



ROCK CHALK JAYHAWK  
**POSTGAME QUOTES**

// 2018-19 KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

**#13/14 Kansas 84, Oklahoma State 72**

Saturday, February 9, 2019  
Lawrence, Kan. // Allen Fieldhouse

**KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF**

*Opening Statement:*

"It wasn't always pretty. The first half we played better than the score. We counted six times with under five seconds on the shot clock that they scored with just seconds left. The second half we rebounded the ball great. We were only 6-of-15 and we were out there watching the first half and it looked like the two freshmen, Ochai (Abaji) and Devon (Dotson), were totally carrying our team. Detric (Lawson) got going in the second half and others did some good things. We haven't been getting 14 rebounds in 34 minutes from our bigs; of course, I haven't been playing them, all year. David (McCormack) was solid. (He) Did not do anything exceptional, but did not hurt us at all. Mitch (Lightfoot) was exceptional and he was our best player in the game from an energy standpoint. Moving forward we have to keep David and him out there from an energy standpoint. Ochai is bringing us some energy, enthusiasm and confidence and that feeds off on Devon and others. It was a nice win. We needed this one badly and the crowd was terrific. It's easy to get down on a group or whoever when things haven't gone well but the crowd was great and our guys responded. Now it's time to go to Fort Worth."

*On Devon Dotson:*

"He's been great. He gets 18, four assists, one turnover and plays 37 minutes. He does what he can do and what people probably don't get is his man rarely scores. Today I thought 13 (Isaac Likekele) from Oklahoma State had a pretty good game for them. But Devon has been terrific. Hopefully Marcus (Garrett) can get better to add a little depth in the backcourt. I thought he (Decon) and Ochai were by far the best players we had in the first half."

*On Quentin Grimes' second-half performance:*

"Call it like it is, he wasn't very good the first half. I think he got mad at half time, maybe particularly at one individual. I thought he was terrific this second half. He did some good things and made some shots but forget about making shots. Activity, getting down there and rebounding, playing to his size. I thought he did some good things and that should be a spring forward going into Monday."

*On what has to change to be successful on the road:*

"I think people make a big deal out of things. If you are equating success strictly to winning, there are a lot of things you have to do. To have a chance to win, we have to be tougher and more together and have positive energy, which we did today. (We were) Much, much better. We had positive energy against Iowa State. We did not have any in Manhattan (against K-State). We have to go down there (to TCU) with a purpose and a focus. People talk about running plays and all that. It doesn't matter what you run as long as you have energy and passion. It's contagious. I think we have some guys out there we can feed off of."

**KANSAS REDSHIRT-JUNIOR F DEDRIC LAWSON**

*On bringing out a particular energy in the second half:*

"Personally, I did. Coach (Self) said I was playing a little flat so I tried to come out and be aggressive. I made the jump shot at the free-throw line, I got a pass to Ochai (Agbaji), and then I made another play. I just wanted to try and get us going offensively. Mitch (Lightfoot) did a good job of closing it down defensively, which is something he does on a consistent basis."

*On getting more rebounds than Oklahoma State in the second half:*

"I think it mainly came from when they were driving and guys were basically getting a free run to the basket. Devon (Dotson) did a good job of keeping 13 [Isaac Likekele] out of the paint and other guys (did a good job) keeping their other guys out of the paint. We limited their paint touches and rebounds and worked on getting fast breaks and I think that helped us out a lot on the rebounding end."

*On believing if Ochai Agbaji is the one to look at and trust for 3-pointers with Lagerald Vick out:*

"Yes, I think so. I think Quentin (Grimes) can be that guy as well. Both of those guys have great shots and they've been shooting with confidence. We trust our guys to make those shots."

*On watching Mitch Lightfoot throw his body around and if that becomes contagious to him:*

"Yeah, I started taking charges a couple games ago. It's not that bad, they aren't that bad."



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### **KANSAS JUNIOR F MITCH LIGHTFOOT**

*On being ready to bring the energy and play well at all times:*

"I just think it's all about taking your opportunities and making the best of them. Whether it be two minutes or 20. You've got to go out there with the same energy and give Coach (Self) what he wants. That's a spark on the defensive end."

