



ROCK CHALK JAYHAWK
POSTGAME QUOTES

// 2018-19 KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

#14/14 Kansas 78, West Virginia 53

Saturday, February 16, 2019
Lawrence, Kan. // Allen Fieldhouse

KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF

Opening Statement:

"We did some good things. Our offense was bad early but it was 22 to 9 with eight minutes left and then we got on a good roll to end the first half. We were up 26 (points) at halftime with a chance to go up 30 at the buzzer. But then we lost a little mojo, had a lot of turnovers and sloppy play the second half. But we did some good things and it was nice to see everyone contribute and do some good things, so I'm excited about that."

On freshman F David McCormack's performance:

"I think he is improving. That play to start off the second half was a big boy move. That looked like a pro. The thing about Dave and Mitch (Lightfoot) is, I don't know how many balls go in our hands that we don't get. The rebound stats are 36-to-31. There were probably 10 opportunities where that happened. Certainly, Mitch and Dave have to get better with that. I thought he was good and I thought Mitch gave us great energy again. Detric (Lawson) was fine. Devon (Dotson) was great again. (He was) Probably the best player in this game. Ochai (Agbaji) was solid and K.J. (Lawson) was tremendous off the bench."

On the next few games:

"The next two games are vitally important (for us) to win the league. I don't know if Iowa State did us a favor or not because they have the best schedule to finish up. They're in a great spot. It will come down to the last game of the year. For us to be a part of it, we need to be really good, but (especially during) that 48-hour stretch next Saturday and, of course, on Monday."

On the former Jayhawks players in Allen Fieldhouse today for the game:

"It's so good to see those guys, and they love this place so much. They have been through all the crap that our young players are going through now. These guys -- I get on them and then they play. Those guys -- when they were young, I got on them and they didn't play because we had enough guys. I think it will be good for our present players to be around them some and hopefully our guys have a safe, but fun, night. But I love seeing these guys. They mean a lot to many (people), but they mean a ton to our staff."

On this coming week:

"I told the players earlier that we will be off tomorrow, then we will prepare for K-State on Monday. Tuesday through the rest of the week will be (preparing for) Texas Tech. It's like the NCAA Tournament. You prepare some on the first day and the second day you prepare for the team you think you will be playing. (It'll be a) Great preparation week. We have to go compete. Texas Tech is on a big time roll right now."

On Marcus Garrett's status next Saturday:

"Yeah, we think so (that he'll be able to play). He hasn't practiced yet. We are giving him tomorrow off except for rehab, but Monday we are going to try and practice him and depending on soreness, practice him on Tuesday."

KANSAS REDSHIRT-JUNIOR F DEDRIC LAWSON

On the win:

"It was definitely a team win. I'm just proud of everyone. Devon (Dotson) played great; he had eight assists. Ochai (Agbaji) made athletic plays, Mitch (Lightfoot) and Dave (David McCormack) played well."

On what seems to be clicking within the team:

"I think it's just coming together for us. Guys are just playing with more free minds. (We're not) Playing not to lose, but we're playing to win. We're just going out there and having fun. It's just guys enjoying guys. From practices to games, we've been more locked in, more focused and more understanding. I think this team has grown a lot in that way."

KANSAS FRESHMAN G DEVON DOTSON

On the late-game run made by the Jayhawks:

"It was big. We started to get stops on the defensive end and just getting out and running, and executing the offense. We put them away early."

On his recent success on the court:

"I'm just playing in a flow. My teammates have been finding me and (I'm) just not getting down on myself."



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DOTSON (CONT.)

On how he accumulated eight assists in the game:

"They (West Virginia) were collapsing, so I would either kick out or drive and dish. So, I was just trying to look for my guys. It was the type of game that everyone could have gotten involved. I was just trying to find them."

WEST VIRGINIA HEAD COACH BOB HUGGINS

On takeaways from today's game:

"The loss. That's about the only thing I can take away from it."

On Kansas' defense:

"We help make everybody look better. I thought they were more aggressive and more physical than what they were (when we played each other) in Morgantown."

On the close race for Big 12 regular-season title:

"I'm worried about us. I haven't paid much attention (to anyone else). I heard Kansas State got beat at home. I think there's a bunch of people (teams who are contenders). Kansas State, Kansas, Texas Tech and Iowa State; I think any of those (teams) can win it, maybe more. I probably forgot somebody."

