



ROCK CHALK JAYHAWK
POSTGAME QUOTES

// 2018-19 KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

#15/16 Kansas 64, #16/15 Kansas State 49

Monday, February 25, 2019
Lawrence, Kan. // Allen Fieldhouse

KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF

Opening Statement:

"We competed. We're not always that artistic to watch, but we did compete tonight. It's amazing what a juiced building and everybody playing with the energy and focus that you need to play with (can do for a team). I don't know if that's because of youth or what it is. We haven't done that consistently all year long. We were embarrassed, obviously, from Saturday. We showed a lot of pride. K-State, we knew we were going to get a great shot from them, just because we knew they had so much to play for. Our fans hung in there with us and they were terrific, and our players did compete. Dedric (Lawson) got numbers today, certainly, I'm not going to take anything away from that. We guarded differently than we (have) ever guarded this year. We switched and played him on the perimeter. Mitch Lightfoot and Devon Dotson ... wow! (K-State's senior guard) Barry Brown Jr., gets four points and is 1-of-8, and Devon guards him every possession. He's a terrific player and what Mitch did was probably the highlight of his career so far. (I'm) Really happy for those guys, happy for our guys to have some success after we got embarrassed on Saturday."

On junior F Mitch Lightfoot:

"He was great. Mitch is one of those guys who you can't help but love him. After we talk about the entire halftime, about how we are going to get a stop on the first possession, and how it's their ball, we're down there and he thinks it's our ball, and he doesn't guard anyone. It's unbelievable. He thought it was our ball, going to the wrong basket. That's Mitch. He said, 'Oh my bad.' You have to be so happy for him. That little guy out front (Devon Dotson), he is a competitive dude. I thought Q (Quentin Grimes) played great too. I thought his defense was superb, and (he) made some shots too."

On how "into" the game Quentin Grimes was:

"We said we were going to get on the floor more than we had all year long. I don't know if we did but we definitely protected the rim tonight, even though we aren't really standing tall. Mitch had a huge role in that. I thought we didn't give up. I could be wrong on this, we think they scored 11 points with less than three seconds on the shot clock the first half. So you played great defense for 27 seconds and they take a guarded shot and made it. I think our defense may have been even better in some ways than the final score indicated, because they did score an awful lot late in the first half."

On the play of freshman G Devon Dotson:

"We just told him to relax and go play. He didn't play with a smile the whole first half, he was so intense and wanted to win. He loosened up a little bit (in) the second half, saw the ball go in the hole. He made some great plays getting downhill. K-State is really good defensively. Really good. Our guys made some really good plays to execute and score there, especially in the second half."

On the break leading up to games vs. Oklahoma State and Oklahoma:

"The time off obviously hasn't been a huge friend of ours. It seems like we play better when we don't sleep, than when we do when we get four nights of good sleep. We have got to have a good week, and there's a lot to play for, a lot of reasons. Certainly, one is just for our team to be better; and obviously, seeding; and for pride. We're still in the game (for the league title), we can't afford to have another loss. We've got to have somebody beat K-State and (Texas) Tech in order to have a chance. The league is tough, anything can happen. I'm excited for our guys. I would have not have said that we would have taken a split before Saturday. I thought we would play much better at Tech, and then have the home court at our place. (With) A split with these two games, now we just have to go win out and we have a shot."

KANSAS JUNIOR F MITCH LIGHTFOOT

On the team's mindset following the Texas Tech game, coming into tonight:

"It taught us a lesson. It was a very humbling game and I think we bounced back well."

On if it has more meaning beating K-State:

"Yes, it does. When you come to play against K-State that is a big rivalry and it means a lot to us."

On if he was "feeling it:"

"Yes. I was feeling it, but I was trying to do what my teammates needed me to do. (That's) Being in the right place at the right time and making good decisions."

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LIGHTFOOT (CONT.)

