



ROCK CHALK JAYHAWK

POSTGAME QUOTES

// 2018-19 KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

#13/14 Kansas 67, Kansas State 74

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Manhattan, Kan. // Bramlage Coliseum

KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF

Opening Statement:

"We weren't ready to play from the beginning. I don't think our young kids had any idea of what was getting ready to hit them, because that was pretty evident by the start (of the game). Our freshmen had never been in a situation like that and they felt it. Devon (Dotson) was really the only one who did some things from an aggressiveness standpoint. We missed Marcus (Garrett), obviously. Our veteran; he's our stabilizing presence even though he's just a sophomore. He would have been, obviously, a stabilizer for us. But give them credit. Even though we were ahead at half time, because our zone bothered them – that's the first time we've played much zone this year – I thought we did a good job with the zone for the most part. In the second half, they got a little rhythm and (Dean) Wade made a couple of 15 footers. Then they had some guys make some shots late in the clock, like you said, that really kind of kept us at bay. But we had a chance. We just throw the ball out of bounds. Certainly, their pressure totally just negated anything we had going of what we wanted to run. We didn't execute, but that's on me, as a coach. When the pressure hits, they say, 'Pressure busts the pipe' and the pipe was getting ready to explode all night. We dodged some bullets, but in the end, they were just better than us tonight."

On what triggered the decision to play zone defense tonight:

"We've actually won games over here, in the past, playing zone. We did last year. We thought maybe they wouldn't be quite as prepared for it. I don't know if they were or weren't, but their offense got a little stale then. I could be wrong, Greg, but I think they had like 26 points with nine minutes left in the first half and I think they only got to 30. I think they only scored like four points in the last eight or nine minutes (of the first half). So, it (the zone) did what it was supposed to do. Of course, when you have a situation like that, you shouldn't be up three at half time, you should be up seven or eight (points). We didn't capitalize on that. But our guys wanted to play. Certainly, we got off to such a bad start and (then) made the decision not to play Lagerald (Vick), which was probably good for our team, because we were actually much better the first half. It was just a bad game. Their pressure bothered us. You know, if you're down a few players and then you have to take out your second-leading scorer and not play him, there are not a whole lot of options to go to. Our guys hung in there and gave us a chance, but we couldn't get to the free throw line the second half. That was obviously a factor as well."

On Charlie Moore and Mitch Lightfoot playing well off the bench:

"I thought Charlie made a couple of (good) shots. I didn't think he played great, but he made a couple of shots, which is what we needed as much as anything. I thought Mitch was really good when he first got in there, really good. But we just make a lot of errors – it's like errors of a scouting report – we know that this is what they do, we know this is how we guard it, we know if we go into a zone we can't allow this. We know these things, but it seems like when the pressure is mounting, we kind of get shaken (up) a little bit and that was certainly the case tonight. But Charlie did give us some good minutes and Mitch gave us some good minutes. I should have played David (McCormack), but I want to just ride Dedric (Lawson) as much as possible because at least he's a threat in there to score. But maybe David could have given us some. The guys tried. But trying is not competing. Competing is scouting report – paying attention to it – focus, handling the pressure, embracing the moment, attitudes. There are so many things that go into competing. I will say that our guys tried hard tonight, but I don't think they competed nearly as well as we needed to."

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