolving...

"Yeah, there has and you know, it's crazy that they come here and y'all ask about struggles right? And what if they made a whole bunch of shots and we lost the game, right? Would y'all have been like man, y'all are shooting really well, but you lost, right? At the end of the day, are we not here about wins, right? I'm proud of him for defending his teammates, the other team, they have a game plan too and Cam [Carter] is at the top and TP [Tyler Perry] is at the top and they were denying TP. I'm proud of Arthur for doing that. We've made the turn, I told you we have this analogy this year of taking a piece of metal and forging it into a weapon and now I feel like we have a weapon. Every guy is a weapon but they're just not as sharp as they need to be. So now we're filing the weapon. The Bible tells us that as iron sharpens iron so one man sharpens another. It doesn't say one coach sharpens a player, it says a man sharpens another and I've put it on them to help sharpen each other. Hold them accountable but then also, look out for them. And I think in the media Art's done a great job of looking out for them. And in private, they've done a really good job of starting to hold each other accountable. So it's not always coming from the coaches."

JUNIOR FORWARD ARTHUR KALUMA

On him scoring 23 points in the win...

"I felt like it just came naturally. I'm trying to focus on letting the game come to me, so I was just seeing my spots where I could be aggressive. And then at the end of the half, the three pointer that I hit, that was a drawn up play. So I knew I had to shoot it at that point. But other than that, I was just playing in the flow of the game."

On Will McNair's performance...

"Will's a great player, he knows his role, and he understands what he has to do when he comes in. He's a great big body that we can put against bigger players, and bigger offensive players. But Will's a senior, and he does what he





has to do to be on the court, and he's been a great leader for this team. And for him to come out here and do what he did tonight, it's just the sign of a great player."

On his preparation for today's game...

"I feel like coming off a top-10 win, teams often relax. I just wanted to make sure I was locked in for this game, because I know what can happen. They came out there and they fought us hard, and I'm just glad that we fought it out and got the win."

SENIOR CENTER WILL MCNAIR

On the physicality of the game...

"I think they [Oklahoma State] did a great job coming into the game. They probably pride themselves on being physical, and trying to out physical us, just going to get rebounds, stuff like that. And they did a good job of it."

On if the team is prepared to win close games like this one...

"Oh, yeah, for sure. I feel like winning is hard on any level, especially in the Big 12. So the ultimate goal is to get the win, no matter how it is. We love to win ugly and still learn from that win."

On how surprised he was with Arthur Kaluma's big game...

"He does it every day in practice, and we know it's nothing, we aren't really surprised [because] we see it every day in practice. Just the other day, against the scout team, he was going crazy, so we knew he was gonna have a great game coming into this game."

On his thoughts on the two-toned lavender uniforms...

"I think we should do it more often. I like it, it is different. It gives me an AAU feeling."

JUNIOR GUARD CAM CARTER

On the tip-in that he had on the sideline out-of-bounds play late in the game...

"It was a play that we practiced every now and then. I realized I had a small defender, so I looked at coach [Tang], and the first thing I thought of, the play was called 'nose,' and I tapped my nose and he agreed with it. But I also want to thank God and my teammates for having my back. When I was out there I was kind of losing my head a little bit, but they had my back."

On how he was able to recover in the second half after a rough start...

"I say a prayer. I kept praying through it all, and God answered my prayers. And he blessed me with some great teammates to help me keep my head on straight."

OKLAHOMA STATE HEAD COACH, MIKE BOYNTON

Opening Statement...

"It's pretty evident to anyone that's been watching this league for the first two weeks that it remains the most competitive, best, toughest conference in the country. I think that was on display in our game today. I feel for our young men because I thought they fought their butts off and competed at a time where, playing a bunch of young guys, it's hard to keep going when you're struggling. But I was proud of their fight, I was thankful for the way they competed and gave us the chance to win. Hats off to Kansas State, who made a few more plays down the stretch, to Arthur Kaluma, who really kind of kept them afloat for a long part of the first half. They really didn't have anybody else playing particularly well. And then they do what they've done in the last two years with Coach Tang, as they find a way to win close games. So congrats to them, and I look forward to getting back to my team and trying to figure out how to get better and ready for the next one."

On Arthur Kaluma's performance...

"He plays with a fearlessness that really good players have to have. I don't think he gets affected by missing shots. I've never coached him, but I recruited him a little bit in high school, and obviously at Creighton, and I've watched a lot of his film. It seems like he's very confident in himself, no matter how things are going at any given moment. So when you have that supreme confidence, you can play through those waves. That's ultimately what separates guys from being good players, and then ultimately being the best of the best, all conference type guys, and certainly when they were struggling early, he found a way to kind of put them on his back and keep them afloat in the first half. I thought





the shot at the end of the first half was a big one, going to half with a seven point lead, and getting the ball to start. Again in that moment, just being able to step up and knock it down was big for him."

On his team's overall performance...

"I liked a lot of things we did throughout the game, and honestly, I thought this was the best we defended in a really long time. We were able to schematically do some things that kind of kept them off balance. But for the most part, we did a pretty good job with Tylor Perry. He got a couple baskets late that hurt us. We went under a screen on him, and he made a three, and got into the lane and got our freshmen to leave the floor, and give them a foul, which is what smart, fifth year guys do, take advantage of the young guys. Hopefully in time our guys will grow up and be able to do that to other people. But I just like the way we competed today. We competed with fearlessness, and courage, and I think they expected to win, and we came up short."

