

March 17, 2012



Baylor – 80
Colorado – 63

An interview with:



THE MODERATOR: Coach, an opening statement, please?

COACH BOYLE: Well, first of all, my hat goes off to Baylor. They played a heck of a game tonight, and they deserve to win. In terms of Colorado basketball, I couldn't be more proud of this group and the way they've represented us all year long.

We came up short tonight. In the second half, we couldn't make a shot, couldn't get our offense going, especially when they went to zone. That kind of changed the game.

Tell you what, the fight and determination and the grit these guys have shown over the last 10 to 12 days is inspiring to me. I'm just very, very proud of our four seniors and the way they've handled themselves all year. We have two of them up here and two of them still in the locker room. But they did this program proud.

THE MODERATOR: Questions for the Colorado student-athletes.

Q. Carlon, you guys talked about their length yesterday. Were you surprised they were able to get loose behind three, especially Heslip? He was really the difference.

CARLON BROWN: I thought we did the best we could. Obviously, it wasn't good enough. Once he got going, it was almost impossible to stop. But I give our guys credit for trying to stop them and making the extra effort. He was just hot. Like Coach said, we couldn't make any shots to counteract that momentum they were getting from him.

No, it doesn't surprise me. They've got a good coach, great team, and they definitely set some good screens for him to get open.

Q. What will these last two weeks and what you guys did mean to you once the pain of this loss is over?

AUSTIN DUFAULT: Besides tonight's loss, obviously, it's been the funnest two weeks of my life with these guys, just everything that we've accomplished. It's just been really special and something I'll never forget.

Q. Austin, during your run through the Pac-12 tournament and in your prior game out here, your strength on the offensive boards was a big difference for you. Today you guys just weren't able to keep up with them. What was kind of the difference today?

AUSTIN DUFAULT: I think they just did a great job. They really keyed on that. They knew that was one thing we've been doing well, and they just did a great job boxing us out. You've got to give them credit tonight. They were the more physical team. We played as hard as we could, but they just got it done tonight.

Q. Carlon, what do you think the future of this program is?

CARLON BROWN: I think the future is in great hands under Coach Boyle and his staff. They've got some great guys coming in, a top 25 recruiting class, along with the guys that are returning, these two freshman stars, Askia and Spencer, and the back-ups, Jeremy and Sab. The list goes down to Shane and everybody else. So I expect Coach Boyle to get back here and this team to get back here and do better than we did and advance.

Q. The last seven minutes, what kind of went wrong? Do you think it was just four tough games last week, another tough game on Thursday, did it all just kind of catch up to

you?

CARLON BROWN: We're not a team of excuses, so we're not going to say that's the reason. We just didn't make shots when we needed to make shots. Turned the ball over so many times in key moments of the game. Really that zone stifled us. We just didn't have it. No excuses.

Baylor did the best job in guarding us so far caused us to turn the ball over. They got hot hands on shots and were able to run and capitalize our turnovers on mistakes. All the credit goes to them. It was nothing we did wrong.

Q. Askia, what will this experience do for you and the younger guys that have more time left in the program? These guys obviously fought for three years to get here, and you get here right away, what can this do for you guys?

ASKIA BOOKER: First I want to say thank you to them, the four seniors, because we wouldn't be in this position without them. Just to the future, I mean, this is a great experience for me mentally just to go against these guys out here that have been here for a while. I'm a new guy that came in, and I tried to make an impact. I only want to make a bigger impact next year on the team and try to get back to the same place or further.

I mean, the list goes on when you talk about guys returning and guys coming in for next year. I think it will be great. But thanks to these guys that that's where all the credit goes to.

THE MODERATOR: Questions for Coach Boyle.

Q. What impressed you the most about the way Baylor could just flip a switch and take a one-possession game and just blow it out like that?

COACH BOYLE: Well, I mean, Heslip was the difference. He was unconscious tonight. They run good stuff to get them open. They ran a back screen. Nate really guarded it well, and I think popped for a three. I mean, he made some tough shots. But he was the difference in the game, there was no question about it, Brady Heslip and their 17 offensive rebounds.

If you look at the numbers in the first half, we shot 56%. They shot 34%, but we're down two, because they had 12 offensive rebounds. We knew that was going to be the key to the game, and we just couldn't get it done on the boards.

They're long. They're athletic, and they're physical. We just didn't get it done tonight.

The thing I like about our guys, Carlon said, we're not going to make excuses. We got beat. But Brady Heslip was the difference in the game, and I thought Pierre Jackson was terrific as well.

We knew going in, those were the two guys. We had to contain Pierre Jackson and we had to get to Brady Heslip. We didn't do a good job with either one. Pierre had 15 points and 10 assists, and Heslip goes off for 27. So, you've got to credit them. They're very explosive. Very talented. Very long.

