



Oklahoma's Jamuni McNeace, top, blocks a shot from Texas' Kerwin Roach Jr. as Kameron McGusty defends at Lloyd Noble Center in Norman on Tuesday. (PHOTO BY BRYAN TERRY, THE OKLAHOMAN)

OKLAHOMA 70, TEXAS 66

Red River redemption

Oklahoma snaps seven-game skid with home win over Texas

NORMAN—Several times in Tuesday night's game against Texas, injured Oklahoma point guard Jordan Woodard came over to his young teammates with a message.

Most times, the message was the same.

"Don't lose to Texas," Woodard said repeatedly—on the bench, in the locker room before the game and at halftime and in timeouts.

His teammates didn't let him down.

Freshman Jordan Shepherd, one of Woodard's replacements, hit a pair of critical 3-pointers late and Jamuni McNeace turned in a career game as the Sooners snapped a seven-game losing streak with a 70-66 win over the Longhorns in front of an estimated 4,074 at Lloyd Noble Center.

Woodard's conversations with Shepherd in particular were a little more involved.

Not long after Shepherd entered the game for the first time, a Texas player back cut Shepherd. The Longhorn missed the shot but Woodard let the freshman know about the mistake.

"Keep your head on a swivel," Woodard told the youngster.



OU BASKETBALL

Woodard tore his anterior cruciate ligament in Saturday's loss at Iowa State, ending his Oklahoma career.

When Woodard missed four games earlier this season, the Sooners lost each time out but that was the beginning of the emergence of freshmen Kameron McGusty and Kristian Doolittle on the offensive end and the Sooners seem better prepared to deal with Woodard's absence now.

"We were prepared for it," Shepherd said. "What happened kind of hit us suddenly so we had to grow up a lot quicker. We couldn't wait six games and wait until next year to grow up. We had to grow up immediately."

Shepherd showed that growth in the closing minutes, hitting a 3-pointer that gave the Sooners a 58-56 lead with 4:31 left and the shot clock winding down.

Oklahoma never relinquished that lead.

Plenty of times during

both this losing streak and the seven-game losing streak earlier in the season, the Sooners were in games late but wilted down the stretch for a variety of reasons—not making key free throws, failure to come up with defensive stops or failure to handle defensive pressure.

There was little of that visible against Texas.

The Sooners (9-16, 3-10 Big 12) turned the ball over just nine times, maintaining their composure in the final minutes.

When the lead stretched to six on Shepherd's second 3-pointer, with 2:55 left, Oklahoma kept the momentum rolling with McGusty's fifth steal of the game, helping the Sooners stretch the lead to eight.

"I thought we had some good defensive stops at that point," Sooners coach Lon Kruger said. "This group's gotten better. They really have. It's fun to watch them grow and it's disappointing to not win more games for them as well as everyone but we've got to keep getting better."

McNeace tied a career with 14 points and pulled down a career-high 14 rebounds for his first career double-double.

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TEXAS	FG	FT	Reb	O-T	A PPTS
Allen	37	8-16	1-8	2-10	2 2 17
Cleare	20	5-7	0-0	2-6	1 3 10
Davis	32	2-9	0-0	0-3	0 1 4
Jones	38	5-12	0-0	1-4	3 0 12
Roach	34	4-10	5-6	0-4	5 4 13
Young	16	2-3	0-0	1-1	1 4 5
Yancy	11	1-1	1-2	2-3	1 4 3
Banks	9	1-1	0-0	0-0	0 5 2
Isom	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0 0 0
Totals	28-59	7-16	8-31	13 23	66

Percentages: FG .475, FT .438.

3-Point Goals: 3-11, .273 (Jones 2-4, Young 1-2, Roach 0-1, Davis 0-4).

Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: 13 (0 PTS). Blocked Shots: 3 (Allen 2, Banks).

Turnovers: 13 (Jones 6, Roach 3, Allen 2, Davis, Young).

Steals: 6 (Roach 2, Davis, Jones, Yancy, Young).

Technical Fouls: None.

OKLAHOMA	Min	M-A	M-A	O-T	A PPTS
Doolittle	17	1-4	7-9	4-7	2 5 9
Lattin	12	1-4	1-2	0-4	0 4 3
McGusty	31	5-13	0-1	0-2	1 1 11
Odomes	29	4-5	3-5	2-6	0 1 11
Strong-Moore	17	0-5	1-2	0-0	1 0 1
McNeace	26	6-10	2-2	5-14	0 3 14
Shepherd	23	2-3	1-2	0-3	2 3 7
James	20	1-6	4-4	1-2	2 3 6
Buford	20	1-6	3-4	1-3	0 1 6
Freeman	3	0-2	0-0	0-0	0 0 0
Cole	2	1-1	0-0	2-2	0 0 2
Totals	22-59	22-31	15-43	8 21	70

Percentages: FG .373, FT .710.

3-Point Goals: 4-21, .190 (Shepherd 2-3, Buford 1-5, McGusty 1-5, Odomes 0-1, Freeman 0-2, Strong-Moore 0-2, James 0-3).

Team Rebounds: 1. Team Turnovers: 9 (0 PTS). Blocked Shots: 4 (McNeace 2, Doolittle, Odomes).

Turnovers: 9 (Odomes 3, Shepherd 2, Doolittle, James, Lattin, McGusty).

Steals: 9 (McGusty 5, Lattin 2, McNeace, Strong-Moore).

Technical Fouls: None.

