#18/19 Arizona State 80, #1/1 Kansas 76

Saturday, December 22, 2018 Wells Fargo Arena // Tempe, Ariz.

KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF

On leading the game for the over 37 minutes and falling to Arizona State:

"They were much better than us in the second half and we were much better than them in the first half. We obviously didn't close the game well at all and our defense wasn't any good. They got what they wanted and obviously Remy () made a couple of hard shots and #2 came in and he wasn't good, he was great. He's a fifth year kid and he scored about 10 straight, nine straight for sure, and brought them back. I think he made a three to give them a one-point lead and then we tied it up. I mean, we executed so poorly down the stretch, we got to get the big fella back in there so that way we can run some more stuff but, you know, we played well the first half and fought through foul problems, but obviously, we didn't do enough. I did a terrible job in the last timeout, we have a play called black, I said, 'Run it like black but with no lob' and it's loud, and Lagerald (Vick) doesn't hear me say no lob so he goes backdoor so the play is dead, and then the deflection into back court. I actually think the deflection in the back court was a bad call, I think that should've been our ball because I thought they deflected it before it hit Devon's (Dotson) hands but rules changed. Now, if there's a deflection that leads to a deflection, you can play it live, but who knows, it's not reviewable so who knows what the deal is. Still not to get the shot out of the timeout, that's certainly on me."

On Dedric Lawson's night:

"He was terrific, there's no question about that, but, when we're not making shots he has got to touch it every time and we're not. We had some individuals that aren't making shots and still kept shooting. Which, it's good to have confidence and to keep firing, but not a game point, and he had to get a touch every possession and we didn't do that. It was a game in which I think we can learn a lot from, at least I hope we can. It's a game that I felt like, it's Christmas and we were in the giving spirit because that was our game and we let it get away."

On Marcus Garrett's free throw shooting impacting the game:

"He did some good things but we can't go 7-of-28 from three. It's unbelievable and we didn't rebound the ball in the second half, even though they didn't outrebound us by much, but I thought they hurt us 11 to six on second chance points. I thought our bench did some good things but still, there's no production off of it, so we have got to do some better things. If we would've had this guy (Udoka Azuibuike), we might not have gone 7-for-28 for three if this guy was out there. I'm sure Svi (Mykhailiuk), the first thing he'll say is 'You have to make shots, but Coach, guard somebody' and of course I would tell him is 'well we waited four years for you to do it'. It was a game where we got to learn something from it, we weren't going to run the tape, we weren't going to go undefeated, that's a ridiculous thought but what we can do is, I would rather learn from a non-conference game loss than learn from a conference loss so hopefully we will be better because of it down the road."

On entering Christmas break with a loss:

"It sucks but the sky is not falling. We'll break and let everybody spend some time with their families and reconvene on the 26th and hopefully get our batteries recharged. Even though there is no excuse for blowing a lead, on everybody's part, coaches, players, we have had to fight harder than what we probably anticipated fighting in the non-conference so we're a tired team so we need to get our batteries recharged."