Q. What is the team going to look like next year, and what does the future look like?

COACH BOYLE: I couldn't be more excited. I couldn't be more optimistic. I told the guys in the locker room, "Guys, it's not going to take us nine more years to get back here."

I don't know when it will happen. We were fortunate to get here this year. But I think what this team did these last, again, ten days, two weeks, however long it's been, is something that's really galvanized our team, our fan base.

I can't say enough about our fans that came down tonight. I wish we could have played better for them, but there is some excitement around our program right now that we're going to capitalize on, and we're going to keep getting better.

Our young guys I love. The back-ups need to have great off-seasons, and the new guys coming in got to strap it on because we're going to be young next year. We're going to have one senior instead of four. It's going to be a different group, just like this years was. But I expect us to get better as the year goes on, and I'm as optimistic about Colorado basketball today as I ever have been. It's a testament to what this team has done the last two weeks to put us in this position.

Q. Talk a little bit about the assignment you gave André Roberson and he's obviously giving away four inches to one of the best players in the country. How do you think he acquitted himself and also a year ago he was considered an athlete. How much better a basketball player is he than he was a year ago?

COACH BOYLE: Yeah, André's made

tremendous strides. He really has as a basketball player. His skillset is better offensively. It's still not where it needs to be. There is still room for development and growth there.

But I knew last year once he got starters' minutes he could do what he's doing on the rebounding part of it. But I thought he did a good job against Jones tonight. I really did. You look at Jones' line, he has seven points and four rebounds.

So André battled him. He was giving away size. Usually André's more athletic than the guys he's going up against. He still needs to become a better box-out guy. He missed some box-outs tonight.

André's a big part of our future. We want to have him have another great summer, continue to get better. With the guys we've got coming in, he's going to be a big part of next year's team and hopefully beyond.

Q. What will you remember most about these last two weeks? What do you think sparked you guys from where you were in Corvallis to getting this far?

COACH BOYLE: What I'll remember is just the toughness and the grit that this group played with and the belief that they started to get in themselves. I think, again, it started in the Pac-12 tournament, obviously. I don't think you can point to any one thing that was a tipping point.

But I think our one-point win over Oregon gave us a lot of confidence against a team that had just beaten us a week before. We matched up well with Cal, and we just got on a roll.

But this team came together and had a belief in itself that you have to have to make a run like this, and we believed we were going to win tonight. We really did. Carlson won't say it, but I will. You can tell by the way we shot the ball in the second half against their zone, the way we shot our free throws, our legs went. I pushed these guys. I was going to ride them till the end and I did and we came up a little short. The gas tank kind of ran out offensively. But these last two weeks have been really special.

Q. Shane and Jeremy and obviously Ski made some plays, not a lot of plays for some of those guys, but some really good plays. What will this experience do for some of your bench guys next year?

COACH BOYLE: It will help. Being on this stage, it can do nothing but help those guys. It

gives them confidence, and the thought that, hey, we can be here and we belong here. Hopefully it inspires them to come back and work even harder.

We've got two new practice gyms that they built for us, and hopefully those things are getting worn out. We'll give these guys some type of rest well deserved. But this spring and summer and next fall we need to get back into work and continue to get better.

Again, I like the projection of where this program is and where it's going. Couldn't be more proud.

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Colorado Student-Athlete Locker Room Quotes

Sophomore forward Andre Roberson

On the game...

“It felt good when we went up by two. I wouldn’t say we got relaxed, but they started hitting shots, and we kind of got down at times. We still fought to the end.”

On Brady Heslip’s performance for Baylor...

“We talked about it in the scouting report. We had to stay on him at all times. He shot the three very good for them. I don’t know what else to say, but he’s a great player.”

On what he’s going to look back to on this season...

“The relationships I had with all of the guys, especially the four seniors, and just making it to the NCAA Tournament. We tried to make things happen for them. It was a good run.”

On the possibilities for next year...

“I definitely think it could happen again. Coach Boyle is a great coach, and we’ll get back to the drawing board for next year. We will just see how it goes.”

Freshman guard Spencer Dinwiddie

On emotional swing between two games..

“It’s an emotional rollercoaster for sure. We were definitely happy and ecstatic after that win. To know that I’m not going to play with these seniors again and that this team will not be this team ever again. That is what hurts the most.”

On taking the lead with 10 minutes remaining...

“I mean we never stopped believing. We thought we were going to win the game down to the last second. It doesn’t really sink in until it’s like a minute left and we were down 15 or whatever. Even when they went on their little run and there was still like four or five minutes left in the game we still thought we could get back in it.”

On Brady Heslip’s performance for Baylor...

“He’s a great shooter. You can’t give him any space. They did a great job freeing him up, running some picks for him and he just got open.”