Texas	39	27	-	66
Oklahoma	38	32	-	70

"I thought from the start, he was engaged and he was active on both ends of the floor," Kruger said. "He rebounded the basketball and finished offensively. He has a terrific upside and will continue to get better and better."

OU BASKETBALL JOURNAL

McGusty comes up big defensively in win

NORMAN — Kameron McGusty's offense has gotten plenty of attention as he extended his streak of scoring in double figures to 13 games in Tuesday's 70-66 win over Texas.

But against the Longhorns, it was McGusty's defense as much as anything that helped lift Oklahoma.

His five steals led to six of the Sooners' 12 points off turnovers. In a one-minute span late in the first half, the freshman turned two steals into quick fast-break layups on the other end to keep the Sooners within striking distance.

"Our wings did a good job of getting up and making it difficult for them to get comfortable," Sooners coach Lon Kruger said. "In Austin, they were pretty comfortable running their stuff and our guys battled a little bit better tonight."

Woodard watches from bench, receives standing ovation

Only once before Tuesday's home game against Texas had Jordan Woodard watched Oklahoma play from the bench.

Three days after his Sooners career ended with a torn anterior cruciate ligament suffered against Iowa State, Woodard watched as the Sooners beat the Longhorns.

He sat for most of the game between his two fellow seniors, C.J. Cole and Daniel Harper.

During the first media timeout of the game, Woodard's career highlights played on the video board at Lloyd Noble Center, ending with a rundown of where Woodard finished on various career categories and a message of thanks.

As the video finished, the crowd gave Woodard a standing ovation.

Woodard also watched from the bench Dec. 21 as OU lost to Auburn but was not in the arena for the next three games before returning to action Jan. 10 against Kansas.

Cole gets first-half action again

Foul trouble by Khadeem Lattin and Jamuni McNeace led once again to Cole getting on the floor in the first half.

Against the Longhorns, Lattin picked up two fouls within four seconds of each other about nine minutes into the game while McNeace picked up his second with 1:41 remaining in the half.

A few seconds after entering the game, Cole scored close to the basket to give the Sooners their first lead of the game.

It was Cole's first points since Nov. 18 against Northern Iowa.

Of Cole's 18 minutes of action since Big 12 play began, half have come in the first half due to foul trouble by both of the Sooners' big men.

Up next: Bedlam on the road

Oklahoma travels to Stillwater to take on Oklahoma State at 7 p.m. Saturday (ESPNU).

The Sooners lost 68-66 to the Cowboys at home on Jan. 30 on Phil Forte's late 3-pointer.

Oklahoma has not been swept by the Cowboys in the regular season since 2004.

BY RYAN ABER, STAFF WRITER



Oklahoma's Rashard Odomes, center, celebrates with Jamuni McNeace, left, Kameron McGusty and Kristian Doolittle, following Oklahoma's win over Texas on Tuesday. (PHOTO BY BRYAN TERRY, THE OKLAHOMAN)



Edmond North's Veronica Harjo, left, shoots as Norman North's Emma Base defends on Tuesday. Edmond North won 52-42. (PHOTO BY SARAH PHIPPS, THE OKLAHOMAN)

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

No. 3 Shawnee overwhelms No. 4 Piedmont

SHAWNEE — Shawnee coach Wendi Wells calls Kasey Rice the team's Energizer Bunny. And it's for good reason.

The junior never slowed down Tuesday night, proving nearly impossible for Piedmont to guard.

"She's all over the place offensively and defensively," Wells said. "She just cuts so well to the ball, she moves without the ball and you never know where she's going to be."

The result: No. 3 Shawnee routed No. 4 Piedmont 62-39 behind a balanced attack on both ends of the floor to win the Suburban Conference championship.

Shawnee (17-5) has found a rhythm in its past seven games — all wins. It blew out Carl Albert on Monday, showing perhaps its ready for the



HIGH SCHOOLS

upcoming postseason.

"We've got bigger things coming up," Wells said. "We go east (for the playoffs). We've got the top three seeds in the entire state going east and it's going to be tough."

Against Piedmont, the Wolves were methodical with crisp ball movement and suffocating defense that forced 11 turnovers and allowed only Maddie Sperle to reach double figures (14).

"We're playing more as a team" Rice said. "We kept them in front of us."

Rice embraced her nickname, saying, "she goes as

fast and as hard she can." She made her first five shots and finished 8 of 12 from the floor to total 18 points. She also had four rebounds and four assists.

Sophomore Makyra Tramble dominated, too, with 15 points — including three 3-pointers — and eight rebounds. Senior Logan Bonner also had 12 points, all on 3s.

Mustang upsets top-ranked Santa Fe

Just 11 days ago No. 13 Mustang was blown out by nearly 30 points by No. 1 Edmond Santa Fe.

But that was then. Tuesday was entirely different.

Mustang senior Logan Haller made a decisive free throw with 13.6 seconds remaining to lift the Broncos to a 40-39 upset of the

Wolves on the road. Santa Fe, which had started the year 20-0, lost on consecutive nights after falling to No. 4 Deer Creek on Monday.

Mustang was led by senior Abby Niehues, who had 11 points. Haller finished with six.

Junior RaVon Nero led Santa Fe with 10.

Tip-ins

Edmond North's Veronica Harjo scored 19 points in a 52-42 win over Norman North. ... Choctaw's Ana Lianusa scored 23 and Bailey Golden followed with 20 as the second-ranked Yellowjackets held off Putnam City 68-57. ... The sophomore duo of Brandi Jordan and Nakiya Stevenson combined for 30 points in a 60-53 win over Noble.