#7/8 Kansas 80, Texas 78

Monday, January 14, 2019 Lawrence, Kan. // Allen Fieldhouse

KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF

Opening statement:

"It was a great basketball game, by far the best game in our building this year from an execution standpoint. We played great offensively, we just didn't make free throws. Defensively we didn't do a great job by any stretch, but we took away the middle for the most part until the end. We didn't rebound the ball; we're tiny, but they didn't play real big either. They just out-quicked (beat) us to balls, but I thought this is the best we've played. I told our guys at halftime, 'Jeez, if we just made our free throws we could have been up six or eight (points) instead of down two.' They shot the ball ridiculously well, especially down the stretch, but we hung in there. We had every reason to panic or lose our poise but that's as well as we've executed at game point against a zone in a long time, so that was good to see."

On the play of sophomore G Marcus Garrett:

"That was probably the best play of the game (in reference to his tie-up late in the game) was getting that jump ball. We had the possession arrow, so that was huge. Marcus played unreal, we were down two at halftime with no turnovers and Garrett has 17 points on 7-of-7 shooting, that's not a good sign. We didn't get much out of Dedric (Lawson) in the first half due to fouls but I thought we settled in and did some good things. In the second half their length is ridiculous and we won't play against a quicker team this year, without question. We did some good things and (senior G) Lagerald (Vick) had a nice night and made a couple of shots. (Freshman G) Ochai (Agbaji) was really solid again. We have to get one of our bigs to come in and give us some good minutes, that guy tonight was David (McCormack). I thought David did a great job in the second half; (he) missed a couple of bunnies that we have to get to go down. There were a lot of good things that happened and the building (and fans and atmosphere) helped a lot, but Texas is good. We caught them on a night where they played great; another night they played great was when they beat North Carolina, so this was a great win for us."

On the team's recent success from 3-point range:

"The ball just went in the hole. I thought our shot selection was a lot better the last two games. The big thing is Lagerald, he went 6-of-8 and 5-of-8 and that's a big difference, along with Marcus tonight. There were some good things that happened. It was a terrific win and every game in our league will be like this. We're not going to run away from people, we don't have one of those teams, nor is our league one of those which will allow a team to run away from people (other teams). We'll have a few days to catch our breath and get ready for 'Press Virginia' and then a quick turnaround after that (vs. Iowa State on Monday, Jan. 21). We have a big 48 hours starting this weekend."

On West Virginia:

"You can say whatever (you want to); I don't know what the deal was but they played without three starters against Oklahoma State. I don't know exactly what their stats are, but maybe three of their leading scorers. One of them is obviously hurt, but just think, we shouldn't not talk about having Udoka (Azubuike) because we're not going to have him. It's not like he's missing and we're hoping to get him back, we're not going to get him back. I do think our guys adjusted pretty well, but we don't have any rim protection because we're not big. Here is a game where you're playing against all those athletes and we got zero dunks tonight, if I'm not mistaken. For us to execute the way we did and to not get any easy baskets, I am really proud of our guys."

KANSAS RS-JUNIOR F **DEDRIC LAWSON**

On forcing a jump ball with sophomore G Marcus Garrett:

"That was a smart play by Marcus. His defensive instincts kicked in and took over. When (senior F Dylan) Osetkowski went baseline, he had nowhere to go. We knew it was our jump ball coming out of the timeout. Coach (Self) had told us and it was a smart play by him."

On Garrett's play offensively:

"He played great and carried us the first half. When I was in foul trouble, he and (senior G) Lagerald (Vick) both made shots that got us off to a good start and it kept us rolling the whole game. Sometimes when we play pickup or one-on-one, we know he's (Garrett) capable of making shots and he's just got to keep shooting the ball."

On how Garrett's shooting impacted the floor spacing:

"They had to stop trapping me at one point. It messed me up. I caught the ball and thought the ball was coming, but everyone stayed home. It threw me off because I was expecting the trap. It made them stay home because Marcus was making shots."



KANSAS SOPHOMORE G MARCUS GARRETT

On Lagerald Vick's defense on the last 3-pointer of the game:

"I felt like (sophomore G Jase) Febres couldn't even get his feet set, he couldn't get his feet under him and he had to shoot the ball from the top of his head."

On where his offensive confidence is coming from:

"My teammates, like Dedric (Lawson) and Charlie (Moore). Every time we go home they're letting me know to not let those missed shots affect me and just keep shooting. The only way the ball will go in is if you keep shooting."

On playing well against teams from his home state of Texas:

"Yeah, you could say that, but to me it's just a regular game."

KANSAS SENIOR G LAGERALD VICK

On what head coach Bill Self said in team's last timeout of the game:

"We just need a stop. We need to get a stop and keep the ball in motion."

On taking care of and protecting the ball:

"Coach has really emphasized that -- taking care of the ball. Especially since we turned it over kind of late (in our) last game. He emphasized that a lot going into today's game. We need to do a better job closing out games and taking care of the ball."