(continued)

On the team's outlook for next season...

“We lost four [seniors]. I mean Trey Eckloff has been big for us from a leadership standpoint. Of course we got a ton of talent in the locker-room. We have a great recruiting class coming in. We want to get back here next year. That's the goal.

On memories of this season...

“The seniors of course. Carlon [Brown] is like a big brother to me. I'm going to take that away from this season. Nate [Tomlinson] has really helped guide me through everyday life in college. I'm going to remember them a lot.”

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THE MODERATOR: Coach, an opening statement.

COACH DREW: I was very proud of the second half, and especially the last ten minutes how we clamped down on the defensive end, really did a great job rebounding. Then Brady was obviously on fire, but his teammates did a great job getting him the ball. Brady's one of the first to tell you my teammates really got me open and got me the ball. That humility is what makes our team successful.

As far as Colorado, I think we were in the championship game of the Big 12 Tournament playing four games in four days and lost. I have so much respect for them in how they won that tournament and were able to come in here and win a game. They've done an outstanding job and have a lot of toughness. They're going to be very successful in the future.

Q. Brady, how would you describe your evening?

BRADY HESLIP: I'm just feeling great right now, first of all, because we won. I'm just happy for my seniors. Quincy Acy, nobody wanted to go home today. We played like that in the second half for sure. So it's an amazing feeling right now.

As for the shooting, Pierre does a great job finding me when I'm open and finding me in transition. Acy sets great screens and it was just one of those nights.

Q. Brady, can you describe what it feels like to get into that kind of groove? You just kind of know you're going to hit it when you're that hot?

BRADY HESLIP: Yeah, when they say great screens and they make passes that are on target and on time, it just make it's easy for me, especially if I'm in rhythm and feeling good shooting. It just makes it even easier.

Q. Brady, can you talk a little about your lineage? Everybody knows you were practically born with a basketball in your hands and how that got you to this point with your father and your uncle?

BRADY HESLIP: Yeah, it's something that I've been around since I was 3 years old. I think I made my first basket. Ever since I was growing up, they never forced it on me. It was just something that I fell in love with. My dad, my uncle, my mom, and grandpa and grandma have just been really supportive of me through all my years and supportive of me following my dream.

Q. Pierre and Quincy, do you have a name for this when he goes off in games like this? What do you call it?

QUINCY ACY: Straps.

Q. Why?

PIERRE JACKSON: Strap the scene. That's what we say when you make threes, and Brady strapped the scene tonight.

QUINCY ACY: We got that from the red shirt Bobo Morgan.

Q. How would you describe, Pierre, Brady's shooting night?

PIERRE JACKSON: I don't know. I know

he's capable of it, man, we've just got to get him open, and he did a great job of getting his shot off fast and it went in. Strapped the scene.

Q. Question for Quincy about Brady, when you see him putting the ball up, how confident are you that it's going in? How comfortable are you when you see him about to drop the three?

QUINCY ACY: I know how hard he's worked. When he came in, we knew how good of a shooter he was. Every time I went to the gym at night, I would see him in there sometimes twice a day. He works for it. I know whenever he gets hot, he can outshoot anybody. I think he got me two assists, so, you know, that's always good.

Q. Brady, on a typical summer day, how many threes are you taking in the gym by yourself? Number two, what is your brand of chewing gum when you're playing?

BRADY HESLIP: Oh, man, the brand I chew of gum is supplied by Mr. DC, the best trainer in college basketball. It's Doublemint. And on a summer day, I don't know exactly how many threes I would get up, but I wake up early in the morning before class and I go work out. Then I go to the gym after class and work out. Then I'll have whatever we do in the afternoon, and then I'll get more shots at night, so, a lot.

Q. Quincy and Pierre, can you talk about the decision to switch to the zone and how effective it was at the end of the game?

QUINCY ACY: Well, that's the advantage of having a great coach. Sometimes we might have to switch to man and guard people. But the zone, I think it really bothered them, and I think it was unexpected. Sometimes they might prepare for our zone and they might have stuff for it or whatever.

But I think whenever we started out in man, they got comfortable, then we switched to zone, and that really threw them for a loop. We did a good job of flying everywhere. Whatever defense we choose to play, if guys buy into it, I think we'll be successful.

PIERRE JACKSON: Yeah, Quincy said it all. It goes to the coaching staff. Decided to switch it up on them.

Q. Brady and Quincy, from what I understand, Brady Heslip was the number one trending topic on Twitter in the United States.

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Not sure what you can say to it, but how does that feel and what does that mean for Baylor basketball, actually?

BRADY HESLIP: Pierre knows all about that. He's the Twitter master. He's got all the followers, so I'm just trying to catch him.

No, it's cool. I guess that's what happens nowadays with the media. But I'm really just happy that we won the game.

