



ROCK CHALK JAYHAWK POSTGAME QUOTES

// 2018-19 KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

#5/6 Kansas 70, #23/25 Oklahoma 63

Wednesday, January 2, 2019
Allen Fieldhouse // Lawrence, Kan.

KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF

Opening statement:

"We obviously started both halves down seven (points). So that's 14-0. When you take away the start from both halves, we actually outscored them 21 points the rest of the game. It was just a terrible start to both halves and it wasn't a lack of effort, we just couldn't get the ball down and made a couple defensive blunders. But we really guarded them well the first half and got up 15, but then our shot selection became really poor in the second half. We didn't attack them when we should've and then let them hang around there in the second half. We didn't really get a favorable whistle, I don't think, getting to the free throw line like we could've. There were also some plays that didn't go our way. It just goes to show you that Quentin (Grimes) loses the ball, then goes and makes the best play he's made all year by going back and diving for the ball and getting it to Devon (Dotson) for the and-1. That was the best play of the game and certainly the best play he's made all year so hopefully that will give him some confidence. The little freshmen guards (Grimes and Dotson) get 30 points and our two leading scorers (tonight) went 3-of-9 between them (in the second half from the field). Somehow they found a way to grind it out and make easy baskets, but we beat a good team tonight even though we didn't play well in the second half at all."

On the freshman duo of Dotson (16 pts) and Grimes (14) picking up the slack of Doke (Udoka Azubuike) and Dedic's (Lawson) play:

"Dedic got us rebounds and Doke played well the first half, but he didn't get any touches the second half. The advantage we had was to throw the ball inside and then OU went to the "Hack-A-Doke", which worked around the six-minute mark. He didn't play as much the second half and we have to get him in better shape since he's lost some conditioning. But there were some good things that happened and there were also some things that were pretty apparent that we have to correct, just from a mindset and chemistry standpoint."

On the Iowa State matchup on Saturday:

"You can make a case that Iowa State has had as good a preseason as anybody (in the league). Them, Oklahoma and Texas Tech. They're back to being healthy and Steve (Prohm) has done a great job of winning some games that were hard games. Now they have their full complement of guys and it will be a great game and atmosphere (in Ames, at Hilton Coliseum). We have to all get on the same page on some things. I thought there were some individuals today that when things didn't go well, it totally affected their game and what was most important to the team. We've obviously got to learn from that and correct that."

KANSAS REDSHIRT-JUNIOR FORWARD DEDRIC LAWSON

On freshman guard Quentin Grimes' big play and what it meant to the rest of the team:

"It was a momentum changer and like he said, we had nothing going. He got the steal and it gave us a little more cushion, a little more room for us to play defense, get rebounds and just knock down free throws."

On the difference in intensity between nonconference and Big 12 Conference play:

"I thought it was amped up by the fans, the fans brought the energy. We got into a slow start and they got us going with the energy and we took control of the game from there."

On what head coach Bill Self told him before he went off, scoring wise, in the second half:

"He just told me to be aggressive; that's what he said. He told me to just attack and I knew in the post they were doubling, so I was just trying to feel out where they were doubling from and things like that. I got a couple of one-on-one opportunities and I just tried to take advantage of them."

On if Self explained the importance of winning at home to the team:

"He definitely said, 'Take care of (our) home court' and (that) many people come here and don't win in Allen Fieldhouse. We're going to do a great job of that this year and try to win every game at home and go on the road and steal some (wins too)."

KANSAS FRESHMAN GUARD QUENTIN GRIMES

On what Self described as his 'best play all season' and what happened on that play:

"Yeah, definitely (I agree it was); I knew I had just turned the ball over right before that possession and he was fumbling it, so I knew I had to get on the floor and dive for the ball and then pass the ball to Devon (Dotson) and he made an and-one play so I fouled right after that play and that was the swing of the game."



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GRIMES (CONT.)

On the intensity of the game:

"I know how tough Big 12 play (is) and we don't want to let any games slip away from us, especially at home. So I knew (that I) definitely just (have) got to do what I can to help the team go out and win."

