



ROCK CHALK JAYHAWK POSTGAME QUOTES

// 2018-19 KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

#2/1 Kansas 89, Louisiana 76

Friday, November 16, 2018

Allen Fieldhouse // Lawrence, Kan.

KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF

Opening statement:

"They (Louisiana) were obviously a lot better than us and we didn't do a very good job in playing the scouting report at all with the big fella (Justin Miller) in the first half. He had 22 (points) at half and I don't know if he has had 22 in a game ever and he gets that in 13 minutes. They exposed our bigs defensively. Thank goodness for David McCormack because (when) David got in the game, even though he didn't do a whole lot, he just guarded his man and tried really hard and we went from down eight or nine points to up like three or four (points) at halftime. That was basically David; (he) deserves as much credit to that (as anyone). The second half Doke (Udoka Azbuike) was fresh, so we didn't need to sub. I thought Doke played really well the second half and I thought David was good the first half. Then we've got the hottest player in America in Lagerald (Vick). He was unbelievable again. He got nine rebounds and he played all 40 minutes and certainly he is playing at a level right now that even Frank (Mason III) and Devonte' (Graham) didn't play at consistently. Hopefully he can keep that going, although making shots is not always the easiest thing to do, but he did a lot of other things also. We just (have) got to get everybody competing and guarding and trying and not being timed out there. You know, it's a good win and certainly one that we can learn a ton from. How many times tonight did we have numbers and we missed a layup and it lead to three points for them? It's unbelievable; their best offense was our offense because we screwed up plays in transition and just shot balls that had no chance of going in. Then they run right down our throat and make either an easy basket or get another uncontested 3 (pointer) so those are things we need to tighten up."

On Lagerald Vick's back-to-back career-high games and if he's ever seen anything like it before:

"I'd have to think about, it but I don't think so. I've had guys go make seven 3s in a game, but I don't think I've had anyone go 8-for-8 or 7-for-12 back-to-back. I don't think I've ever had a guy go get 30-plus (points on) back-to-back nights. Remember how good Devonte' was against Syracuse last year and he gets 35? Or (when) Frank had a couple games where he got 30, I think maybe against Indiana early on and a couple games after that. Well this dude (Vick) is matching those numbers right now so I'm happy for him. I think his attitude has been terrific and certainly he is a really talented kid. We (have) just got to get everyone else (to his playing level) and he's trying to get everyone else up. We've got to get everyone else playing that way. I've got to do a much better job in getting our guys to be tougher and more aggressive cause we're not at all. We are way too timid on both ends."

On Louisiana not being able to guard Azbuike:

"We had a size advantage. That's the thing the first half when he was out of the game, we eliminated our advantage and then he is a monster down there. He had a lot of strong finishes. His free throws looked good, the last two didn't look quite as good, but we know he has got to work on that. I believe he will get that. But he was turned up defensively. We switched some ball (screens) but this was what was frustrating, how in the world can he guard their point guard and keep him in front of him and contest and block his shot, but when he is guarding No. 55 (Miller) to start the game he backs all the way up and gives him uncontested shots or lets him drive all the way around him for a layup? Now those are the things we've got to correct. He is more than capable of moving his feet and guarding out on the perimeter like that."

On what they know about Marquette:

"Not much, I know that they shot it. (Assistant) Coach (Norm) Roberts said that he is scouting Marquette and that they obviously shot and crank them off a lot like Louisiana did. They've got one guy who can be a prolific scorer; Marcus Howard is as good any guard in the country at scoring the ball and he puts up big numbers. I mean he'll shot 15 to 17 3-pointers a game himself. There are a couple of other guys who spot up and make shots so we'll have to play a lot better than the way that we played. We've got to decide if we want to score. (We scored) 89 points and that's plenty, but there was a time where nobody hung 70 on us in this building and that hasn't been the case yet, as we've given up above 70 (points) three games in a row and we've got to tighten that up."

KANSAS REDSHIRT-JUNIOR FORWARD DEDRIC LAWSON

On senior guard Lagerald Vick's play:

"It's great. We're going to keep feeding him. Like Coach (Self) said, we're going to keep feeding the hot hand until it runs out. Lagerald is the guy from here forward. He and Udoka."

On his foul trouble in the first half and if that gets him going:

"Lagerald came out there and made a lot of shots. I don't think we notice how deep we are when we're playing and it's something we need to see."

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LAWSON (CONT.)

On his shot on from the floor:

"I thought I got fouled. I thought he blew the whistle, so I shot it back up."

On Vick being the go-to guy and if he wants to have that role as well:

"When I have an opportunity to score, it I'm going to do it. Most of the time, Lagerald knows when and when not to shoot."

KANSAS SENIOR GUARD LAGERALD VICK

On his play over the last three games:

"I have had a whole lot of energy and people have found me open. I'm having a lot of fun and leaving it all out there."

On his confidence right now:

"It's crazy. The coaches' motivation, the stuff they are telling me, it keeps me in the ballgame."

On his hunger for the ball:

"You know, I'm just leaving it all out there. Coach (Self) wanted me to play on the offensive glass and I'm just doing whatever (I can) to help us win games."

