



TEXAS TECH

2016-17 LADY RAIDER BASKETBALL

1993 NCAA CHAMPIONS | 20 NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES | 5 BIG 12 TITLES

Wednesday, Dec. 14 | Central Arkansas

TEXAS TECH POSTGAME QUOTES

CANDI WHITAKER

Lady Raider Basketball Head Coach

Opening Statement...

"I really liked how our kids shared the ball and passed it. I thought we played some beautiful basketball at times. We got hot and made shots. It was a great win for us at home to start our break."

On playing well as a team in the second half...

"We've seen that start to develop. We've seen how the team can play together. We've had a week of really clicking, our chemistry is getting better on the floor. We had shots that we turned down for better shots and passed the ball really well."

On the aggressiveness of the team in the second half...

"We felt like we were a little timid in to start the game and weren't attacking traps, or trying to turn the corner as much as we should have been. That was an adjustment that our players made. We tried to be in transition offense, trying to run, get easier baskets, and play with the flow of the game."

On Brielle Blaire getting minutes tonight...

"It definitely helps when seven or eight players can get significant minutes. She gives us more depth, she's a great rebounder, and gives us length, and if anyone were to have an injury, we would be in big trouble if we didn't have her. We are excited for Brie, she's working hard but she has a difficult road. It's hard when you're sitting on the sideline to really know everything. A lot of these kids are kinesthetic learners. They have to do to know and it's going to take some time for her to feel more comfortable, particularly on the offensive end."

On Central Arkansas being 2-17 from the 3-point range...

"We did a really good job in the zone, being aware and getting to people. (Maggie) Proffitt got too many threes off, but a lot were contested or side stepped threes. We didn't give up a ton of open threes where they were open on an overload, so I thought our awareness was good."

On not having negative stats...

"We were not playing as hard as we needed to at times, but I didn't think we were bad in the first quarter. I thought we had a lot of good looks that didn't go down. We believe in our kids. They are going to make shots, they just have to stay the course. I think they know that. It was a matter of staying on course and once a couple shots go in, it catches fire."

On kicking off the rust after the week off...

"I think you could tell who had finals brain a little bit, but that happens. The biggest fear of a coach is the first game back after finals, after a week off. Their minds are tired, they have taking finals, cramming, and their minds are tired. For some of them, it's the first time they have done that, so they needed to clear their brain and focus."

On being 11-14 on free throws...

"We've been requiring quite a few free throws. It's very mental. Typically, when they go to the line, it's men-



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tal. They've got to have the confidence and believe they are going to make it. With most of our kids, none of it is technical."

On a boosted confidence after shots go in...

"I think it's really important. We do feel like we have a lot of people that can score the ball. In-game success: there's nothing like it. It's really important that we are very, very confident shooting the basketball, heading into Big12. I thought Ivonne (CookTaylor) played as well as I have ever seen her play since she has been at Texas Tech. She passed the ball, shot with confidence, and didn't take a bad shot. I don't think as a team we took a bad shot all night. We hit the open person and knocked shots down."

FRESHMAN GUARD ARELLA GUIRANTES

On what was working for the team...

"Our defense. We had a couple of stops and on shot clock violations that carried on to our transition offense. Ivonne (CookTaylor) did a nice job intercepting balls in the passing lanes, and we just fed off of everyone's intensity."

On the flow of the offense...

"I liked the way we moved the ball. We hit open players, made extra passes, and hit our shots. I think a lot of us had a high shooting percentage, so we just fed off of that."

On building her performance...

"Coach puts me in multiple rolls, so I have to learn to be versatile. It helps me grow and my teammates keep me in the game."

SENIOR GUARD IVONNE COOKTAYLOR

On starting slow in the first quarter and then picking up the pace...

"We just needed to play hard and everyone was aware of the lack of intensity that we were giving, and we just stepped up the intensity."

On seeing Brielle Blaire back on the court...

"It was good. She was excited and we are excited for her."

"She plays with emotion and brings a level of intensity."

On the flow of the offense...

"It is a different style of play for us. This is probably the first year that we have multiple scorers, which is a great asset for us."



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CENTRAL ARKANSAS POSTGAME QUOTES

SANDRA RUSHING

Central Arkansas Head Coach

Opening statement...

"I want to thank Texas Tech for having us here. Besides the whipping that we took, it was a great experience, first class program. I really do appreciate that we were out matched, and there was no question about it. They're really good. I just was hoping that we would compete a little bit more than what we did. I think their size, their quickness, and I think they're really aggressive, and we didn't handle that. We know the players they have, we scouted them, but personnel wise, we knew we would have a very difficult time with that."

On how Tech shut them down on the perimeter...

"I think that [Coach Whitaker] had some looks. I felt like we got rattled, and I really believe that. Maggie is a better shooter than that I hope that doesn't carry over, but I think she got a little frustrated when she missed a couple of them. She came to me and said 'what am I doing wrong', but you don't really mess with a shooter's mind, hopefully they'll adjust. But it was a bad shooting night for her."

On how Kierra Jordan's second game back...

"Knowing, coming into this game, we needed this, to go up against better competition, because now I know where we're at and where we need to work on. And the competition that we've had, and I didn't set the schedule like that, but it fell into place like that. Now we are getting ready to go into conference, and no coach wants to play the schedule that we had, but we want competition and we got it tonight. And that's great for us."

On Kierra...

"She's gotta pick it up. It showed tonight, against the competition level that she had, we have got a ways to go. But she will get there. She hadn't played in a year, so she might've had a little jitters."

On how the film will look...

"We aren't gonna get back and watch it, we are gonna get back on the bus and watch it. We are gonna watch this thing again, because I had to sit there and watch it, [the team] is gonna watch it again and they're gonna really see because as a coach, you can tell them things... I love this group, I didn't like them very much tonight. I really do love these ladies, but we have a long way to go, a long way, but we are going to see us loafing, we are going to see that we didn't go to the boards, that I thought we were not aggressive attacking their 2-2-1. I have to put a freshman in there, who I was really proud of, Taylor Sells. She's so quick, you can tell she's a freshman, was able to break the press up."

On what they can build on from this game...

"It gives me a lot to go back and get on my players and push them and shove them. Constructive criticism. Our last ball game we scored 92 points but as a coach I'm realistic, and we're still doing some things that we work in practice, but tonight, they pulled out our weaknesses. They set great screens, and they're very physical, and on our handoff, when we wanted to switch, I could have hit a shot if they were way off of me, and we've got to come out and contest. We've got to contest the shots, we've got to stay down not only on the ball but off the ball. Too many people stand and watch the game, and we got caught up watching the game on the floor tonight, and they just did exactly what they wanted to. Plus the talent level was different. Believe me, I'm excited to watch them as the year goes along... But we are going to get better, please keep watching us, but I do appreciate the opportunity to come here."

On having Coach Whitaker inviting them to come compete will improve their play...

"Just the level of competition. I would love to come back and play them again. When someone gets whipped like we did, I shouldn't really say that. We need this so we can build on conference, and I feel like we do have the tools that you did not see tonight. I also think that Maggie Proffitt or Brianna Mullins, our two conference players, did not play well tonight. I don't know if it's coming off finals or what, but I would love to come back and play. They beat us pretty bad, they might have us back. Tech has been first class. Everybody has been wonderful, and I really do appreciate it."