

March 13, 2013



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An interview with:

COACH KRYSTKOWIAK JASON WASHBURN JARRED DuBOIS

THE MODERATOR: Coach, an opening statement, please?

COACH KRYSTKOWIAK: Well, I think it was a great effort, I thought, by our guys coming out of the gate. Managed to build ourselves a couple of double-digit leads and got away from playing the way we were playing a little bit.

We had some untimely turnovers and gave up some big offensive rebounds. Some highlights for our network. But I was really proud of our guys.

I think we've grown this season. Earlier in the season, these are the kind of games that withered away and we had a hard time closing. I thought we had some guys making big time plays. Couple of guys sitting next to me that helped kind of put an end to it. So we're thrilled to be moving on.

Q. To kind of piggy back off of what you said, there was Sacramento State and Cal State Northridge and a lot of games you --

COACH KRYSTKOWIAK: Well, you didn't have to mention names.

Q. Sorry, I didn't mean to call them out. But what does it mean that the guys have matured over the course of the year to the point that one point lead, pressure on, it's March, and the guys can make the big shots and make the big plays?

COACH KRYSTKOWIAK: I think that's the growth of a team. We're trying to get from point A

to point B and move on from the next one. And I thought those games that you talked about, preseason games for us, we still have to learn how to win. We have to learn how to win in a lot of different ways, whether you're fighting and scratching right down to the wire or protecting the lead.

Both of those games you mentioned are games that are a young team that weren't in positions not having won a lot of games the previous year. Part of it is me, too. I'm going through the learning curve with the guys, believe me. I've looked back on those two games that you've mentioned and I'd do a lot of things different as well.

But we also had our guys grow throughout the year. We've managed to win some games going away. We've managed to win some close games. And fortunately, in this game, it's one that maybe we can look back upon the experience we had earlier.

You tell guys everything happens for a reason. And if you don't have some of those games losing leads, you probably can't really reach upon it for a situation like this that is on a much bigger stage.

Q. Did you feel like coming in that it was important to contain Jio Fontan and J.T. Terrell, especially there in the first half? Did you feel like that was an important thing to do? What was the thought there?

COACH KRYSTKOWIAK: Well, no. Some guys that are putting up some serious numbers. Terrell is a guy that's scored in double figures 16 of the last 17 games and had some incredible range. Fontan, I think, is as good a pick-and-roll guard. One of the top three, probably, in our league, a senior that's been around, and you know you're going to get some of those guys' best punch.

But that was the plan. We didn't do a great job in the second half. I thought the first half was tremendous. The shooting percentages,

keeping those guys down. Oraby did a great job and gave them a big lift early on in the game. It's a well-rounded team, and almost five guys in double figures on their squad.

So it's hard to put one guy -- Wise is an isolation guy. Fontan is a pick-and roll guy. Shooter in Terrell, and obviously a big, capable big. So it wasn't like there was one head to the snake, but it was kind of multi-faceted, I thought, with a few guys trying to limit their opportunities.

Q. You guys are just a few weeks away from your game at Cal where they got you pretty good. But it appears you're a different team now and what you did tonight. Can you talk about what your mindset will be going into that game tomorrow, and how you can give them a better game than you did last time?

JARRED DuBOIS: I think we're a different team than we were two days ago. We take pride in moving forward and improving each day. So we're just going to try to come out, rebound, defend, take good shots and see what happens from there.

Q. They got 12 straight and pulled to within one point and you kind of almost took the team on your shoulders. You made two baskets and a nice assist. Can you talk about that and what your mindset was at that point?

JARRED DuBOIS: : I was just trying to make plays. I think it's important as a senior that you try to do whatever you can to win. Early in the season, I don't think I did a good job of that. So I'll try to do a better job of either getting a rebound, a stop, a charge. Or tonight, it was make a big play by scoring or getting open guy the ball.

