



ROCK CHALK JAYHAWK  
**POSTGAME QUOTES**

// 2018-19 KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

**#1/1 Kansas 92, #10/10 Michigan State 87**

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Bankers Life Fieldhouse // Indianapolis, Ind.

**KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF**

*On his overall thoughts about tonight's game:*

"I thought we did a lot of good things. If you take away transition defense, I think we did a lot of good things. I thought our freshmen stepped up and played extremely well. David (McCormack), off the bench, in the first half, was terrific. Quentin (Grimes) and Devon (Dotson) were both really good. Obviously, we've got to learn how to close a game, but I thought we had some really good performances out there."

*On if he knew Grimes and Dotson would be such "gamers":*

"I was hopeful. But you don't know until you actually see it. Now we know what they can actually do. You shouldn't have to play well just because you made shots, and they both made shots. There's a lot of things, especially Devon, can do, in transition. How many times did we have numbers and it led to transition points for them (Michigan State)? A lot of it was overtrying too. But, yeah, they were both 'gamers' tonight. Q (Quentin Grimes) was fabulous."

*On what made the difference in Grimes' shot tonight, compared to the two exhibition games:*

"I don't know. He got a layup to start the game and it was nice to see the ball go in the basket to start. People have told me, in his camp, that he likes it when 'the lights are on, that he's a gamer' and that's something you'd like to see consistently in practice too. He's a good shooter. But when you're tentative, you never shoot as well. There was nothing tentative about him tonight."

*On having depth, options, in the post position this season:*

"We obviously have some options; not as many as we could have, possibly, but I thought Mitch (Lightfoot) gave us some good minutes and I thought David (McCormack) played really well the first half, so it was nice. But Udoka (Azubuike) needs to play more than 20 minutes; if he plays more than 20 minutes, we're a different looking team."

*On Azubuike's progression as a shooter over his time at Kansas:*

"Yes, we do (expect that from him now). He's our first option, even though Dedric (Lawson) may lead us in scoring. We want to play through Doke as much as possible. He scores the ball; the thing he doesn't do is rebound the ball like he should rebound the ball. But I thought he played very well. That's two big bodies (Azubuike and Michigan State's Nick Ward) banging on each other. There were no easy baskets; he didn't get any angles, he had to score through him (Ward)."

*On Azubuike's progression as a rim protector vs. having added depth down low:*

"I think it's probably a little bit of both, but he's a better anticipator than what he has been. I don't know, what did he have, like four blocks or something like that? (Yes, four blocked shots.) That was nice to see."

*On conversations had with freshmen Grimes and Dotson had since the two exhibition games:*

"I don't know what it was. I had a great talk with Devon just a couple of days ago, just about who he needed to be an extension of and he said, 'You.' So I said, 'How do you think you can be an extension (of me) if you don't believe in what I think is important?' I told Q yesterday, 'Hey, I've screwed up a lot of good players early in their careers.' He asked, 'Did they get out of it?' And I said, 'Every one of them.' So I was glad Q got out of it tonight."

*On what it means to be "an extension of him":*

"To be able to execute what we think is important. It's on him (the point guard) to set the tone on that. Obviously, he could do a lot better, but he did a lot of nice things."

*On keeping Azubuike in the game when the score got close and players were heading to the free throw line:*

"I was probably not very bright last year, but I've never been a guy who thinks you take your best players out of the game. I don't know how that breeds confidence. In his situation, when I took him out late (in tonight's game), I only took him out because we were switching ball screens. It didn't have anything to do with free throws. Even though he missed both free throws late, you run the clock down, get it to four seconds and you get fouled. You can't run a better offense than that. We're going to keep going with him. He's going to continue to get better. If you watched him last year, they (his free throw attempts) had no chance. Tonight's (attempts) actually had a chance and they were pretty soft. And he shot them in pressure moments. He'll continue to get better at that, but we're not going to sub for him very often in that situation."



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*On Dedric Lawson having an "off" night offensively:*

"I thought, offensively, he passed the ball well. He's a good post feeder. He made his free throws. But, offensively, I thought the physicality bothered him a little bit. They (Michigan State) were really good. (Kenny) Goins kept bodying him up on shots and things like that, which knocked him off balance a little bit. He's got to play through contact better. But he didn't play poorly because he missed shots; there's so much more to the game than that. (He had) Six assists and 14 rebounds and made his free throws down the stretch – those are all pretty important things."

*On what challenges Michigan State presented for Kansas:*

"First of all, it's too early to play this game when you talk about knowing your own team and being able to scout and stuff like that. But it's great to tip off the season this way. I think they are going to be really good. I just can't get over how fast they go from defense to offense. They're the best we'll go (up) against all year long at that. We thought (if) we could slow them down in transition and control the defensive boards, we'd be in good shape. We did 50 percent of that and that's why the game was obviously close late, because we gave up too many easy baskets in transition."

*On how to manage Dotson's speed:*

"I'd rather have the 'throttle guy' back than to get him going forward. This is the first time we've seen him play – well, both Quentin and Devon – play like this. The excitement of the game had them sped up a little bit, I think. I think that's a good problem to have to deal with. When he gets downhill, he gets pretty fast. And tonight he shot it well. He reminds me so much of Frank (Mason III) when he was young, with his speed, because he can get downhill as well as anyone I've coached."

## **KANSAS REDSHIRT JUNIOR FORWARD DEDRIC LAWSON**

*On Michigan State's fight:*

"Michigan State is a great team, a great shooting team. We relaxed at times. They got those open looks. They played great tonight. They made shots and they run."

*On Udoka Azubuike's performance:*

"We already knew what he could do (because of) what he did last year. He just continues what he does."

