# #1/1 Kansas 74, #17/16 Villanova 71

Saturday, December 15, 2018 Allen Fieldhouse // Lawrence, Kan.

## KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF

#### Opening Statement:

"We made one boneheaded turnover late, but we'll forgive the dude who made it because he was unbelievable and that was Lagerald (Vick) and Dedric (Lawson) was terrific (too). I don't know if I've ever had a game where two guys scored 57 out of our 74 points. Obviously we need Doke (junior center Udoka Azubuike), it would be nice if we could get (sophomore forward) Silvio (De Sousa) and we've got to get (freshman guard) Quentin (Grimes) going. But to think that Devon gets 11 (points) and those three guys combined for 68 (total points) and the rest of the team gets six. So we've got some areas that we can improve in, but certainly, the way our guys competed defensively all day was tremendous. They made hard shots and you know everybody will talk about those three (Dedric Lawson, Vick and Dotson) but we (also) have Marcus Garrett; we (the team) get four steals, and he gets all four of them. He guards (Villanova redshirt senior forward Eric) Pashcall and does an unbelievable job on him with the size advantage. It was just a great, great team win and a great atmosphere, like you said."

### On Lagerald Vick's great athletic play today:

"You know, he was great. You know you get good Lagerald sometimes and then you get not quite as good Lagerald (other times). This was good Lagerald today, he was terrific. He was aggressive looking for his shot, defensively he was engaged, (he) missed a couple of blockouts and they dunked it over our heads and he has got to do a better job with that. But for he and Dedric not to be subbed for and Marcus the whole game. I mean they played 37 (Garrett), 38 (Lawson), 39 (Vick) and the two guards got into foul trouble and we couldn't play Devon (Dotson) in the first half with two (fouls) because Q (freshman guard Quentin Grimes) got his third (foul). We can't play both of them or we wouldn't have them for the second half. So we kind of pieced it together and played really well and had a bad last two minutes of the first half but other than that, (today's game was a) pretty solid performance."

### On Marcus Garrett's defensive impact:

"Yeah, he is a good player. If he had a consistent stroke, he would be our best player; I mean all-around player. He can play and he's got fast hands and he's tough and does all the right things. Someone we haven't mentioned yet, Mitch Lightfoot, gave us some great minutes too. It's a hard game for Mitch to play (in) if you're going to play Dedric because they played small and they played five guards a lot of the time together. Those guys did a good job getting (the ball) out to shooters."

# On Mitch's slipping screen and getting to bucket:

"Yeah, it was a good play. We don't do a lot of things very well and our starting guards combined for three assists. So we've got to do a better job of passing the ball and setting guys up. When you got a guy that can score like Dedric, how can you (as a team) not get more assists? That's something we can definitely improve on. We need to get the big fella back (Azubuike) and hopefully our full complement of players and see what this team can do."

#### Update on Azubuike:

"He looked good today, walking around and everything. He is actually on the court, not practicing or anything, but he is doing rehab on the court. So he is actually working on shooting a stationary jump hook and jumping a little bit. I still don't know what his availability to play in a game is, but I think the (initial) thought (that) we would have him 100 percent by after Christmas is very realistic."

## KANSAS RS-JUNIOR FORWARD DEDRIC LAWSON

*On the discomfort in his hand during the second half:* 

"I had jammed my hand going up for a rebound and the nerve was out for a couple of seconds, but I got it back."

### On sophomore guard Marcus Garrett's defensive performance today:

"Garrett was great defensively. He stopped (Eric) Paschall, he slowed him down. Paschall started off fast, he had seven points in the first eight minutes, but Garrett just stayed with him. Garrett was the only person on the team with four steals. When you look at the stat sheet, he only had one point, but he does so much for this team. He's so valuable to us. Things like that really don't go unnoticed in my eyes."

### On what it means to beat Villanova after last year's Final Four loss:

"I know it means a lot to a lot of people. I know a lot of people came to this game because they wanted to see us beat Villanova. The last three times we've played Villanova, they've beaten us, and I just wanted to win one for Coach (Self) and for the guys and the fans out there that got up at 11 a.m. (on a Saturday) to go to a college basketball game."