Q. You guys have won three in a row now. I think before that you had won three since New Year's Day or something like that. Do you feel the momentum coming? I mean, do you feel like you're the hot team in this tournament?

JASON WASHBURN: I feel like we're coming together when we need to come together at the right time. Obviously, you want to win a lot at the beginning of the season and through conference play. But I think this team is really starting to understand what we need to do to win basketball games against good, solid teams here in the Pac-12.

As I said earlier, we're going up against a tough defensive team again with arguably the best

player in our conference, and we're going to have to be even better than we were tonight and we'll have to take the fight to them.

Q. When they closed it to 1, can you just talk about the mindset of the team? Did you see anything in their eyes or anything, Larry, that this game was not going to slip through their fingers?

COACH KRYSKOWIAK: I mean, that's what we're trying to exude as a staff. We've been there before. We just had a heck of a time pick-and-roll I thought was big, having 42 points in the paint. There was a lot of penetration that got us and some missed shot opportunities.

But we've got to be a lot better defensively. Not to take anything away from USC, but we've got to be a lot better in terms of more physical and defending the basketball against the team we'll face tomorrow or it could be a little bit embarrassing for us.

I thought we missed some open shots as well in the game. Our shooting percentage was low, but I thought we missed a bunch of shots that were quality shots.

Just remind guys to stick with the basics, rebound and defend and you don't need to talk about anything that's happened in the past. You need to talk about the next possession, and we've got some rebounds and got stops when we needed to.

Q. J.T. hit that real tough shot to draw them within 47-45. He appeared to have a few words for the bench and then you said something back. Was that just good natured, you can't guard me and you kind of responding right there? That little exchange?

COACH KRYSKOWIAK: He said, "You can't guard me." I said, "Well, there is no way I can. I don't have a uniform." No, I knew he was in our bench's area, for sure. It's the emotions of college basketball. It's all well and good. Guys are fired up. I think the referees did a nice job of addressing it, just making sure something doesn't escalate. But it's enthusiasm at its finest, and that's why this is so much fun in March.

Q. You made reference to Cal a minute ago. Can you talk about what other challenges they present to you? Especially what they do defensively? They played pretty well

defensively recently.

COACH KRYSTKOWIAK: Yeah, they do. That was an 18-point game the last time we played them. It was an opportunity, I thought, where we had maybe a five-point lead right up until 4 minutes to go in the half.

So I don't know that we need to come up with another master plan or something different. It's just a really physical team with a couple of the best back court guys, I think, between Crabbe and Cobbs and Wallace is coming on. They were the hot team, still are probably the hot team short of the loss at Stanford. They were on a roll. They just do a great job of pick-and-roll coverage. They do a great job of banging you with their bigs. And they always have the deep threat from three.

We've kind of addressed what we did wrong in Cal, and I think hopefully we can address some of those things and be more competitive on the next opportunity.

Q. I'm curious what you make of Vegas compared to LA?

COACH KRYSTKOWIAK: Well, I said it yesterday, it's not just because we won the game. But I'm a fan of Vegas. I've enjoyed coming here. I know when you take a look at our section of tickets, I'm pretty biased when you can look up and see all that red and we've got two different sections.

It meant a lot, I think, to our players coming out of that locker room to start a game knowing that we've got a great group of fans that are following us and believing in us and coming down here, friends and family.

I've got friends and family from all over the place that are coming, and I know didn't come to LA. So I think we're doing something right, and it seems to be building some momentum and should do nothing but get better and better as this tournament moves along.

Q. So you're saying they're not coming for you? They're coming for Vegas?

COACH KRYSTKOWIAK: I think that's part of the reason of having them come and of doing it here. For a lot of fans, it's a win-win. If our team does well, then we just get to have that much more fun. If our team should lose a game, it's not like you're looking to get home. There are still options for people to do. I think that's why you see multiple tournaments here on this weekend. It just makes a lot of sense. They've done a nice job. I've been a big fan of being here at the MGM, and



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the hospitality, and everything about it is really solid.

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