KANSAS FRESHMAN GUARD DEVON DOTSON

On Grimes putting together back-to-back games where he does a lot of positive things and what it means to the team:

"It's great for us. He's a great player and I feel like when he gets going that's when we're at our best. When he can knock down shots and is making plays, it really helps lift the team."

On Dedric Lawson finding a way to get rebounds:

"It was great. I mean (he's) probably going get like 10 or 12 rebounds at the rim each game. You know he's active; that's just who he is."

OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH LON KRUGER

Opening Statement:

"We dug ourselves into a pretty good sized hole in the first half. I thought we didn't handle the ball very well and I thought KU created some turnovers. We didn't do very well in transition and they got a lot of stuff off of our offense in the first half. Our guys fought better in the second half and made a push. We did pretty well in the half court; but again, too many transition opportunities (were lost). We tried to make a push in the second half, but whether that be (Dedric) Lawson stepping up or someone making a big shot, they did a good job holding that off. We've got to learn from it and keep working to get better."

On the team's confidence following this game:

"You want to learn from each ballgame. It's not like conference changes coming out of this ballgame, so I think we've got to understand that there are 18 tough games in conference play and this was a tough one. We couldn't quite get back over the hump. We have to learn from it, take better care of the ball, be stronger in a crowd, (there are) things that we can get (learn) from this game for sure."

On keeping Kansas out of the paint:

"They're great in the paint with (Udoka) Azubuike and (Dedric) Lawson – two big, terrific players down there. I thought our guys battled pretty hard. They had a crowd around them much of the time. Azubuike still dunked a few and Lawson had a good stretch there in the second half that kept the margin. They're good, they're really good, but I thought our guys fought. We just have to figure out a way to be a little better."

On senior center Jamuni McNeace:

"We wanted to give it a try. It's really in Jamuni's court right now. It's kind of a tolerance (thing). Obviously, he hasn't practiced and he felt like he could go tonight. (He) Just didn't look comfortable out there. We'll try it again in a few more days."

On Kansas' size affecting OU's ability to get into the paint:

"They're big and they're good. At times we did a good job of getting in there and being aggressive, but at other times it shot right into their hands. We have to learn from it and just compete for the result a little bit more. I think we're getting there, but we've got to find a way to finish. We'll learn from this."

On senior guard Christian James:

"Christian didn't shoot it like he has been shooting it for sure. He kind of put a little pressure on himself to maybe do too much at times. He'll bounce back, he's put a lot of time in and he's got a lot of confidence in what he's doing, so he'll bounce back and do well."

On the turnovers tonight:

"They're (Kansas) defensively (sound). We made some poor decisions attacking into a crowd, not being strong with the ball in the crowd. Anytime there are turnovers, it's a two-way deal, we didn't make very good decisions and they caused the turnovers."

On the seniority of this team and having the best chance to beat Kansas with this group:

"It's hard to say. We've had some opportunities that we didn't finish, of course. This group feels good about what they're doing. They're guarding better. I thought their half-court defense was very good. We gave up so many points in transition because of our offense. We've got to eliminate those points, but I thought our defense on the half court was fine. We just didn't give ourselves a chance when we were turning it over for KU in transition."



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OKLAHOMA SOPHOMORE FORWARD BRADY MANEK

On OU's performance tonight:

"We got down there just (by) turnovers, transitions in defense, stuff like that. I felt like it was very fixable. We've just got to take care of the ball more. My teammates did a good job of finding me and getting me some open jumpers; I didn't hit some of them, but other than that I thought we played well. We played well in the second half."

