

Big 12 Basketball Roundup: Weekend action

Big 12 basketball roundup of men's and women's basketball action from this past weekend.

First up is a recap of the men's basketball action. It was a guard oriented weekend in the Big 12 with some big performance's coming out for many of the teams keying their victories.

The fifth ranked Kansas Jayhawks, made light work of their opponent this weekend cruising past the Texas Tech Red Raiders, 83-50. It was a multitude of things going right for the Jayhawks in the contest, from hot shooting, 56% from the floor and 60% from three-point land, to outrebounding the Red Raiders 29-17 in the game. Four players finished in double figures, with national player of the year candidate, Thomas Robinson leading the way with 16 points in the game. KU got out to a big lead early in the first half and never looked back, at one point going up 30-9 in the first half; which allowed Kansas to play a multitude of players in the contest. The Jayhawks are now 22-5 on the season and 12-2 in the Big 12, tied atop the conference standings with the Missouri Tigers. While the Red Raiders are 8-18 on the season and 1-13 in the Big 12.

Missouri Tigers, who are ranked third in the country, went on the road to notch their twenty-fifth victory of the season (25-2, 12-2) and say tied atop the pole position in the conference standings with Kansas, with the 71-62 win over the Aggies of Texas A&M. Four players notched double digits in the game for the Tigers and with their guard oriented team, they all played the guard position. Senior, Kim English lead the way with 21 points in the game; while Michael Dixon, Marcus Denmon and Phil Pressey scored 15, 14 and 13 points each. Not only were the points spread around but Missouri was as a team just plain hot from the floor, shooting 56% from the floor, 40% from three-point land and 85% free throw line. A&M fell to 13-13 on the season and 4-10 in the Big 12.

Easily, the biggest story of the day in the Big 12 basketball action was the Kansas State Wildcats going on the road to Waco, Texas and notch themselves key victory on the season, taking down tenth ranked, Baylor, 57-56. Kansas State held the Bears of Baylor scoreless in the final two minutes of the game, including a possession right at the end of the game that could have won the contest for Baylor. The Wildcats were lead by a pair of guards, Rodney McGruder and Angel Rodriguez each scoring 15 points in the win. Kansas State improved to 18-8 on the season and 7-7 in league play; while Baylor suffered their fifth league loss, falling to 9-5 in the Big 12 and 22-5 on the season.

The other Big 12 action saw two big performances by guards to secure victories for the home teams, as the Oklahoma State Cowboys and Iowa State Cyclones beat the Texas Longhorns and the Oklahoma Sooners, respectively. The Cowboys saw a career-high performance from their senior guard and team leader, Keiton Page, who scored 40 points, hitting four three-pointers and went 20-20 from the free throw line, to get 90-78 win over Texas. Freshman, Le'Bryan Nash continued his successful season scoring 18 points for the Cowboys as well in the game; while Myck Kabongo netted 22 points and J'Covan Brown tallied 20 points in the loss for Texas. Oklahoma State is now 13-14 and 6-8 in the league, while Texas is 17-10 and 7-7 in the league.

Iowa State, had a big performance from their senior guard, Scott Christopherson, who went 9-15 from the floor and hit five three's in the game, finishing the night with 25 points in the game, leading Iowa State to a 80-69 win over Oklahoma. Christopherson and his Cyclone teammates were just as hot from the floor throughout the game, shooting 52% from the floor and 50% from three point land. Oklahoma had four players finish the game with double figures but it wasn't enough, to stay with Iowa State. Cyclones are now 19-8 and 9-5 on the season; while Oklahoma is 13-13 and 3-11.

On the women's side of basketball in the Big 12 it was all the home teams winning, except for one, that being the Missouri Tigers who notched their first Big 12 conference win of the season taking down the Kansas Jayhawks, 70-65 in Lawrence. Jayhawks continued their slip after losing their leading scorer to a season ending knee injury. Senior, Christine Flores lead the way for the Tigers with 24 points in the game; while it was senior, Aishah Sutherland who lead the Jayhawks with 23 points in the loss. Missouri is 11-14 and 1-13 on the season; while Kansas fell to 17-9 and 6-8 in the league.

Kansas' in state rival, the Kansas State Wildcats fared better than the Jayhawks at home, as the Wildcats notched a 20 point win over Texas, 65-45. Tasha Dickey, lead the way for the Wildcats with 18 points, with two other lady Wildcats scoring double digits, also. The lady longhorns struggled scoring, only having one player in double figures and only seven bench points, as well, all from one player. Kansas State is now 17-9 and 8-6; while Texas fell to 15-11 and 5-9, this year.

Other Big 12 action from the weekend in the women's games saw the number one ranked team in the nation the lady Bears of Baylor hang on to defeat the lady Red Raiders of Texas Tech, 56-51 and stay undefeated on the season 27-0 and 14-0 in the league. Junior, Britney Griner had yet another double-double with 18 points and 14 rebounds for Baylor in the win. Texas Tech fell to 17-9 and 5-9 in the league.

Defending national champs, thirteenth ranked Texas A&M cruised a 63-49 win over Oklahoma State, improving to 19-6 and 10-4 on the season; the Cowgirls are now 13-10 and 5-9 on the season. The lady Cyclones sneaked away with a win at home, 77-71 over the lady Sooners of Oklahoma. The win improved Iowa State to 16-9 and 7-7 on the season; while Oklahoma is 17-9 and 9-5 now on the season.

Plenty of good basketball action this past weekend in the Big 12 with a few weeks left before postseason tournament time is upon us in collegiate basketball.