

Texas Tech Postgame Quotes

Texas Tech vs. Idaho State – November 25, 2016

TEXAS TECH HEAD COACH CHRIS BEARD

Opening Statement ...

"Give Idaho State credit in the first half. I don't think we played as well as we wanted to, but I think a lot of that was because Idaho State played great. They've got a veteran coach who does a great job. Both teams are fighting a little bit of adversity. Three games in four days with a tough travel day yesterday, but I thought Idaho State played great in the first half. I'm really appreciative of the fans we had here tonight. I know it was a tough day with a lot going on. We had a nice attendance in the lower bowl so we're very appreciative of that."

On the team's mental toughness and Zach Smith's performance ...

"Zach got us off to a great start in the second half. He made some aggressive drives early and made some defensive plays. That's where all the mental toughness comes in. It's not like football where after each play you can make a substitution or take a quick break. I guess not the way they play football these days. It's a game where there comes a time when you're really tired, but the game's going on – your teammate is at the scorer's table ready to come in, but you've got to find that other level. I've always thought that's mental toughness. We do that in practice a lot of time. We'll push the guys – we'll condition, run a couple hard sprints and then jump into a drill. I think today in the second half we saw a little bit of that character between talking about mental toughness and actually about being tough."

On Thomas Brandsma's success ...

"It means a lot because all coaches, ourselves included, we have things we believe in. We have a process. We have a culture, and you're always looking for results. You're always trying to show your players that if you put in the time, this is what can happen. Thomas is a walking demonstration of what our program is about. If you put time in at the gym, your game gets better. If you remain unselfish, good things happen. He's just a tough kid. I think what kind of gets lost in the Thomas Brandsma story is he's a pretty good player too. Tonight, to score eight points in 11 minutes, he's putting a little pressure on me to play him more."

On Keenan Evans stepping up in the second half ...

"Just trying to be more aggressive. Keenan's a pleaser. He wants us to do so well, he wants to do exactly what the coaches want him to do. He takes a lot of pride in being a point guard and executing what we want. Sometimes, you have to let the game come to you. So, I'm saying offensive patience. But if he has an open three, he needs to take that. I think as time goes on, Keenan and I will continue to get on the same page. Tonight, I was really proud of him in the second half of just being really aggressive. He's one of our better shooters. We want him to shoot the ball when he's open. Our team needs him to score for us to be the kind of team we want him to be. I thought he did a great job of being aggressive."

On what he has learned about his team through six games ...

"That's one of the big reasons why we all play in these multi-team events. You learn a lot about your team. You get to play against different styles. I mean, think about our team, we played against Auburn – one of the fastest up-tempo teams in college basketball. Then, less than 24 hours later, we played against a Utah State team that really executes in the half court. They run sets, and they had some talented forwards. Then, less than 24 hours later, you come back and play an Idaho State team that spreads you out and shoots the ball. So, we've had a chance to throw a lot of different information at

our guys and ask them to play different from game-to-game. We've done well in some regards and shown room for improvement in others. I also think we continue to be a team that is a balanced team. Tonight, we had five guys in double figures. A couple others around that eight or nine point mark. We've had different people step up. Anthony Livingston played great against Utah State. Tonight wasn't quite his night offensively so the next guy steps up. I think that's what I'm learning most about our team. Just like we thought, our identity seems to be our balance of how we have different players. I think it's a team that might not end up having a dominant leading scorer, but I think we could literally have seven or eight really good players in the Big 12. This could lead us to being competitive year one."

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FORWARD MATTHEW TEMPLE

On what he learned about the team on its first road trip to Cancun ...

"I think we've had four games in six days. It's been pretty hectic, but you know I'm proud of the way our teammates have responded. We had a little bit of adversity coming off a loss to Auburn. We really weren't happy with the way we played. It's good to see us respond in the second half today, and the other night [against Utah State] in a positive way. I'm proud of our teammates for stepping up in those kinds of circumstances."

On tying his career-high in points ...

"Credit to all my teammates, I had the easiest 11 points today that you could possibly have. Keenan was making plays and driving. Everyone else was making plays for me. It was good basketball, and it was really attributed to how my teammates played. They deserve all the credit."

FORWARD THOMAS BRANDSMA

On what he learned about the team on its first road trip to Cancun ...

"Cancun was good for us. I thought it gave us a chance to get away and bond as a team. Not only playing, but being out in Cancun as a team and having fun. I thought with the injuries we've had the last few games that everyone stepped up and gave people the opportunities to help the team win."

On being successful after transferring to Texas Tech ...

"It's a dream come true to have this opportunity to play here at a school like Texas Tech and in an arena like this in front of the fans. It's awesome, and I just hope to keep it going."

Idaho State Post Game Quotes

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IDAHO STATE HEAD COACH BILL EVANS

Opening Statement ...

"I think the Red Raiders played good, and they're really good defensively. I thought we would do a better job defensively against them. I knew we would have a hard time rebounding the ball. I think they're tough-minded, and they're a good rebounding team. We watched them twice in Cancun, They really wear you down as the game goes on. They're really tough and physical – it takes a toll. They were down to Auburn by almost 20 points, and they had a shot at the end to tie it. It was a six-point game with eight minutes to go with Utah State. You look up again, and Utah State is down 22. We cut it down to 11 at halftime. They made their first seven shots, and we were not good defensively. They made shots, and you have to give credit where credit is due."

On playing three games in four days ...

"I think it is hard, but they had to do the same thing. You know it's not a one sided affair. It's not that they have been all over the place, and we haven't. They have been with us, but it is hard. We're going to get up tomorrow morning at 3:30 mountain time and fly to Salt Lake. To be frank, we were way more concerned to be playing on Tuesday then I was playing today. Travel is hard, and you never know how it's going to effect a 20-year old. We play a good Lamar team on Tuesday. We only have three home until we get into the league. When you get opportunities to play you want to make the most of it, and I think we got our hands full with that. We played six games, and we had a chance to win four of them. New Mexico, we were right there. Utah Valley and the two games in Cancun – we lost by four in overtime to NJIT. We have had chances, but we did not have a chance today as the game went on. They took more of a command. At this point, it's done with. I'm concerned about Tuesday right now."