



Texas Tech vs. Texas Southern

Texas Tech Head Coach Tubby Smith

Opening statement:

I love the way our guys showed a lot of toughness, a lot of heart and so did Texas Southern. I thought their ability to drive the ball to the basket was a real challenge for us all night. There were some errors we need to get better at, but I was pleased with the way we closed the game out.

What can you say about Dusty's performance down the stretch?

He's capable of doing that. We didn't start him tonight because I was concerned about the defense, but we need his outside shooting and we need his play. So I was very impressed with both he and Rob, and Jaye because they logged a lot of minutes.

Do you think the game would have been as close without the hand-checking rule?

No. When you're bigger than a team or guarding a smaller guy, it's going to be tough so you have to really work at it. Their transition offense hurt us early on.

Can you elaborate on your relationship with Coach Davis?

We coached against each other a number of times while he was at Indiana and I was at Kentucky. He's been around and he's an outstanding coach. I think he's found a pretty good niche at Texas Southern and they'll probably win their league again this year. We'll see them in the NCAA tournament.

How did your depth help you tonight?

Well our bench, that's the key. We really don't have that one guy that we can just throw the ball to and every night we can count on him getting 25 points a game. So it's got to be a team effort; that's what I like about this group. I told each guy before they go in to the game to do something productive and positive when they're in and I think for the most part they did.

How big were some of the blocks?

Well you can imagine if you hadn't blocked them, we would've lost the game because they were getting by us and getting the ball inside and that puts a lot of pressure on our front court people.

Can you talk about Jaye's performance tonight?

He's a clutch player. What I like is that he's calm in his demeanor and it's influential on me because I can look out there and know I can count on Jaye doing the right things and that's what I appreciate about him.

How do you plan to stop defensive players from scoring over 20 in the future?

I don't know, but it's two nights in a row. We've got to find someone that wants to be the challenger. We tried a lot of different people on Rodriguez, but, it didn't work.

Can you talk about the adjustments you had to make once Jordan got in to foul trouble?

We played Aaron and he did a good job. I thought Alex gave us some good minutes before we went to a smaller line up. We've got to do a better job, and Jordan's got to do a better job of protecting. But I like our bench and I like the way we're making adjustments and that's what you have to have, it's not just one guy.

Was it nice to hear the crowd get in to it today?

They were great; it was excellent. We need more, but that's a start.

Texas Tech Senior Jaye Crockett

Jaye, what did you think of our defense tonight?

That new foul rule makes it a lot harder to guard in the post. It's kind of difficult to be aggressive down there, on defense, but I thought it was pretty good for the most part.

What about the blocks?

They gave us some energy—I like them. We need more of them.

Jaye, can you talk about what the atmosphere was like on the floor tonight?

Well we're coming in to a big tournament, so we have to go in with that energy every night. Whether it's Brooklyn, Pittsburg, or Stanford, it doesn't matter who we're playing, we just have to be ready.

After the Alabama game, coach said you guys needed to be more attack more and get to the free throw line, how did you see yourself and your teammates get to the basket?

I think Rob did a good job. Everybody else needed to work on it a little more. I think we settled for jump shots too much and that's why we don't get that many fouls, so we just need to penetrate more.

Jaye, could you talk about the block that Kader had?

It got them (Texas Southern) a little wound up. We were talking down there so that probably helped too, but for the most part it gave us energy because after that we were motivated to play defense harder.

Texas Tech Junior Robert Turner

What adjustments did you all make tonight? (In regards to turnovers tonight versus Alabama game)

Just handling their pressure and making smarter decisions.

How big was Dusty tonight?

It makes it easier on guys like me that when we get in to the lane; we know we have a guy that's sharp shooting out there. So he's a big player for us right now and in the future of the season as well.

What were the rebounding issues tonight?

We gave up too many second chances rebounds to them and that's just us being lazy. We weren't aggressive on the boards, so we'll have to work on that.

How much did Murray's foul trouble put you all in a bind?

He's our best player and he only played 20 minutes. So that's a big blow to us.

Describe your respect level for Coach Smith?

Coach Smith is great. His team played really hard, they're getting better and tonight was probably their best game.

Can you talk about Rodriguez's play tonight?

With the rules are supposed to be called, Jose is really good at going to the basket. It's almost impossible for a three, four guy to guard him off the dribble getting to the basket. He really takes advantage of that in the open court.

What did you like about your guys' rebounding?

Well I thought we made some mistakes, some defensive errors down the stretch, but overall, I'm proud of the effort they gave and I think we're getting better.