On adjustments the team has had to make after losing Wesley Harris and Esa Ahmad:

"The biggest adjustment is those two guys rebounded for us. We probably lost our second and third-best rebounders, with (Derek) Culver being first, but they were all playing together. Now we're playing Emmitt (Matthews Jr.) who's young and Lamont (West), who's really been a three his whole career. We tried to play Kansas big, but that didn't work out very well."

On worrying about the team's offense output after losing Harris and Ahmad:

"I think we played a very good team today, a very well-prepared team today and a very talented team. They're a lot better than we are."

On Culver's development throughout the season:

"We're probably putting too much pressure on Culver. We throw him the ball a lot. He got double teamed today. It's hard because he doesn't know everything. He missed the whole first semester. He's catching up, but (he's) not all the way caught up yet. It's hard to make adjustments, but we have to have him on the floor."

On not defending ball screens well:

"We haven't defended well all year. We're horrible. This is the worst defensive team I think I've ever had. We don't put pressure on the ball. We don't get to the ball. We don't handle screens very well. We don't do much right. We had a situation where we're talking at a timeout about putting some pressure on the ball and (Brandon) Knapper does a great job and makes him pick it up at half court and we let a guy trot down the sidelines and catch the ball. That was before everybody was screaming, 'Red, red, red!' which means don't let your guy catch the ball and they didn't even have to work to catch it. We let them reverse the ball whenever they wanted. We let them throw anywhere they wanted. It's my fault. I should have done a better job."

WEST VIRGINIA JUNIOR G CHASE HARLER

On what Kansas did in the first half to gain the lead:

"They do a good job of spreading out on offense and then we were struggling guarding the ball screen. We really just didn't do a very good job of helping the helper. They didn't really take too many things away, but when we were trying to gap a little bit more they weren't really in the gaps too much, they were just doing straight-line drives. Once it (the ball) gets so deep it is almost impossible to stop them, they will just put their head down and start driving."

On the team's first game without two former teammates and what it was like with people playing different roles:

"Everyone had to play and just keep moving forward. (Now) We have got to get ready for K-State. But we really need to work on some things on defense and the coaches have been emphasizing that to us. We did it in practice and it really just did not translate into the game. So, as a team, we really have to pay attention to detail and try to take what we learned in practice and apply it to the game."



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HARLAR (CONT.)

On Lamont West guarding players bigger than him:

"He had to take on some bigger guys. We had a whole week of practice: Monday and Tuesday, off Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. I felt like we were well prepared to come in and play a competitive game. But there are some things we did in practice that we really didn't carry over (in)to the game. So, as a team, we really need to work on that."

On how the team reacted to Ahmad and Harris being dismissed from the team:

"You know, it was (when we were) preparing to get ready for Kansas, so we have to just keep moving forward and get ready for Kansas State."

On if the quick turn-around will help the team move on:

"Yeah, I mean there are pros and cons to both. If we didn't play for another week we would get to break down this game, but now we just get to play on Monday. So hopefully we come out with more energy, better offense, work on (our) defense and try to get the win on Monday."

On when it becomes or does not become too much to handle:

"We just have got to be able to adjust to what happens and the next guy up (be ready). We are still shoving offensively and defensively. The sad part is we know what we play for; we showed up for Kansas at home and at Oklahoma, so we just need to be that team more often. So, the other distraction I don't really think is really affecting us. I just think we have got to continue to play basketball."

WEST VIRGINIA JUNIOR F LAMONT WEST

On guarding bigger players now and the adjustment to that defensively:

"I always feel like I was guarding (the) four, and to be honest with you I always thought I was guarding four. Three, four, two, whatever. We've just got to play while we are out there and guard everybody."

On if people have to adjust now and start guarding everyone:

"No, we have just got to get used to playing with what we've got."

On what it is like without Ahmad and Harris:

"We've just got to do what we've got to do. (That's to) Go out there and play hard and just be all right. But we weren't playing as hard and let teams get out of transition too much."

On if transition has been the thorn in the paw this season:

"Yeah, we are not running back, which means we are not playing as hard as we can. Which means we are cheating the game and that is why we are losing."

