



Colorado Head Coach Tad Boyle

OPENING STATEMENT – “I really like this year’s team. I think we’ve got a lot of talent, we’ve got a lot of athleticism. It’s almost like coaching two teams at this point because we’ve got four starters returning and some veterans that have played a lot of games for us, but we’ve also got six freshman, four true freshman, and those six freshman haven’t played a minute of college basketball. I know early we are going to miss guys like Sabatino Chen, Jeremy Adams, and Shane Harris-Tunks. We brought in a lot of experience off of the bench last year and this year we are going to be playing a lot of guys who don’t know what Division I basketball is all about. But they’re going to find out quick, we are going to throw them into the fire. We are going to need our veterans and returning players to play well, especially early for us to be successful.”

“I love our team, but then I look at our non-conference schedule. It’s why I get bags under my eyes and I lose sleep at night. I may have over-scheduled, time will tell and we will find out. But I know our players are excited about opening up with Baylor on November 8th and then all of the other quality programs that we have in our non-conference schedule, which I think will serve us well, but there will be some bumps along the road and we’ve got to be ready to handle those, be resilient, and get better every day. The core values of our program haven’t changed and they won’t change as long as our coaching staff is here.”

ON MANAGING HIGH EXPECTATIONS AROUND THE TEAM – “Number one is we want to stay humble and we want to stay hungry, that is what it’s all about. We try not to talk about expectations. Obviously our players are involved in social media and they know what is going on outside of our program, but what we try to do is hold ourselves accountable to our internal standards of our program. What I worry about day-to-day is not handling the outside expectations, but handling the internal expectations, which is coming to practice every day ready to hook it up and compete, not making excuses, staying humble and staying hungry, challenging each other every day, and just trying to get better every single day. If we do that, with the talent we have on this team, success will take care of itself. I’m not into managing expectations, but I am into trying to hold our players and our staff, and everybody involved in our program accountable to our internal standards.”

ON IF THERE ARE SIGNS PLAYERS HAVE BOUGHT INTO THE HYPE – “Yes (there are signs). That’s why we had an open scrimmage here last Saturday, and that is why one team got smacked. The other team felt pretty good about themselves when they walked out of this arena. As a coach this time of year, you are always mad at somebody. We’ve got a black team and we’ve got a gold team and somebody is going to win at practice and somebody is going to lose at practice. Every rule we have is competition-based. There is a time, there is a score, there is a winner and there is a loser and we want to have our guys hungry to win and hate to lose. It’s my job as a coach to hold them accountable. We try to do that day-in and day-out.”

“There are people blowing smoke up these guys’ rear ends every day: on campus, every time they pick up a paper, listen to the radio, or get on Twitter. It’s my job to make sure they don’t buy into that hype and I feel like I am the bad guy right now, but that’s okay. We’ve watched more film of practices early in the season this year than any team we’ve had since we’ve been here because I want to show them they’re not running the floor. We have freshman that we are trying to teach and they’re trying to learn. I’m not saying it’s been all bad, because it hasn’t. They know what’s ahead of them. But it’s my job as a coach this year to keep these guys a little bit on edge.”

ON THE ATTENTION HE HAS GOTTEN – “There is a fine line between being appreciative of the attention and gracious and thankful for our season ticket holders for selling out before the season and being hesitant because this year’s team hasn’t won a game yet. It’s new territory for us, it’s new territory for me. I have always been a part of rebuilding projects. Now we are on the map, so how do we handle it? It’s new territory for me, new territory for our team, and new territory for our program so it’s important we handle it the right way.

ON SELLING OUT SEASON TICKETS BEFORE THE SEASON – “It’s a testament to our fans, a testament to our students, to the C-Unit who come night-in and night-out. I want everybody to know that I am appreciative of that and we are not going to take that for granted. The history of Colorado Basketball shows that that can go away, and it will go away if we don’t do what we are supposed to on the floor. It’s not all about wins and losses, it’s about how we compete every night and how we play the game. With this team, as young as we are, there might be some bumps along the road. It’s how do we handle that, how do we bounce back from that, how resilient are we... that’s going to be the test this year.