*On showing his excitement and how he felt about the way he was playing:*

"It was a great atmosphere out there. It was really cool to be able to get out there and help my teammates win the game, because we needed it. I thought the guys played really well and Coach had a good game plan for us."

*On knowing the team would look to him for help off the bench:*

"I think you need to rise to the occasion. Obviously, we're a little short-handed, so I was just trying to give the team what I can do and help us win."

*On his non-verbal reactions and excitement on plays made:*

"It's like Coach says, 'No easy baskets, you've got to earn every one of them.' That's something that we're trying to enforce moving forward. We want them to earn every point against us, it's going to be us giving our utmost effort on the defensive end. I feel like the defensive end is how we're going to start improving and then translate it into the offensive end."

### **KANSAS FRESHMAN G OCHAI AGBAJI**

*On Mitch Lightfoot's block that was called a foul:*

"It was definitely a good play. They called a foul, but the effort he gave on that just shows that he's willing to give his body for the team."

*On Devon Dotson's first-career dunk:*

"I haven't really seen him dunk ever. He doesn't really do it in practice or when we're just shooting around, but it was a good dunk. It got everybody pumped up early on."

*On his success from the 3-point line and if any of those makes were surprising to him:*

"Some of them were surprising, yeah. My teammates found me and I was just set and ready to shoot and I was getting wide-open looks."

### **OKLAHOMA STATE HEAD COACH MIKE BOYNTON**

*Opening statement:*

"I know people around here have probably been freaking out because they've lost four games in the league, but they still have a Hall of Fame coach, still (have) got a really, really, good, probably First-Team All-American-type player, and they still have one of the best home courts in all of America. Hats off to Kansas for finding their way after a tough loss on Tuesday. I'm proud of my kids, we competed; we just didn't have enough to stave off that run that they made in the second half. That's part of what makes this league as good as it is, that's part of what makes this place a hard place to play, because those things can come pretty quickly. We've got to figure it out, we're getting better. I'm sure for some of you guys who haven't seen us very often this year look at our record and think, 'That team really shouldn't be in the Big 12 this year' but we are improving and we'll continue to put in work. Whatever the thing is that people have that make them quit, I don't possess it. So we'll keep working, we'll keep fighting and keep trying to compete and eventually we will have a breakthrough and our guys won't look back."

*On if the collapse in the second half was more mental than physical:*

"It seemed that way. Obviously, they made several threes in a row and I don't know exactly what the breakdowns were. We were playing a little bit of zone. It's kind of become a thing that teams that haven't shot the ball well come into our games and all of a sudden find that magic touch and the ball just goes through the basket more. Again, they're got really good players so it probably was (a breakdown), but we'll have to go back and really look at the film to know exactly what happened."

*On his postgame message to his players:*

"I told them what I just told you. 'I know right now it's tough, no one likes losing.' Our kids obviously still compete hard, they give great effort, we're capable of being right there. We've got to eliminate whatever those three-to-four-minute stretches (are) that we have had almost every game that really has hurt us. But, at the same time, we'll show up Wednesday to play the game against another really good Big 12 team (Texas Tech), and they're not going to care how we feel or what happened to us today or what happened Wednesday. If we're not ready to play, then we'll continue to not feel good after games, so they need to start thinking like me. There's no give-in. You just keep holding onto the rope, keep standing there. Sometimes you take some body shots and they hurt, but you try to get your swings in as much as you can while you're fighting and eventually you'll get the better of the other team."



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## BOYNTON (CONT.)

*On why playing in Allen Fieldhouse fires up Cameron McGriff:*

"I don't know, I can't answer for him. I'd like to think that as a junior and captain for us who has played a lot, it doesn't take a venue to get him going. Usually, it's pretty natural that guys play well in great environments, really good players tend to do that. I'm not surprised, I don't know exactly if it has anything to do with it but certainly with a lot of eyes on you, it's a big-time place."

