

March 9, 2006



An Interview With:

TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS

**COACH BOB KNIGHT
TANNER OGDEN
JARRIUS JACKSON**

THE MODERATOR: Congratulations on your victory today over *Kansas State*. We'll open it up for questions for our student athletes.

Q. *Tanner*, it's nice to meet you. Can you tell us a little bit about your game today and just, you know, how did it all come about, really quite a performance for you?

TANNER OGDEN: I was trying to come off the bench, give the team a spark. We start off a little slow. Came down at the end of the half and just tried to play well on defense and just not turn the ball over and just hit a couple of shots.

Q. *Tanner*, did you have any idea you were going to play this much? I noticed you played a little bit more in the last couple of games, did you see this coming?

TANNER OGDEN: Before the game, Coach told me to get ready, so you never know. So, some days, you know, he tells me to get ready and I don't ever come in. You just always have to be prepared.

Q. *Jarrius*, do you feel okay today? You looked like you were struggling with your wind in the first half, the struggles had you early on?

JARRIUS JACKSON: I think I had off day shooting, but we still got the win. Still put it out at the end. But I am all right.

Q. You happen to see who is scouting you for Texas today?

TANNER OGDEN: My brother is back there in the back I saw him over there on the sideline. During my warm-up he was making jokes at me or whatever, so, I saw him over there.

Q. Can you guys talk about facing Texas tomorrow and the challenges they present?

JARRIUS JACKSON: We think they present a very big challenge. I think it is a very big opportunity for us. We just have to answer that opportunity.

TANNER OGDEN: They are good team, one of the best teams in the nation. We just have to come in there and play our game. Try to compete.

Q. *Jarrius*, *Tanner* was saying that he came in trying to give the team a spark. Did you feel like, you know, when he made a couple of three points, took the ball in the basket, what kind of effect did you think he had on the team?

JARRIUS JACKSON: I think he came off the bench today, gave the team a very big spark, him as well as the other players too that came off the bench today. They just helped us out on the team on the floor and the bench. I think everybody came out of the bench today gave us a spark.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you guys for coming.

Q. Coach, talk about the impact *Tanner* had on this game. He said you told him to be ready today, that's not always the case, doesn't always means he's going to play but he did today?

COACH BOB KNIGHT: I thought actually I told him to be ready when he was getting off the bus because I thought this would be a really good opportunity for us to use him today. He came in and really -- he made all the difference in the world for us, with some plays -- he got really crucial rebounds. He handled the ball well. It wasn't just the fact that he scored 14 points, but did he an awfully good job for us today.

Q. Talk about what -- you said you thought he might have a chance to have impact

today. Why is that? What did you see?

COACH BOB KNIGHT: I watched him practice for three years. I have seen things that he can do, and there are things that he can do were things that we might very well needed to.

Q. (Inaudible) he's averaged 6 minutes a game for the year. What it is that you saw today that made him --

COACH BOB KNIGHT: This isn't nuclear science. When he made a three, I left him in a little longer. And then he hit another three and I said, goddam, I left him in a little longer. Then he made a helluva drive and I said damn, stay in there.

Q. Talk about the prospects of facing Texas tomorrow and the challenge?

COACH BOB KNIGHT: I haven't really thought about that.

What I try to do simply here today was I have always thought that you start out the season trying to win the National Championship. When that's eliminated you are trying to go to the **NCAA**. You just -- always have a goal.

Our goal today was simply that in the first four years we have been here we have won at least one game in a tournament. Our goal was to win a game in the tournament. And then see what we can do from there. So now we'll try and work on what we have to do from there from the rest of the day.

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An Interview With:

KANSAS STATE WILDCATS

COACH JIM WOOLDRIDGE CARTIER MARTIN DRAMANE DIARRA

THE MODERATOR: Coach, we'll come to you first for your thoughts on the game.

COACH JIM WOOLDRIDGE: The offense, just looking at this stat sheet, kind of -- this is the first chance I've had to look at it -- just dried up on us. We didn't make enough plays or obviously 1-and-12, 10 from 3-point range. 10 of 18 from the free-throw line. I thought we were getting the ball where we wanted to get it and got to the free throw line, got I think a lot of shots in-the-paint which was a big part of the game plan today.