# KANSAS SENIOR GUARD LAGERALD VICK

On his performance today (29 points, seven rebounds, one assist):

"I was playing for the coaches and the fans. Knowing how much this win would mean to the program, I was just really going out there and trying (my hardest)."

On the motivation to beat Villanova today after last year's Final Four loss to the Wildcats:

"You look back at those moments and try not to hold on to them for too long, but I just went out there and left it all out there for the coaches, my team and the fans."

On holding Villanova scoreless for more than six minutes in the first half:

"We paid good attention to the scouting reports, we were good defensively. We just really took care of our responsibilities (today)."

#### KANSAS SOPHMORE GUARD MARCUS GARRETT

On his defensive performance against Villanova redshirt senior forward Eric Paschall:

"I just tried to stay attached to him. During the film I saw if you fell for his jab, he was just going to jump over and shoot, so I just tried to stay as close as possible to him so he couldn't rise (up) over me and shoot."

On the defensive adjustments the team made from the last time KU faced Villanova:

"They were playing a roll and replace, they hit us with it a lot in the first half. I feel like that was the same way they beat us last year; playing the roll and replace was how they made all the threes last year. So Coach (Self) made a good adjustment so we didn't have to leave the shooter."

On his four steals:

"It's just like watching film. When I see the ball in front of him (who he's defending), I basically just try to reach. Most of the time when the offensive player catches the ball, they're not really holding it tight, they're trying to run a play, so I just try to get my hand in there."





## VILLANOVA HEAD COACH JAY WRIGHT

On redshirt senior guard Phil Booth's performance:

"He was awesome. He carried us. He was tough as hell, he defended too. Just played with great guts and great leadership. (Which is) No surprised at all. (I'm) Thankful, (because) without him we would have been in trouble. That's what (Lagerald) Vick and (Dedric) Lawson) did for them. I thought Eric was on pace to do the same thing, he just (got into) foul trouble. There were a couple of loose balls and he's got to be smarter, because we need him in there. When you get in games like that, with really good defensive teams and great coaches, they're going to take away everything you need. They had Lawson and Vick, while we had Phil and Eric, who was sitting (out) due to foul trouble in crucial parts of the game."

On keeping it close with No. 1-ranked Kansas on the road:

"It's good, especially in this environment. We needed one more missed foul shot, we were one missed foul shot away. I think (Dedric) Lawson hit the last couple. If you have a big guy like that who you can inbound the ball to and make free throws, that's valuable. I was proud of us, I was proud of the guys and how they battled down the stretch, (had) good execution down the stretch. When it's SO loud in here. This is the hardest place we've ever played to try and make calls. Even on foul shots, I talked to the team at the other end (of the court). I thought Phil and Collin (Gillespie, sophomore guard) did a great job of communicating like it was a four-point game and they were taking twos instead of threes. They did it all on their own and they did a great job."

On if the Villanova defense felt good about the shots KU's Vick was taking:

"They weren't on the baseline, falling down, out-of-bounds. That was one and another one was when a loose ball was picked up on the left wing that we had to stop his initial drive. Those were (defensive stops) that we felt good about. We were trying to stay in him, because he's good at creating space with his dribble and stepping back. He's got length, and we were trying to take that away. The two big ones he hit, they were actually loose balls, so we didn't do that bad of a job. One he hit on Dhamir Cosby-Roundtree we didn't step up on and that was a big one, that three.

#### VILLANOVA REDSHIRT SENIOR FORWARD ERIC PASCHALL

On sitting for a key part of the game:

"Of course it's frustrating. I have to trust my teammates. Of course it's going to be frustrating, but (I just had to keep) cheering them on and keep doing what I do to contribute."

## VILLANOVA REDSHIRT SENIOR GUARD PHIL BOOTH

On Kansas' Lagerald Vick this season compared to last season:

"He's a lot more aggressive this year. I mean last year they had such a well-rounded team of scorers. He didn't really need to be as aggressive. He's been working a lot on his game, as you can see. He pulls up and gets to the rim, very athletic. He's a completely different player."

On his ability to breakdown the Kansas defense:

"I was just reading what they were doing. They were giving me different looks. They did a good job switching up the ball-screen coverages. I was just trying to read them (ball-screen coverages) and try and get in the lane to make a play and score."

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