



ROCK CHALK JAYHAWK
POSTGAME QUOTES

// 2018-19 KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

#2/2 Kansas 63, New Mexico State 60

Saturday, December 8, 2018
Sprint Center // Kansas City, Mo.

KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF

Opening Statement:

"New Mexico State was better than us. Other than the first four or five minutes, they controlled the game the entire time. They were quicker, but they are quicker; physically they are quicker, and they were turned up more. I didn't think we played awful the first half, (but) we missed so many shots and (had) a couple (of) defensive blunders. The second half we didn't get anything going until under five minutes (to play), so they basically led the entire game. We hung around and made some plays. I thought our defense was pretty good late, I thought Mitch (Lightfoot) did some good things when he was in the game. You can list the things we don't do from a competitive and thinking standpoint, it's just unbelievable. They put up a three to end the game. They gave him space to get off a three, and you don't call timeout and you're not going to foul with 14 left, so defend it. It's unbelievable. We were fortunate tonight. (I don't know) How in the world we've won these games. Certainly, it's one thing to not play well, it's another thing to not play well and then not be intellectually in the game, and that was certainly the case tonight."

On how Udoka Azubuike being out affected the defense:

"I think it is because Udoka is out, but I also think how in the world can we, Detric (Lawson) and Mitch, not defend better in tight? How in the world? (We) Just let them get whatever they wanted to, and were slow reacting, it's comical. Landen Lucas was here, and Landen Lucas would never (have) let those guys catch it in the scoring area. But they just backed us down and got where they wanted to. We certainly have to do a lot better job in that (defensive aspect of the game). Hopefully Udoka will recover fast. David (McCormack) didn't get a chance to play much, but maybe David could have done a better job defensively. I thought Mitch actually did some good things offensively for us, so we went that direction. When key players (are out), and you're playing shorthanded, (then also) come not ready to play, and you're dealing with distractions, you're fortunate to come away with the win."

On Mitch Lightfoot's performance:

"He did fine. He made some really good plays and made a couple plays that were maybe not the right time to make a couple plays. I thought Mitch did good."

On what the week will look like leading up to Villanova game:

"Academics is the priority this week, and we'll take tomorrow off, obviously. We'll practice Monday through Friday even though it may be short and limited. We're not going to get any better this week but hopefully we can maintain, just because of the limited practice time and guys' minds won't be there like it would be if it wasn't Finals week. Hopefully we can maintain and play as competitive (of a) game as we will all year on Saturday (vs. Villanova)."

KANSAS RS-JUNIOR FORWARD DEDRIC LAWSON

On making a big 3-pointer tonight after not hitting many so far this season:

"I had just shot a three before and it felt good. So when I caught it and the guy was back, I just went around him. I just stepped in there with confidence and knocked it down."

On what Self says about Lawson not taking 3-pointers:

"He mentioned it before the last practice. He said that I'm not shooting threes, but he just left it at that. He didn't say to get more threes up, he said, 'You only made one three, but it's because you're not shooting enough.'"

On pressure from Self to shoot more 3-pointers:

"I didn't feel pressure from Coach, I just felt it from myself. I felt like I was going to make one."

On the difference of his play in the second half compared to the first:

"I think I was just being more aggressive. I got some easy baskets, some put backs, things like that, to get me going."

On how he maintained his confidence level in the first 30 minutes:

"It's just basketball, it's all about getting into a rhythm. Once you get into a rhythm, you get in the flow of the game and after that I think the basketball just takes over from there. You just get into your rhythm."



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LAWSON (CONT.)

On what gets him going:

"You know, Coach (Self) ran a play for me, an out-of-bounds play called 'five sides,' and it got me an easy jumper and I started to get going, then I ended up getting a put back. Things like that. Just getting easy baskets around the rim. Just seeing the ball go through the net really."

On the team's defensive game without junior F Udoka Azubuike:

"From the post it was pretty poor. Number 15 (New Mexico State junior F Ivan Aurrecochea) got going early, he got confidence and you have to give credit to him. He played well. He got angles and he scored when his team needed him to score. I would say it was my fault. I guarded him poorly."

On junior F Mitch Lightfoot's impact on tonight's game:

"Mitch played great tonight. If it wasn't for Mitch we would probably lose that game. He had big charges, he had a couple of stops down the stretch. I think Mitch was the player of the game for us."

On the value of Lightfoot's experience:

"Definitely, he's been around for two years, he played with Devonte' (Graham) and he played with Frank (Mason III). He learned from guys like Lando (Landen Lucas), he learned from him when he was a freshman. You've got to give credit to Mitch. He's a guy who sticks around, (he) doesn't play much, but when his number is called he produces for the most part. Like I said, he was the player of the game today."

