

# Oklahoma City Thunder Media Conference

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Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA

## Ousmane Dieng

### Press Conference



**Q. So many different experiences this year. What do you feel like was the most valuable and rewarding? I have a feeling you'll say being G-League MVP, but what was the most rewarding experience for you?**

OUSMANE DIENG: I think everything, like I think like the whole process was a great experience. Like the playoffs with the Thunder was a really great experience, my first playoff run. And obviously the G-League was really fun, and the championship was a great experience for me.

Especially like the playoffs, playing a series, playing like important games, that was really good.

**Q. I know a lot of fans didn't get to see it, but how much of a better player do you feel you are now as opposed to the beginning of the season?**

OUSMANE DIENG: I feel like I'm a way better player than at the beginning of the season, especially the last two months. I've grown leaps and bounds. I think like the G-League playoffs really made me progress like how to play, like just brought a lot out in me in important games, things like that.

**Q. Working mostly with Chip, what has that done for your game?**

OUSMANE DIENG: It's been really good. We've been working since I got here. The first year was difficult to change my shot. I didn't feel like comfortable, but we really worked the last three months, and now it's way better and will keep going that way.

**Q. What were some changes to your shot that you and Chip made?**

OUSMANE DIENG: Mostly like I used to shoot with my hand on the left side. Now my elbow is more straight, and I'm not using my off hand. That's the main changes.

**Q. What were your takeaways just from the whole playoff experience and being able to be around that?**

OUSMANE DIENG: It was amazing. That was my first playoff experience. I saw how physical it was, how it's really like a 40-minute game, every play matters. That was a great experience.

**Q. This group just seems so tight-knit, so connected. Even though you spent some time with the G-League, it seems like, as soon as you're back with this group, it's just everybody is so close. What was it like for you, and how much fun is it being a part of this group?**

OUSMANE DIENG: It's just fun. It feels like a family. Everybody is happy when somebody does something good. Everybody is here when somebody is like not playing well or something. Everybody like helping everybody. It's just fun and amazing.

**Q. France released the roster for the Olympics, and your name was on there. How much are you looking forward to getting the chance to play in the Olympics and in Paris?**

OUSMANE DIENG: I'm looking forward. It's going to be like a month now, three weeks. Yeah, I want to play in the Olympics. I want to play in France. So that will be amazing. I'll do everything I can to make the team.

**Q. Who on the staff or the team did you lean on the most this season to kind of pick their brain?**

OUSMANE DIENG: Probably like D.A. and Chip, they really helped me, especially during the last two months. And during my G-League time, it was Daniel Dixon. He was really helping me.

**Q. As a kid growing up, there weren't a lot of French players in the NBA. Now there's like this big resurgence of guys like yourself, Victor. What does it mean for you as someone who grew up around that scene, just that explosion?**

OUSMANE DIENG: Just like we've got players coming up in the next draft too. It's just amazing. So much talent is coming from France. Hope it will keep going like that.

**Q. What all do you want to work on this summer?**



OUSMANE DIENG: Keep working on my shot. Keep working on my body. Yeah, keep working on everything, anything to make me better.

**Q. What did you think of the fans in the playoffs?**

OUSMANE DIENG: It was crazy. I think we got the best fans in the league. That was really crazy. The first time I got in the playoff game and everybody was wearing the shirts and screaming, it was just amazing.

**Q. You mentioned some other French guys in the draft. Who do you like coming up?**

OUSMANE DIENG: I know Alex, Olivier's brother. I used to play against him when I was young. I hope he's going to do well in the draft. The other ones, I don't really know them pretty well.

**Q. Do you think Alex is good?**

OUSMANE DIENG: He's pretty good, pretty tall. He can do a lot of things like his brother. I think he's going to do well.

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