



ROCK CHALK JAYHAWK  
**POSTGAME QUOTES**

// 2018-19 KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

**Kansas 79, Emporia State 52**

Thursday, November 1, 2018  
Allen Fieldhouse // Lawrence, Kan.

**KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF**

*Opening statement:*

"I thought we were bad in the first half. I thought our starters played well and when we subbed, it was about even. I think the second half, gosh dang, our starters had the best 10 minutes they've had all year. The 22-0 run, that was good. There were good things that happened, obviously. Quentin (Grimes) and Devon (Dotson) weren't getting shots in the first half, but they were obviously better in the second half. But I thought Lagerald (Vick), Dedic (Lawson), Doke (Udoka Azubuike) and Charlie (Moore) all had pretty solid games."

*On if he's decided on a starting lineup:*

"Yeah, I think so. But I'll wait and see how practice goes. I thought the starters played pretty good. We've got to have Devon impact some players more. K.J. (Lawson) missed wide-open looks and certainly, Mitch (Lightfoot) has to be able to knock free throws down too. There were two stiff looking ones that he missed. But I think Mitch did have a good game, he did some good things for us. David's (McCormack) got to be able to get rebounds and I thought he played pretty well. There were some good things, obviously. I think we had seven turnovers in the first five minutes and after that, we got a lot better."

*On Doke's shooting from the free throw line:*

"I thought, most importantly, he passed better. He passed out of the trap and I thought he did a good job. He made his free throws, his energy level was better and he blocked some shots. We looked a little bit more athletic as well."

*On Dedic's consistency and 3-point shooting:*

"Yeah, he got on a roll there. I think he and Lagerald made four threes in a row or something like that during that run. You look a lot better when you make shots. It starts for real now and it won't be 'equal opportunity' where everybody plays. We'll stick with the guys who are playing well. We have six or seven that I think can go out there and play well. We need our bench to be able to fit in and give us a boost of energy but all in all, I think we have a chance to play well."

*On facing Michigan State in the regular-season opener:*

"They're better than a top-10 program. Their team this year is preseason (No.) 10 and they do have a lot of new faces this year but they've got three vets. You've got (Nick) Ward, (Cassius) Winston and (Joshua) Langford who are probably going to play as many minutes as any three starters in the country over the past three years. But that's what we'll be focusing on the next four days."

**KANSAS SOPHOMORE GUARD MARCUS GARRETT**

*On how much it meant to him to be in the starting line-up:*

"It didn't mean much. I just felt like Coach (Self) wanted to try different line-ups, just to see how guys play together. I felt like it went great."

*On the development of his lob pass in his time at Kansas and importance of it:*

"Just watching Devonte' (Graham) I remember he always used to make those passes, coming across half court, just seeing guys run the floor. I feel like I can always throw lobs."

*On the team's readiness for the Michigan State game Tuesday:*

"I do feel that we're ready. It's the first game, I feel like everyone is going to be hyped up, we're going to be ready to go."

*On if this year's team has a different feeling to it compared to last year:*

"Of course, just playing with different guys. We're still trying to learn (about) each other, we're still trying to come together, find what players like to do, and what they don't like to do, where they like catching the ball, things like that."



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## KANSAS JUNIOR CENTER UDOKA AZUBUIKE

*On his personal performance tonight:*

"I definitely played better, I did. We worked on the double- and triple-teams in practice. Coach (Self) talked to me about it, and my teammates, they always talk to me about what I need to work on. After the game last week, the next day we were in practice, I spoke with the coaches (and) we tried to figure out what to do."

*On the importance of bouncing back after the previous game:*

"I can't have games like that all the time, so tonight was really important for me to bounce back after the last game. Our focus was important to us, right from the get-go. I talked about it after the first game, that I had to get myself together and it was really important."

*On the team's readiness for the Michigan State game Tuesday:*

"Our team is ready. We just have to tighten (up) a lot of stuff, and our chemistry; we still have to work on our chemistry. Overall, I think we are ready, as far as talent, and I know they will be ready too, so we have to attack."

*On what it means to be playing Michigan State in this year's Champions Classic:*

"It's the beginning of the season. The fans are excited, everyone wants to see what Kansas can do. That tournament really helps us as a team. When you guard them, you play your heart out, it really helps us, for the season, going forward."

*On how playing in the Champions Classic feels compared to the Final Four:*

"Not quite the same feeling, but at the same time it's the first big, official game that we play in. I think the way we go into that game really helps us moving forward. I think the stage of the Champions Classic is close to the same stage as the Final Four. I told the younger guys we can't think too much, we have to just play our game."

*On his motivation after his last game:*

"Coach (Self). Coach has always been on me about everything. I know he's going to be on me even more this year. He talked to me about it in practice, he pushes me to do better. I spoke to Coach (Norm) Roberts, Dedric (Lawson) and Lagerald (Vick); they talked to me about it and what I can do. I've thought about what I have to do, because I know they (opponents) are going to double team me a lot."

## KANSAS FRESHMAN GUARD OCHAI AGBAJI

*On the team's readiness for the Michigan State game Tuesday:*

"Like Coach (Self) said, 'It all starts tomorrow.' We're going to start hitting it hard, on Michigan State scouting, and preparing for it."

*On what can be improved upon before Tuesday:*

"We're still trying to learn (about) each other, how we play with each other, learn each other's game, things like that. That comes with time, obviously. We're going to be good down the road, but (right now) we have to prepare for Tuesday."

*On Coach Self's halftime message:*

"He just wanted us to come out more aggressively, defensively and offensively, and that's what we did. That started out really good, but we flipped it and started making runs."



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## WASHBURN HEAD COACH BRETT BALLARD

*On the game overall:*

"I thought we competed pretty hard for the most part. I told our guys in the locker room it's been like practice has been and we competed hard for about 30-40 minutes. We were hanging around for the first four or five minutes of the first half, but then the wheels fell off. (I'm) Proud of the way the guys competed in the tough environment and, obviously, Coach Self has a terrific team."

*On Kansas' two big-man look:*

"I think they are going to clean up the two big look. When you go two bigs at times you can scheme to that just a little bit easier because you can pack the paint. That's going to work if they aren't calling a lot of fouls or if Kansas is having a poor night shooting wise. (It'll) Definitely (be) tough to guard."

*On coming back to coach at his Alma Mater:*

"Everyone kept asking me how I felt. I wanted to wait until after the game to decide because we didn't want to come in here and lay an egg. I told the guys in the locker room I've never been about just showing up and saying that's good enough. When I came to Kansas as a walk-on it wasn't like, 'Hey I was happy to be on the team.' I was competing and working for minutes. I know I'm biased, but this is the best venue in sports."

## WASHBURN SENIOR GUARD JAVION BLAKE

*On his experience playing in Allen Fieldhouse:*

"It was amazing; being from Kansas and always watching them (the Jayhawks play while) growing up. Playing in Allen Fieldhouse my senior year is a great memory, but like Coach (Ballard) said, I had a great career. The only thing I am focused on is my four turnovers and working on (improving) that."

*On the team's performance tonight:*

"It just comes from confidence and coaches. Playing in Allen Fieldhouse, you always want to get them (shots) up. After the first one went down, the basket looked a little bigger for me and that third one was definitely a heat check."