*On Mitch Lightfoot's role for Kansas:*

"He was phenomenal. He did what you do when you put on a uniform. When the opportunity comes, you make sure you're ready, and you do whatever it is that your team needs on that day. And today it was just bringing energy, even in the sense of not giving up a layup. The crowd fed off that, (as did) his teammates. It's a really small thing and in some ways it's a negative, it's a foul, they shoot free throws, but it's not a dunk, it's not two points guaranteed and it sends a message that, 'This is what we stand for.' There's been a lot of guys like him, I know we talk about Hall of Famers in Wilt (Chamberlain) and Paul Pierce, but there's been a lot of guys like Mitch Lightfoot that come in and help those teams hang those banners as well."

*On how Isaac Likekele and Yor Anei handled the game:*

"It's funny, I talked to the TV guys before the game and they asked me about Yor (an Overland Park, Kansas native) coming home and playing here, and I told them I was going to throw him the ball the first possession of the game and I think he is probably going to kick it into the stands. He didn't quite kick it into the stands, but he looked pretty nervous out there to start. I thought he settled in. I'm watching his evolution and I feel really good about the future with those two guys. I think they'll continue to get better. I was very pleased with the way they played. We didn't play great, (and) they made a lot of mistakes like we always do, but they weren't overwhelmed by the environment."

*On Lindy Waters' injury:*

"He didn't practice much yesterday. Add it to the list. I don't worry about it. Whoever is available will play. It is what it is and we'll try to do, as a staff, everything we can to protect them from hurting themselves further and then we'll use whoever is available to try and put ourselves in a position to try to win."

*On other teams shooting above their 3-point average when they play OSU:*

"I have really not tried to focus on that. It really started with Baylor. Baylor came into our game, I think they were 330th in the country in threes and then it started with us, they shot like 75 percent from three for the next three and a half weeks. Obviously it continued on, K-State shot really well from three against us, TCU opened the game and made nine threes in the first half. I don't know exactly what it is, (but) we're playing a lot more zone, (and) that's a product of that, so we're not pressuring and taking away those shots as much, but we have got to do a better job of contesting and getting there earlier on the catch."

*On if his team is seeing an improvement and keeping their heads up:*

"I don't buy into that. We are competitors, there's no such thing. If their heads are down and they don't feel like they can play, I would advise them not to show up to practice. In our program, when you show up, you're going to do your job at a high level every single day. You're going to compete to try to win because it's not about you, it's not about how you feel, it's not about how I feel. We don't represent just ourselves, we represent a lot of people out there who expect to see a certain level of effort and eventually, they expect us to win some games too, but for right now the effort must continue to be there."

## OKLAHOMA STATE JUNIOR F CAMERON MCGRIFF

*On what is it about this arena that get him going:*

"I don't know. As far as the energy it probably carries me to another level that I want to say focus-wise and you have to bring your 'A' game here. Otherwise you're going to get embarrassed here and their fans will definitely get involved in the game."

*On what made things so difficult to defend the Jayhawks today:*

"I think we defended all their stuff, they just got a lot of second-chance points, especially in the second half. They definitely crashed the glass in a different way. That definitely opened the game up for them."



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**OKLAHOMA STATE FRESHMAN G ISAAC LIKEKELE**

*On what it was like to play in Allen Fieldhouse for the first time:*

"It was definitely a great atmosphere. I have never experienced anything like this and playing somewhere like this can't be simulated. You've got to actually come here and play here to really get that experience and I really enjoyed it even though we didn't get the outcome we wanted as a team. But it was a great experience to have."

*On what the difference was between the second half and the first half:*

"That was just on us; we caved in a little bit and they out-hustled us and credit to them, they played hard and we (have) just got to play harder. Playing hard is a mental thing and not one or two people on our team or even three or four, it has to be everybody all in, even the people who come in (off the bench\_ on the floor have to be all in, mentally."

*On what he thought of Kansas freshman G Ochai Abgaji today:*

"You know, (he's a) great player. He played a really great game and he did his thing, got loose, made threes and slashed to the rim. He had a really good game for them. Credit to him."

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