#2/2 Kansas 77, Marquette 68

Wednesday, November 21, 2018 Barclays Center // Brooklyn, N.Y.



KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF

On tonight's game:

"I think it was a 22-to-nothing run to start the second half during the stretch. We were so bad in the first half, we were so slow and they were so quick and had us on our heels, and in the second half it was just a flip. We really defended and our offense was average at best, but we defended and were able to play through Dedric [Lawson], but we got enough easy baskets, attacking the rim either in transition or half-court but it was enough. Marquette is so dangerous because everyone can shoot but in the second half we did a much better job of taking the three away. I think they shocked us early on, to be honest."

On if the team plays better in the second half:

"Probably not. I haven't felt that. We probably played better the last three games in the second half than in the first half. But in the first game we played a much better first half than second half. But when you're getting embarrassed and they're punking you so-to-speak in the first half, you'd think guys would want to fight and come back and play with a little more fire."

On Friday night's matchup vs. No. 5 Tennessee:

"I'd need to watch a lot more, but I've watched enough tape to know that obviously they've got a superstar. But they have interchangeable parts, they have a bunch of strong cats, and they can switch a lot of stuff and the positions the way they run their offense is pretty much interchangeable which we've obviously struggled with playing against. So we'll have to have a good 48 hours of preparation. But we need this game. I think we may need this game more than Tennessee needs this game, to be quite candid. We're young and we're not as tough as we need to be and we better be pretty tough on Friday the way they play or they could certainly make us look really bad. I think tis a great game for our guys to see where they're at without question."

KANSAS FORWARD DEDRIC LAWSON

On halftime adjustments:

"Shout out to Marquette they came out firing away. Coach had got on us about being tough and just going out there. We made a couple of adjustments in the second half and I think it helped us a lot going on the 22-0 run and it started with Devon [Dotson] and he took Markus Howard out of the game. After that he cut the head off the snake and we started to roll."

On his performance during tonight's game:

"[I was focused on] not worrying about what happens and being aggressive, being in the lane, trying to make plays for others. At one point I think I looked around and we were down by 9 or 11 and I just wanted to get aggressive and try to get something going offensively and maybe it would start a spark defensively."

KANSAS GUARD **DEVON DOTSON**

On second half adjustments:

"Credit to them [Marquette] - they came out hot. We made some second half adjustments, made some defensive coverage changes and just picked it up and turned it around. ... We changed our defensive coverage like switching more and getting out on the shooters. I think [Joey] Hauser was hitting up a lot of the threes in the first half so just keying in on him."

"We really just locked in and focused on our assignments and got it done. ...We locked in and got a feel for it and started to settle in and play our normal game. We started to come around and started knocking down shots, getting defensive stops ... made hustle plays and great team plays."

On looking ahead:

"We have a really talented team all around. ... We have a lot of games left in the season – it's just getting started."



MARQUETTE HEAD COACH STEVE WOJCIECHOWSKI

On what changed in the second half:

"Obviously, I think Kansas picked up their intensity. In terms of what we wanted to do, we stopped doing it. In the first half, I thought we were really physical defensively. They didn't get many points at the rim. [Lagerald] Vick kind of carried them to start, but we were physical around the basket. They didn't get easy baskets, dunks and lay-ups which they got in the second half. I thought [Dedric] Lawson played great, a big reason why. I didn't think our defense had the same teeth to it. Offensively, we turned it over. We gave them easy baskets which you can't do against a team like Kansas. Some of the decisions that we made in the first half, we didn't make the same decisions in the second half. I thought we left a lot of good shots and opportunities on the table. You can't do that. Kansas is as talented as anyone and in order to beat a team like that, you have to play 40 minutes. Certainly, we didn't do that."

On his team's aggressiveness and lack of getting to the free throw line:

"We wanted to drive the ball. Obviously, they're really big around the rim. We have to get to the free throw line more. That's an area we have to work on."

On preparing to play a team like Kansas:

"Obviously, they're a great program. Coach Self is a great coach. They have a lot of different weapons. I thought [Dedric] Lawson played his best game from all of the tapes that I watched. I watched all of them. He was terrific tonight. Just goes to show that when one of their stars isn't having as good a game, they have different guys who step up. We have to figure out that point, too. Not just relying on Markus [Howard] and Sam [Hauser], we have to get better balance."

On his team's offense in the first half:

"I thought our guys shared the ball really well. [We] executed the game plan with Udoka [Azbuike]. He's such a physical presence around the basket. He almost fouled out our frontline in the first half. We wanted to put him in as many ball screens as possible. We thought that would open up some driving lanes and kick-out opportunities. We did a very good job with it to the point that they had to adjust to us. We had some opportunities in the second half. We just didn't make the same decisions. We'll have to figure out why that was."

On Kansas' Devon Dotson:

"He's really good. I think he has great competitive spirit. He has great competitive juice. I think he'll be a great player at Kansas."

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