ON HOW THE COORS EVENTS CENTER COMPARES TO OTHER PLACES HE'S SEEN – "It's right up there. It's as good as it gets. I point to the Colorado State game and the Arizona game last year. When this place is rockin' and our fans are engaged and our players are feeding off of that energy, this is as good a place as anywhere in the country. Our challenge now is to get it like that every night. Get it like that on November 10th at 4 o'clock on a Sunday afternoon when we are playing Tennessee Martin, and to have that kind of atmosphere and the same kind of energy from our students and from our fans. I think there is always room for improvement: as a coach, as a player, as our fans, but we are very thankful for the support we've got and we want to make sure we play in a way that makes us worthy of that support. We want people to say 'that was fun, I had a great experience, my family had a great experience, I can't wait for the next game, the food was good...' They've improved the parking, they've improved the traffic and we want to continue to get better in every area. A lot of those areas I don't have control over, but that's a challenge for our entire department.

ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF LEADERSHIP – "I think right now (the players) are sharing it. I believe leadership emerges. I have not been a guy that names captains early in the year. What I don't want to do is give a kid a label of captain (early) and feel like in January they aren't worthy of it and I have to take it away from them. If I name Spencer (Dinwiddie) and Askia (Booker), the two most experienced players, captains, I don't want Josh Scott or Xavier Johnson, any of our freshmen, or Ben Mills to feel that since they aren't captains they can't say anything. I want everybody to have ownership in our program and everybody to have leadership opportunities in our program. Sometimes I think as a coach, when you name captains, you stunt that and you automatically limit kids as leaders. Leaders are going to emerge as the season progresses. When things get tough, who is going to step up and take control and be vocal? That has to emerge. But I think early, Spencer and Askia are our most experienced guys and they are two very vocal guys right now, which is good."

ON AREAS OF PLAY THAT NEED IMPROVEMENT FROM LAST YEAR – "I always start with defense. We are going to miss Andre (Roberson) defensively. We are going to miss his rebounding, we already have. So we are going to have to figure out a way, by committee, to become a better rebounding team. I hope we have the number two rebounder in the country that emerges from the group we have. But if that doesn't happen, we better do it as a group, which means Wesley Gordon needs to do his fair share, Josh Scott needs to get two or three more a game, Xavier Johnson needs to get two or three more a game, Spencer Dinwiddie needs to become a better rebounding guard at 6'6". All down the line, we all have to step it up in rebounding. We were number two in the conference last year in FG percentage defense. We always want to be in the top three, but we want to lead the league in that. So with Andre gone, we need to become a better team defensively. Offensively, we need to become more efficient. For us to take that next step, we need to be a more efficient offensive team. With the talent we have and the skill we have, our field goal percentage should be upwards of 48 and hopefully above 50 percent.

ON MAN-TO-MAN VS ZONE DEFENSE – "I love man-to-man defense. That is just the way I was taught, that is the way I've grown up. That doesn't mean we won't need to resort to zone defense at times. The question I am going to be faced with at times this year is if I am better off playing zone with my better players who are in foul trouble or do I stick with my principals and what I believe in and play man-to-man with three or four freshmen on the floor.

ON IMPROVING ASSIST NUMBERS THIS SEASON – "Ball movement is part of the efficiency I was referring to. Our ball movement needs to get better. We've been working on that. Our staff has done a good job. We have talked about some things that we are going to do differently without totally changing our system. We need better ball movement, our assist numbers need to be better."

ON ADJUSTING COACHING WITH THE HIGH EXPECTATIONS – "You just have to come to work every day. There is no other way to do it. We've got to be worthy of those expectations and just understand that you're not going to sneak up on anybody but now people are gunning for you. We're not allowed to talk about our scrimmages, but they are great experiences for our program and what you learn from those is invaluable. You don't have to have 10,000 people in the stands for you to learn and get better. At an open scrimmage at nine o'clock in the morning on a Saturday when one team gets smacked by the other... hopefully that is a learning opportunity that says 'if you don't come ready to play, you're going to get beat.' Our veterans and returning players should understand that, but our freshmen don't. I don't expect them to. They're going to learn by us throwing them in the fire. When I come to work every day, I don't worry about the external expectations. The internal standards that we expect of ourselves are no different from when we were picked 11th than they are when they pick us third. The way we approach every day and every practice is no different. What the outside world is looking at might be different. But we don't want to change what we are doing and how we are doing it. The fear of failure creeps in a little bit, but that is always there anyways. It's always there as a coach and should be as a player, it's a good thing."