On the importance of having a player like Lightfoot on the team:

"He's a great teammate. Everyone needs a Mitch Lightfoot on their team. Like I said, he comes to practice every day, he's the main one talking, he has a lot of energy and he's the first one in the locker room and the last one to leave. I don't know what he's always doing in there, but he's always in there. He's a great overall kid and a great person to be around."

On the team's motivation going into next Saturday's rematch with Villanova:

"I just see it as another game on the schedule. I don't put too much emphasis on who we're playing this early (in the season). They don't really mean much, but going forward we just take all games the same."

KANSAS FRESHMAN GUARD DEVON DOTSON

On his defense on the last play of the game:

"He dribbled the ball up the court, he had a dribble handoff and (Quentin) Grimes and I were supposed to switch up."

On how it felt watching Dedric Lawson take over down the stretch of the game:

"It was great to watch. He's a great player. He had to get himself going and I feel like he did a great job with that and it was great to watch."

On looking at a box score after a game and seeing the numbers Lawson put up:

"Sometimes it's surprising, but you know he's always active and he has a way of finding the ball and getting easy buckets."

On the pace of the game slowing down after playing in eight collegiate games now:

"It's starting to slow down. I'm just getting more acclimated with everything that's going on and just seeing different defenses and adjusting."

On his team leadership, even though just a freshman:

"As a point guard, I saw calls not going our way. We were getting sped up, so I just told everyone to slow down and lock in and focus in on defense and get key stops. (We) Just (had to) buckle down and lock in."



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NEW MEXICO STATE HEAD COACH CHRIS JAHNS

Opening statement:

"Hats off to Kansas, being resilient and tough and (they) kept grinding, finding a way to win the game. We had our opportunities in the second half, we talked about it in the locker room, and we just couldn't knock them out. Obviously, it's our program to knock it out and I thought we had some chances and we just couldn't get it done down the stretch."

On New Mexico State's effort in the game:

"We didn't lose because of a lack of effort. Our guys played hard. I expected them to play hard. We came down here to win and I think it's pretty evident, if you understand basketball, that our guys competed at a high level and flew around the floor. In the end, you have to do better than 3-for-10 from the free throw line. Some of our better players couldn't make a shot, I think a lot of that had to do with Kansas' defense and toughness and length. But you have to make them and it just felt like in the last five to seven minutes we just couldn't jump up and make a big-momentum three. When you're winning a game like that and playing someone like that (in Kansas) (that's what you have to do to win the game) and we just weren't able to hit that knockout punch."

On Kansas redshirt-junior forward Dedric Lawson's performance:

"Obviously, that was a big narrative of the game, he had two points at halftime. I'm not in their locker room, I don't coach their team, so I have no idea what they did to motivate him, but he certainly was a different guy in the second half. (He) Did a tremendous job and was a big difference in the game."

On fouling earlier in the last few seconds of the game:

"We weren't going to foul them until after half court for sure, so we probably wasted a couple seconds (more) than we wanted to, but I really don't think there was any difference in that (outcome)."

On the team's defensive plan for the game without Kansas' Udoka Azubuike:

"Just playing our defense. That's kind of what we hang our hat on and like every team prepares in scouting, we fully anticipated them to play a lot of small ball, which they did last year, and (are) doing some more of it now with the big fella out. But like every team, we had a game plan and tried to execute it. I thought a big difference in the game was them scoring 29 points off our 16 turnovers. If you're going to beat Kansas, when their emblem is in the middle of the gym (floor), you can't do that."

NEW MEXICO STATE REDSHIRT-SOPHOMORE F JOHNNY MCCANTS

On attacking KU in the post:

"I feel like we had a great opportunity (to do so). We have been working so hard all year, we should have won this game. They played (their) hearts out the whole game, they never let up."

On the key to rebounding against KU:

"Box out the big man, try to get more offensive and defensive rebounds than they can. We should have won this game. We did not check out at the end and we did not check out this whole game. We got a lot of offensive rebounds."

On the emotion at the end:

"I've never had a game like this in my college career. Playing for Coach Jans made me love the game even more. We have been working so hard this year. My emotions came out at the end of the game because I thought we had it."

On if the NMSU players felt like they gave the game away:

"I felt like we had a lot of missed opportunities. We had a game plan down, but we didn't execute it. They fought really well. We didn't give up. We worked hard the whole game. Shots were falling for them at the end of the game."

On how the Aggies learn from this game moving forward:

"It's a setback. We will be sitting on this game for about nine days until we play again. This is the kind of game that improves our team. We have to come together as a team after a loss like this and move forward."

