BAYLOR HEAD COACH KIM MULKEY

Opening statement...

“First of all, I want to thank the student section. I thought our students were awesome tonight, they were here in great number and we need them to come back. Please write how important our students are to us. Defense guys and rebounds - I thought Alyssa and Cox sucked up every rebound and didn’t allow them to get defensive rebounds. I challenge every game it seems like Juicy and perimeter players - DiDi to guard the best players on the other teams and they had their hands full again tonight and I thought they did a great job. When you hold a West Virginia team to 18 points in the first half, I feel like that’s good defense and when you have an opportunity to play as many kids as we played, not just tonight - in the Kansas game last game, that’s only going to make us better. That’s going to allow a lot of people to rest and I don’t feel that tonight’s game or the Kansas game that we missed a beat, no matter who was on the floor. Moon Ursin was such a spark on the floor tonight for us. Queen, Trinity and everyone who went in for us in the first half. That gave me confidence as a coach. It gives me confidence that they are confident now and when you have a team that is doing those things, that deep into your bench - you are going to win a lot of basketball games.”

On the bench...

“The other night in Kansas the first half, they played the entire second quarter - they extended the lead and they should. Here is the challenge for them - coaches tend to have shorter rope for people who sub in - don’t turn the ball over or you come out. They are growing in their confidence and I’m growing in their confidence in them because of how they are playing on the floor and it’s not on the offensively end, it starts on the defensive end. They are doing it against starters for the opposing team. That’s when you know your team is pretty darn good - when they are doing it against starters. Another great victory for us tonight and we are playing good - we are scoring the ball at all positions. They are making me look like a good coach.”

On breaking previous conference win streak...

“Hard to do. Y’all have heard me say it a million times, I think people become spoiled. I think the fans become spoiled and I think they expect it. We go out there and approach it like it’s the next big game we’ve got to win. We don’t think things will be handed to us. We think it will be a lot tougher because of the success of the previous teams. It’s not easy. I don’t care how it looks sometimes, it’s not easy. These kids just respond. They work in practice, they enjoy each other and they’re pulling for each other. We had three starters sitting over there by me, and I told two of them, they picked up their third foul taking charges. I live with that because they’re trying to do something on the defensive end of the floor. Reaching, being lazy and all that stuff is a different type but when you’re standing there, and you think you’ve got a charge, I want them to take it. And to be able to substitute for those guys that never miss a beat. It makes you realize as a coach you’ve got a special bunch out there.”

BAYLOR SOPHOMORE FORWARD NALYSSA SMITH

On what to expect when the starting five is not on the floor...

“I know everybody’s talented out there. We practice against each other all the time. Everybody just goes head to head with it every day so when we do play a different opponent it’s like nothing changes. We’re still playing the same people. It’s a lot of talent coming off the bench with different players like Queen [Egbo], Moon [Ursin], Trinity [Oliver] gave us great minutes. Just staying consistent, that’s the thing.”

On approach to rebounding...

“Well that’s mainly what we focus on in practice is rebounding. We spend like an hour or something on it. We just throw the ball up and rebound, rebound, rebound. When I get in the game that’s my main goal. I know that helps my team a lot. We’ve been rebounding well lately. The plan is to stay on track with that.”

BAYLOR JUNIOR GUARD MOON URSIN

On tonight’s performance...

“I think my teammates were finding me a lot tonight and they always talk about, coach especially, to shoot the ball. So, I’ve been trying to do that. I want to be another threat out on the perimeter to relieve our post players a little bit, but tonight I saw the first two go down and then the third. I just got in the rhythm after a while.”

On role coming off the bench...

“We play against our starters every day so naturally we’re getting better. We mix it up in practice because you never know who’s going to be in the game with you. So yes, my role changed. We have defensive threats all the time with the first five and we also can play defense, but I know that when I’m in there with them I’m trying to defend. I’m trying to grab rebounds. The other stuff we have, we’re packed with that and it just comes naturally. You make a defensive stop and then I don’t really have to worry about offense.”

On the student section...

“It’s definitely something you notice, especially being on that end of the court. They’re yelling our names, they’re cheering for us, they’re making all these comments and they’re getting us going. When you look up there and you see them all standing up excited cause you made a big play, I mean it makes a difference for us. We want to see that because that makes us want to make another big play so that’s another motivation for us.”

WEST VIRGINIA HEAD COACH MIKE CAREY

Opening statement...

“I really don’t have a lot to say. Baylor has a great team and they played five times harder than we did. That’s two games in a row people have played harder than us. We have no discipline right now. I was just in the locker room telling them how important discipline is. We have to get discipline back into the program. We have no discipline. That’s my fault. I’ll get the discipline back. Bad shots, don’t reverse the ball and we have people that are trying to do too many one-on-one’s. Bad shots lead
to layups on the other end. Baylor has a great team.”

On the discipline issue being new...
“It’s just the last two games. I don’t know what it is. We played a little bit harder this game than we did against Oklahoma, but we don’t have any discipline. I don’t blame that on the players. If there are no consequences, they’re not going to do it. So there’s going to start being some consequences.

On playing against DiDi Richards and the Baylor defense...
“She’s a great defensive player, but here’s an idea: come off a pick. Set up a pick. Give a ball fake and don’t try to shoot over her. Get in the lane and if somebody helps, kick the ball out. There’s a lot of things you can do. Get an offensive rebound or a steal. There’s a lot of stuff, but you have to use picks.