On being compared to Devonte' Graham:

"I've got to be a leader for the team. (It's my) Last time going through this and I want to leave it all out there for the team."

KANSAS JUNIOR CENTER UDOKA AZUBUIKE

On his play in the second half:

"Coach (Self) talked to us in the locker room at half. I just had a different focus (in the) second half, going out there and playing defense. I had a mindset of playing defense and that's what I did."

LOUISIANA HEAD COACH BOB MARLIN

Opening statement:

"The guys executed our game plan, and did a really nice job, they fought in a very difficult place to play, against a really good basketball team. I was really proud of them, and for their effort. The second half, we didn't play quite as well. We needed a couple more shots to go and then we had no answer for (Lagerald) Vick or (Udoka) Azubuike, both of those guys were really good. We got outrebounded 16-to-8 on the offensive end, and probably 10 of the 16 they had were buckets in or fouls. They just overpowered us inside, they're too big. That's when we tried to stretch the floor in the first half. We shot more threes than we normally do; that was the plan, but we can make more too. We had a couple we thought would go (in) but didn't, and to win a game like this you need to make a couple more."

On Justin Miller being similar to Anthony Lamb:

"A little bit. I talked to him about Lamb, not so much the 3-point shooting, but even the up-and-under, and he got a couple in tonight. He just muscled into them and he got his body into them and was able to throw one in. (I was) Trying to motivate him because he didn't start the Tennessee game for us. I think he had a career-high tonight, in the first half, 21 (points) was his career high before and that was in his opening game as a freshman against Minnesota. He can score the basketball. He's worked on his body and lost some weight. We did talk about Lamb a little bit, and we also talked about Vermont. Vermont played well, and this game was maybe similar in some ways to that. I think we made six threes in the first half and Vermont, if I remember correctly, also made six. They (Kansas) had spacing and certainly are well coached. You've got to make threes to beat these guys."

On Lagerald Vick after his performance against Vermont:

"(We) Hoped he would miss the first one, (but) he didn't. I think we fouled him, gave him some free throws, he missed one. He's a really good player and he made a couple of tough threes. I thought we did have good contestants (against Vick) tonight at times, we made some tough ones. One of the most impressive plays he made to me, all night, was in front of their bench late in the game, when the game was still a game. He took one off the bounce and missed a 2-pointer and went in, and instead of the bigs getting that rebound, he gets an offensive rebound and scored it, and may have even gotten fouled, I don't remember, but he was quick off his feet like JaKeenan Gant is for us."

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MARLIN (CONT.)

On the challenges of guarding Udoka Azubuike:

"Well you have to pressure the basketball, and do a better job of the post defense; it (all) starts on the perimeter. Their guys threw it from well out on the wing, it wasn't a post-feed situation. You just throw it towards the rim and he's just so big. He leans on you just a little bit and he knows how to do that. He was in the lane for a while at times, but there's nothing we can do about that. You give up two instead of three (points), he's not going to make a free throw every time, so it's almost like rolling the dice."

On frustrating KU's bigs in the first half:

"(We) Just tried to make them work. We don't really have a five, we have two fours, and we've played like that a lot. We had a great five a couple years ago, Shawn Long. We try to stretch and make them guard, take them away from their comfort zone and beat them off the bounce. We tried to drive (Dedric) Lawson early in the game and didn't do it. We felt like they were hedging too long and that we could always throw it back and get what we wanted. They made some adjustments in the second half, you could tell (that at) half time Bill (Self) talked to them. They rotated a little differently and let the guard help for a second, and they did a better job the second half."

LOUISIANA JUNIOR FORWARD JUSTIN MILLER

On what was working for his team in the first half:

"The coaches had a really good game plan. They worked really hard to get us prepared for the game, and told us where we could get our looks off. They said the bigs from Kansas really hedge hard and don't really get back to the pop man, so knowing the game I was looking to get off some open looks. The coaches really prepared us well. They had a game plan for us and we did our best to go out and execute it."

On what changed in the second half and the team's struggle to score:

"They're the No. 2 team in the nation, and Coach Bill Self, he is a really good coach. They made adjustments, like we knew they were going to do. I got some open looks, but they just didn't fall, and that's just how it is sometimes."

On film and scouting for preparing for Kansas:

"Coach (Marlin) said Anthony Lamb, from Vermont, and I had a similar game. He had a successful game against these guys. Just an angle scorer, not really athletic, but do what we can do. Coach gave us a lot of confidence coming into the game and they do a really good job of scouting. Like JaKeenan said, we've been practicing all week and we felt like we were well prepared for the game, but it's Allen Fieldhouse, so you know how that goes."

On shooting 36 3-pointers as a team:

"Coach said one of our objectives was to get a lot of 3-point shots, so that's what happened."

LOUISIANA SENIOR FORWARD JAKEENAN GANT

On not giving up on Kansas fast breaks:

"Just not giving up on the plays and playing hard. Coach (Marlin) has been talking about that the whole week. We've been practicing hard and giving extra effort."

On the team's looks from the perimeter and 3-point range:

"We got a lot of open looks, we just had to knock them down. We have to try to find looks for the bigs; (the) bigs are going to rotate hard, they're going to hedge hard and we have to look for the open look."