On what made Kansas' Dedric Lawson so effective down the stretch:

"He's a post man that sits in really well. He got some calls down there. He went at us. They gave him the ball and he drove and posted up to try and draw a foul."



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NEW MEXICO STATE REDSHIRT-SENIOR G JOJO ZAMORA

On the last play of the game, to try to tie it:

"Just try to get a three ball and it did not work out."

On what Kansas did defensively to hold them down from the outside:

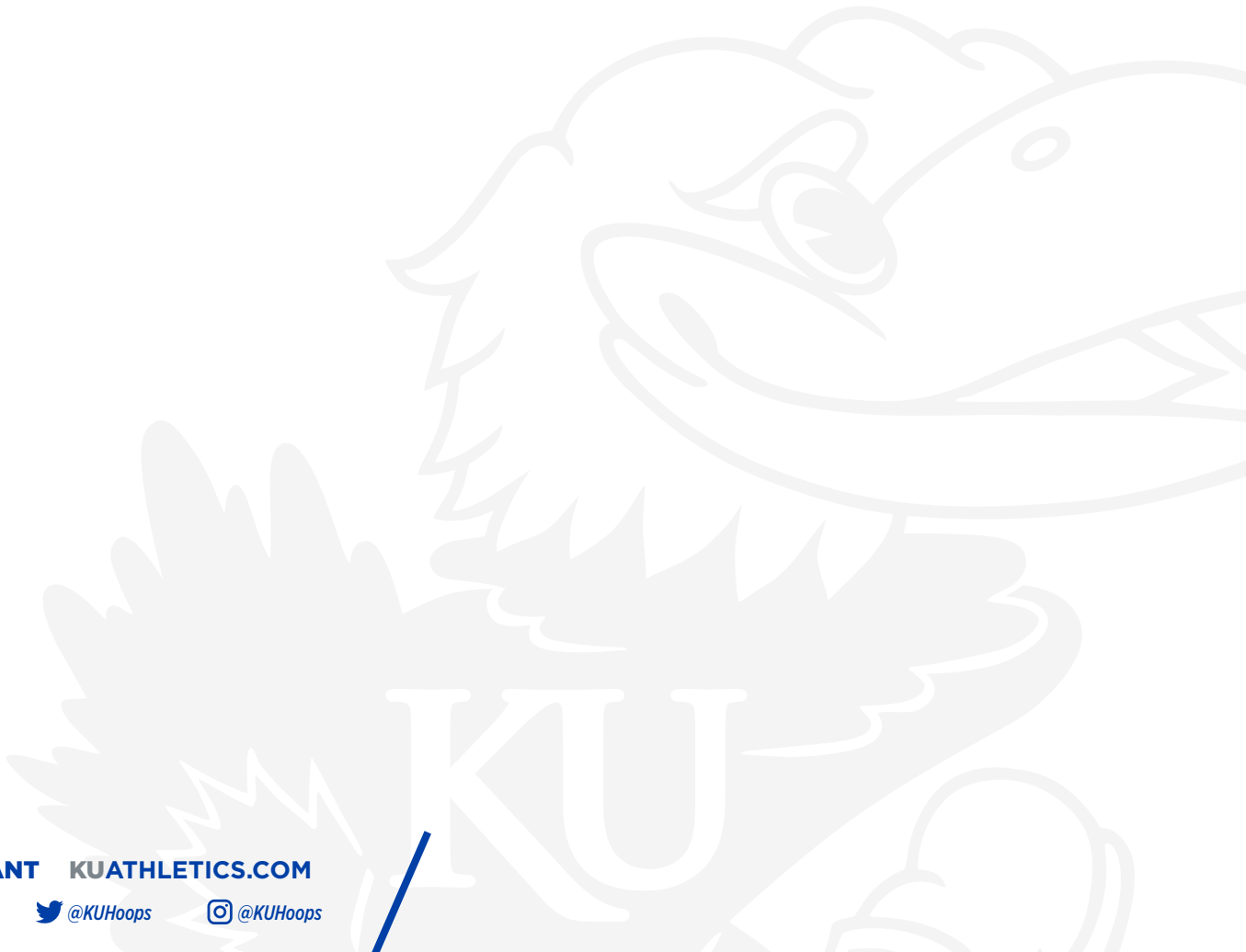
"They were switching everything. Every time we did a handoff, they switched on that. Getting out and pressuring us, they played really good defense."

On if NMSU expected Kansas to foul on the last shot attempt of the game:

"Yes, I did. I thought they were going to foul me. So, I tried to get it up and I didn't."

On leaving free throw points off the board:

"Yes, definitely (that was an issue). I feel like I could have made all of my free throws. I went to the line and missed a couple. Some other guys missed a couple. That could have brought the game closer."



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