On what helped him make the key 3-pointers he he hit tonight:

"My teammates believing in me to just go up and shoot the ball."

On nights where the shots aren't falling:

"You just have to keep shooting and they will eventually start falling. We have a lot of guards who can shoot it pretty well."

TEXAS HEAD COACH SHAKA SMART

On his thoughts on the final play of the game:

"We were trying to play a ball-screen slip for (sophomore G) Jase (Febres) but our spacing wasn't where it needed to be, so it ended up being jumbled up and the shot that he got wasn't as clean as we wanted it to be. It was eight seconds, I think eight-and-a-half seconds, so it was a matter of either trying to attack the basket or some type of pick-and-roll. But, it is not quite enough time to run anything more than that and again, our spacing wasn't what I wanted it to be."

On how Febres can get hot at any time and if that is why he drew that last play:

"Yeah, what we drew up there was an option for (sophomore G) Matt (Coleman III) to drive and I wanted to throw it back to Jase. Again, our spacing wasn't what we wanted it to be; but, Kansas at the same time, did a good job defending it as well."

On what he thought of the overall effort tonight:

"I thought our overall effort was very good most of the time. I thought, obviously, the way Kansas started the second half was big for them. And I told the guys at one point in a timeout, 'We've got to make them miss, they aren't going to miss on their own.' And to our guys' credit, we got down 10 (points) a couple of times and they fought to cut that lead down and bring us back. We were just a play away from being able to win tonight's game. Whether it was on the offensive end or the defensive end, I thought when (freshman F) Jaxson (Hayes) fouled out; when he got that fifth foul, we got to stop there (and) I believe the score was tied. But you know, that is how it goes sometimes."

On his thoughts on when Kansas' sophomore G Marcus Garrett won the last few possessions from the opposite side and tied up the game:

"That was a big play, he had a phenomenal game you. You know, for him to come out shooting the ball as well as he shot, I think coming into this game he was 18 percent from three and we knew we were going to have to give (RS-junior F Dedric) Lawson some extra attention, so we chose to do so off of him (Garrett) but, you know, early he made us pay with those three threes. I thought throughout (the game) he was really aggressive, attacking off of the bounds, played really good defense. He was a huge difference maker."



(SMART CONT.)

On watching the little things adding up on film of KU's layups:

"Absolutely. One of the things you have to do, and we tell our guys this all of the time when you go on the road, is that you have to dominate the details. You have got to own all of the little things that go into it. I thought when we did struggle to get a shot late in the (shot) clock it was because we lacked aggressiveness in those possessions earlier in the clock. And then Kansas is a good team, they are not just going to let you get a good look at the end if you haven't been aggressive enough. I thought really when (freshman G) Courtney (Ramey) turned his aggressiveness up, that was a big part of what allowed us to cut (into) the lead, come all the way back and tie (up the score)."

On having a lot of high ball screens and getting open threes off of it:

"Our guys did a good job passing the ball off of our pick-and-rolls. In this league, you are going to see a lot of different coverages depending on the team (you're playing). Tonight the way Kansas defended it, they always do such a great job with their hands. But we try to put our shooters in spots where if the guard could deliver the ball, they would get an open shot. We were cold there to start the second half and then got going; that is what allowed us to make the run. But I thought our guards did a good job moving the ball."

TEXAS SOPHOMORE G JASE FEBRES

On if he knew that the team had been 0-for-8 from 3-point range at one point?

"I knew we had a drought, but we had to fight through it regardless, especially in a place like this."

On taking away the positive mindset that if they go hard for 40 minutes, anything is possible:

"Yeah, we have a midgame drought, like you said 0-for-8, and we can't have that playing against good teams like Kansas and Oklahoma next; they're also a really good team. Those droughts kill us and we had one against Texas Tech also. I think when we see the ball not going in, it is attacking. For me, I just continue to shoot the ball the right way and I was rushing the shots a little bit."

On what Texas had drawn up for the last play of the game:

"We were supposed to, I was supposed to, go up and set a ball screen for Matt (Coleman III), slip out of it and be open. They had trouble guarding those three positions and there was a miscommunication and at the end of the night that was a big moment that could've helped win us the game. I missed a dunk right before halftime -- that's two points (the ending score differential) and we should be in overtime. So as much as that hurts because it is the last play of the game, we had a lot of things that we could've done better. We could've won this game very easily with a couple of missed layups that we had (to go in)."

TEXAS SENIOR G KERWIN ROACH II

On how important was to try and get his first win in Allen Fieldhouse as a senior:

"I mean it was on my bucket list, and I'm never going to get it. I just wanted to come out here my senior year and get it done."

On what the key to winning the game turned out to be:

"Just staying in the fight, just punching and counter punching -- it's a 40-minute fight. They came out of the half and hit a few threes and that's going to happen. We know they can do that, but they were able to keep it up for 40 minutes and that's what we wanted to do, was hang in there for 40 minutes."