Then we couldn't stop without fouling them. Big possessions we gave away defensively, I think we were capable of defending better but today Texas Tech was too much for us.

THE MODERATOR: Questions for our two student athletes.

Q. How disappointing is that to finish like this and talk about just your general feelings right now about what is going on?

CARTIER MARTIN: Right now, I mean, it's very disappointing, we was looking forward to -- we wanted to keep playing. It's always hard when your season comes to a stop because we all love the game so much that we want to keep playing.

DRAMANE DIARRA: Yeah, we expected much better than this from the whole season. We

came up short. It's a really big, big disappointment.

Q. Was there anything Texas Tech did that surprised you guys at all?

DRAMANE DIARRA: No, everything they did Coach talked about in the scouting report. We didn't just execute well and make the right plays at the right time.

CARTIER MARTIN: We couldn't get stops down the stretch. We didn't get any stops basically.

Q. Talk about the lift that Tanner Ogden, who hadn't seen much action for Tech this year, gave to them.

CARTIER MARTIN: He stepped up and made some good plays for the team. He hit a couple of outside shots that kind of got the momentum going towards them. He stepped up and he did some good things.

Q. Did you know anything about him, Tanner, did you guys know who he was?

CARTIER MARTIN: No, I didn't really know him too much.

COACH JIM WOOLDRIDGE: It was Number 31 that was making a lot of shots. (Laughter).

Q. Talk about what happened with you and Tim? You guys talked afterwards?

COACH JIM WOOLDRIDGE: Well, not right now. I am sure he will visit with you here sometime today and we'll let him -- as we talked yesterday, how it's his call and we'll let him, the athletic director, make whatever announcement, you know, that he's going to make.

Q. You say it's his call, do you believe there's a call to make here?

COACH JIM WOOLDRIDGE: I think there's an announcement that's going to be made.

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Q. Do you expect to be retained?

COACH JIM WOOLDRIDGE: Look, he's going to make an announcement. I don't have anything to say about it. That's what I said yesterday.

Q. The players talked a little bit about it but can you talk about the season as a whole, how disappointing it was for you?

COACH JIM WOOLDRIDGE: Well, if you have heard me talk about, you know, our team and our program and so forth, you know, I have used the word disappointing at times about you know, a game or two, but I must say that, you know -- I hate to use that word right now.

Our basketball team showed some life. In this business, you can't say, you know, close, and use that as a parameter as to who you are, but it was really that kind of season. It was a close season.

I would use that word probably more so than disappointing because you know those kids are going to play again. Hopefully they will have the frame of mind that they can have positive frame of minds, they can take from what they accomplished this year and use it in a constructive way a year from now. Close, not disappointing.

Q. When you look at this season being as close, what do you think it was that kept you guys from not quite -- so many games that you could have won that you didn't quite win, what do you think was the difference this year?

COACH JIM WOOLDRIDGE: Well, that's the million-dollar question, and you guys have been around every game, I just hate to say this redundantly all the time, it's a play, it's a defensive play, it's a free throw that we have got to make. It's a three-point shot or a field goal that we just have to jump up and make, kind of like today.

Now how many good shots did we have? We had a lot of good shots. I know the game today is not the hot topic today, but we had 19 offensive rebounds. We had 17 assists, 13 turnovers. Those are healthy numbers. And you know, it's -- today it was the fact that, you know, we had some defensive lapses and we missed some layups and we missed some free throws. The free throw is quote/unquote free throw. And whether you -- in the middle of the game or at the end of a game, you know, a field goal -- you know,

I am sure and I am not -- I just think our team -- we had to stay on balance all the time in every phase, you know, from start to finish because we weren't a great team.

But we were a good team and we could beat a lot of people. But it had to stay on balance from beginning to end. Just that one play that we had to continue to make we couldn't make it. I wish there was a better way to explain it. Maybe you guys know better than me, but that's how I would say.

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