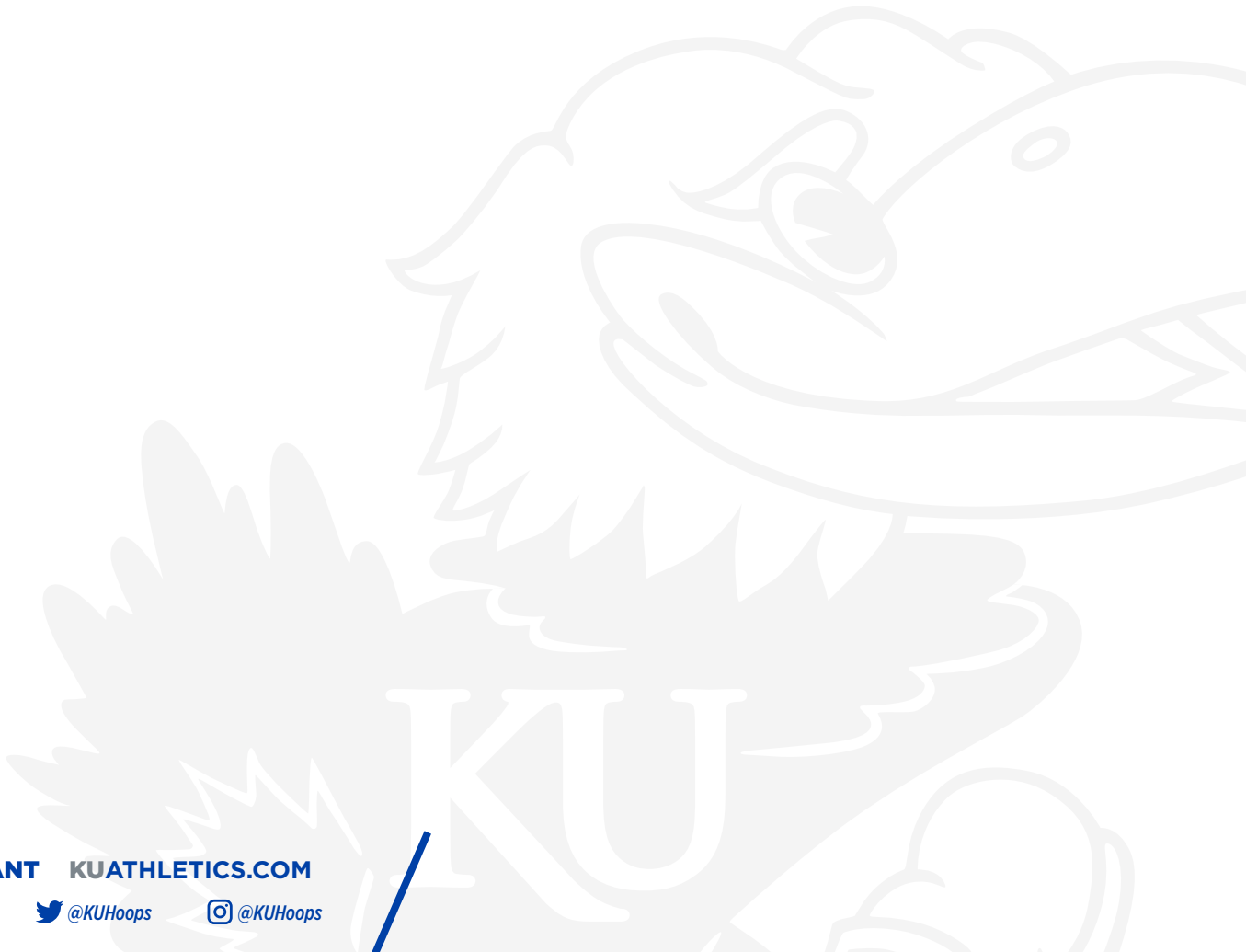
OKLAHOMA JUNIOR FORWARD KRISTIAN DOOLITTLE

On how physical tonight's game was:

"It was tough battling with (Kansas' Udoka) Azubuike and (Dedric) Lawson the entire game. It wasn't easy. We have another game on Saturday (vs. Oklahoma State), so I'll be ready to play."

On what he learned about his team tonight:

"We've got to keep our composure. During that big run that they had, we kind of fell apart. We stopped talking, which is what we're used to doing and is what we pride ourselves on. There's a lot to learn from. It was a lot of players' first time playing here, so that was expected. Like I said, we've got another game on Saturday that we have to prepare for."



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