On the team's defensive difference from Saturday in Lubbock to tonight:

"I thought we all took a challenge. We all locked in. Allen Fieldhouse is a hard place to play and we all believe in that. You come in there we are going to play our hardest."

On what was so effective defensively against K-State's Dean Wade:

"We have to give a lot of credit to Dedric (Lawson). He did a great job against him on defense, as well as the other guards. It was always the plan that if (Wade) had it in the post and Dedric wasn't guarding him, then we would double him."

On the team's slow start to the game:

"Like Coach (Self) said, we were kind of turned up and we had a little bit of the jitters. (We) Made some mistakes."

KANSAS REDSHIRT-JUNIOR F DEDRIC LAWSON

On what Mitch Lightfoot brought to the game tonight:

"Mitch brought great energy. He played great. (He) Knocked down shots, protected the rim. That is something that we need from him on a consistent basis and for the most part, he does it for us every night."

On what Lightfoot has brought to the team as of late:

"Mitch always has had a great attitude. (He's a) Great kid. A great human being. He is just a great person to be around and throughout the stretch where he wasn't playing he was always happy at practice talking and was full of energy. He was always just being Mitch Lightfoot."

On the team's mindset entering the last four games of the regular season:

"We are just taking it one game at a time. We are just handling our business one game at a time. I think we take that approach."

KANSAS FRESHMAN G DEVON DOTSON

On what worked against Barry Brown Jr., defensively tonight:

"It was a team effort. Keeping all their guards out of the lane. I really just wanted to stay in front and put pressure on him. You can't let him get comfortable, because when he gets comfortable, he is dangerous."

On what it feels like to beat K-State:

"It is a great win. This rivalry is huge and it was just great to protect the home court and get a big win against a rival opponent."

KANSAS STATE HEAD COACH BRUCE WEBER

On Barry Brown Jr.'s struggles tonight:

"Well, credit to them (Kansas). They kind of switched everything and then they had the two bigs in and really packed it in. You had to make the extra pass and we'd been so good at passing the basketball this last stretch. We just didn't make the extra pass and the right reads. We held the ball too much and you know Barry is good at getting to the basket but they (KU) were there for him. Blocked shots made it tough on him and he just never got into (a) rhythm."

On Dean Wade's health affecting the game:

"Well, he hasn't practiced in three weeks. It all caught up to him and again, credit to them. They doubled teamed him and were physical with him, which didn't allow him to get in a rhythm. He told Luke, our trainer, that he needs to practice. So all we can do is hope and pray that he can get healthy after TCU. We'll just have to wait and see. It's better to have him in games than not in games, but they did a good job of coming at him. We kind of stood and I'm not sure why, but we stood a lot tonight. We didn't move the ball and didn't move bodies."

On Brown's and Wade's workload during tonight's game:

"Well, you hope they're going to make plays. They'd been here before. Dean finally got one down and at halftime I said, 'You just have to shoot it. It's better for you to shoot it than somebody else, especially when you're open.' Barry has come back after tough days but it was not their day and we still held them to 64. They shot 34 percent and they're the best field goal percentage team in the league. You think you do a great job on (Dedric) Lawson and then you look at the stats and he has 18 (points) and 14 (rebounds). He had to shoot 21 shots to get there. I said it last time, the other guys were going to be the key to the game. I thought they were again. (Mitch) Lightfoot had a great first half and Charlie Moore had a good game at our place. In the second half at our place, Mike McGurl, Cartier Diarra, Levi Stockard all did good things that made a difference. Even (Quentin) Grimes, who kind of struggles for them, ends up with 12 (points) and Lightfoot has nine. (Marcus) Garrett banks in a three and he has six points. In a low scoring game, those are big points."

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WEBER (CONT.)

On Dean Wade's mindset in the game:

"I think the second foul was a frustration foul. Again, he hasn't practiced. Practice is a big thing. My dad told me many years ago, 'You play how you practice.' He can't practice so it's no excuse, it's just a fact of life. I'd rather have him hobbling and not in rhythm than not have him. Even Kam (Stokes) hasn't practiced in the last three weeks. A lot of people have injuries and sicknesses, but you just have to deal with it."