*On Devon Dotson's contributions:*

"We knew that he's a one-man fast break. He displayed that tonight, being aggressive. I told him, 'You're too fast and athletic. Just go ahead and lay the ball up. He was terrific tonight as well.'"

*On how Coach Self evaluated the team's defensive effort:*

"The first half he said we played well, I don't know how many points we gave up. We gave up 51 in the second half, so he was pretty intense about that. He said we can't give up 87 in a game. There's probably going to be some emphasis on defense at practice, just staying focused and guarding those shooters."

*On gaining momentum from the win:*

"I'm just glad we won, to be honest. Nobody wants to lose. I don't care if we win by one point, we won. We've got that first win under our belt, and we just move on from there."

## **KANSAS FRESHMAN GUARD QUENTIN GRIMES**

*On the key to the win:*

"We talk about in practice, always stay aggressive. We practice shooting balls and that confidence will carry over into the game."

*On playing on a big stage :*

"Playing in front of 15,000 people every night, not really used to that, I've never really had to play in front of that many people in my whole life. This will be my third game playing in front of 15,000. I don't think it really matters in the game."

*On playing in first non-exhibition game:*

"Coach always had to lay it down and we got a lot done defensively. When you're thinking about the game plan, you go out there and be aggressive."

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*On hitting six 3-point field goals and how teammates helped achieve that:*

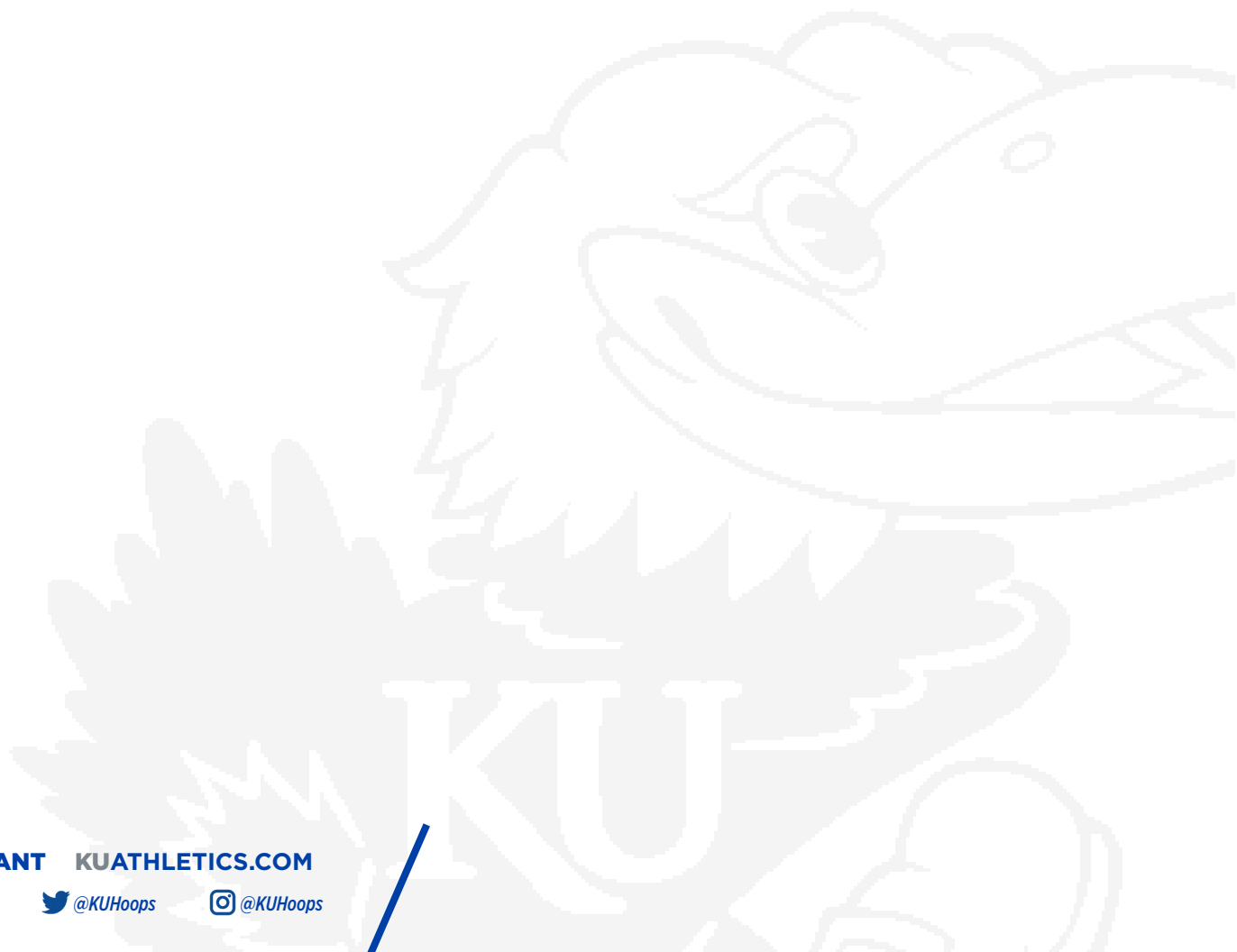
"Main thing was to get the ball. My teammates were finding me every time I was in the corner. My teammates did a great job at finding me tonight."

*On relationship with fellow freshman Devon Dotson:*

"He's my roommate so we were kind of joking around last night. We just said how we can't really wait to get out and play in front of everybody. I think we were both nervous, really. Once Coach (Self) went over the game plan, we kind of settled down a little bit."

*On value of not turning the ball over:*

"That's something we've been doing too much of during practice. We definitely need to cut down from 20 turnovers."



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