QUINCY ACY: That's a big deal to have a lot of people talking about you. I guess that's good in a positive way. You don't want to be trending for anything bad, so good job. Follow us on Twitter too, guys.

BRADY HESLIP: Yeah, you can put that in there.

THE MODERATOR: Questions for Coach Drew.

Q. Coach, K-State's out today, Missouri loses yesterday. It's just and you Kansas left. How important is it for you guys to fly the flag for the Big 12 from here on out?

COACH DREW: Well, obviously there is a lot of pride in the Big 12 conference, and we think -- is Iowa State out? Shows you that I haven't seen any scores today. I've been focused on what we have.

But definitely the Big 12, we think, is an outstanding conference. We're going to work as hard as we can, not only for Baylor University, but for the Big 12. I think that's why it shows the parity, number one, the match-ups you get in the NCAA Tournament. The last thing with that, again, that's why it's March Madness, the excitement that anybody can beat anybody on any given night.

I think going through the grind of the Big 12 conference, some teams might not be able to do that, but on one game, one night, 40 minutes, anybody can beat anybody in Division 1. There are that many good players, that many good coaches, that many good fans.

Q. Coach, I think Brady only got one shot in the first nine minutes of the second half?

COACH DREW: Bad coaching (smiling).

Q. Did you change anything, or was it just emphasis?

COACH DREW: Well, we ran some plays to get him open, but most of all, the credit goes to

the guys. They found him and they got him open. I thought Colorado really made it tough for our interior to score as efficient as we normally do. I think we missed some easy buckets. Because they were helping so much, it allowed Brady to get open on some of the screening action.

What I was most impressed with, and we haven't mentioned anything about the altitude to our team, but he was the only one that I thought shooting-wise didn't show any affects to play 39 minutes, shoot that well, and not have any effects of the altitude.

I think that goes back to Quincy Acy talked about his hard work. He's in the gym two times a day, sometimes three times a day. So he's used to fighting through fatigue and shooting when he's tired. That's why he's a successful player.

Q. I think the story is going to be the three-pointers. But that defensive switch there at the end, how big was that, and why did you decide to go to it at that point?

COACH DREW: First of all, credit Colorado. We were having trouble stopping them. They were shooting 50-something percent. They had scored a bunch of times in a row. That is the biggest challenge we've had all year as a coaching staff. We have a lot of depth and a lot of options.

What's so tough for a player, and anyone can relate in work, if one day your boss gives you the top story, gives you the top story, and then the next day doesn't use you for days and you're like, "What did I do wrong?"

So that's been tough for us because when we play certain lineups, we play a certain style. When we play other lineups, we play a certain style.

Credit the leadership to the team because very easily it could have been about me, myself and I; and if it is, then none of that works and your depth becomes your biggest weakness rather than your biggest strength.

Q. Pierre's ball handling in penetration provided a lot of problems for Colorado. How important is that for you guys to make a run deeper into the tournament?

COACH DREW: Well, Pierre's penetration and ball handling that's bothered a lot of opponents. He missed a lot of shots tonight he normally doesn't miss. To have ten assists is outstanding, five steals. He just does so much stuff. When he turns it over, there is a good

chance he steals it back before they get it down the court anyway.

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Baylor Student-Athlete Locker Room Quotes

Junior guard A.J. Walton

On Brady Heslip's 9-for-12 performance from three-point range...

"I've been waiting on him to do something like that. In practice he gets crazy like that. I was hoping he was going to hit 10 and tie Lacedarius Dunn, another great shooter. But for him to be able to come out and do something like that in this environment, it was clutch. It says a lot about him and his work."

On taking control of the game late in the second half...

"We weren't ready to go home. We have great leadership-our seniors, along with myself and Pierre are vets and we just weren't ready to go home. We broke it down on defense and got stop after stop, and we made a couple shots. Quincy Miller stepped up, Anthony Jones stepped in and stepped up so it was a team effort."

On heading to the Sweet 16...

"Well I been there before-I been to the Elite Eight. We won't celebrate too much, but we plan on doing bigger and better things so we're going to cherish it for right now and get better when we get back to Waco."

Freshman forward Quincy Miller

On Baylor taking over the game late in the second half...

"We definitely stepped up our defense in the second half. We had to turn the intensity up because we weren't playing like we usually play. A lot of people weren't hitting shots so we had to keep it going somehow and Brady kept us in the game."

On controlling the rebounding battle...

"In the second half we just had to come out and want it more. I feel like in the first half they were trying to battle and they wanted it more but we just came out in the second half and just battled, harder."

On Brady Heslip and his performance...

"Brady's been like that all year-I wouldn't put it past him. I thought he was going to hit like 12 threes. That's how good of a shooter he is. I'm surprised he missed. Brady's just a great shooter."