On his postgame message to his team:

"It's done and over with. We have to deal with Baylor (next). I told you guys on Saturday the toughest game of our stretch would be Baylor. It didn't matter if we won or lost tonight because we have to come ready to play. They're very physical and very hungry. We just have to hang together and be coachable. We're good and in first place (in the league race) because we have a great group (of guys) who listens. We have great leadership, so that's got to be the driving force down the stretch."

On Baylor being the toughest game:

"No matter what, tonight is so big. Win or lose, you have to get ready for Baylor. I just thought it would be a trap game and Baylor plays very hungry and physical so we have to come ready to play. I know it's going to be tough, but I didn't tell our players that. I told you guys and my staff about a week ago. I'm always worried. I was worried about Oklahoma State and cussed them out at shoot around and they responded. I guess I didn't have the right message tonight."

On being a first-place team:

"We are a first-place team. We have a three-game season with eight days left. What are we about? We're about leadership, toughness and discipline. So, if we play like that, we'll be fine."

On Mitch Lightfoot's influence for Kansas:

"Well, (in the) first half at our place he had six (points) and five (rebounds), which was a big difference (since) they were leading. He had nine points, six rebounds and plays very physically, so he's played well against us. You look at the rebounds, 32-42, with 13 second-chance points so that's a big difference in the game. We talked about how long rebounds and guards having rebounds would be a key in the game, but they were very physical and determined. In the beginning, it looked like KU had their heads between their legs and he (Bill Self) had to call a couple timeouts. It was 5-0 early but it should have been 9-0 or 11-0. We missed a three on one end and then (Marcus) Garrett banked in a three. Then it was a game and obviously with Dean and Makol (Mawien) in foul trouble, it doesn't help us."

KANSAS STATE SENIOR G BARRY BROWN JR.

On what limited Kansas State offensively in the back court:

"I think the switching kind of kept us stagnant, we didn't make the right reads off the ball screens coming off, the throwback was the play all night. I know myself, I kept looking down for the throw down to the big so the throwback was the play all night but I think just the switching and trying to go one on one and not having any success, it became contagious. I think that's why we couldn't get going offensively."

On the team's attempts at attacking the rim:

"I can only speak for myself, but I know that I was just trying to make a play and it just wasn't the right play. I should've penetrated the pass, make the right plays but instead I was just going in there and forcing things that weren't there."

On the disappointment of losing this game:

"I'm super disappointed, especially in myself. I had a pretty bad game today and I'm going to reflect on it, watch some film, a lot of film, and try and move on to the next game."

On whether this loss is easier to stomach than last year's loss to Kansas:

"I mean a loss is a loss. One point, 20 points, it's a loss. Against a good team but a team that we should've battled a little bit harder and should've been closer than what it was. I mean it's definitely not going to be easy to stomach, especially for me, with the game I had. It's going to be a tough one but you have to learn from it, watch the film and move on."



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BROWN JR. (CONT.)

On the team's level of determination heading into the next game:

"We have a good team coming in, Baylor at home. We just have to be locked in. They didn't have some of their players (in the first game) that they're going to have this next game, so it's going to be a challenge. But we're definitely determined to bounce back and get a win under our belt."

On how the team prepared for controlling its emotions during this game:

"We talked about keeping our emotions in check and I think throughout the game they went high and then low and then high again. I think it played a factor into some of the shots that we took and some of the things that went on throughout the game."

KANSAS STATE SENIOR G KAMAU STOKES

On what will be different about playing Baylor following tonight's game:

"I don't feel like it's different at all. After we watch film from this game, learn from it, we have to get ready for Baylor. That will be a tough game, so we just have to forget about it and move on."

On the difficulty of playing the game without practicing at full strength:

"I don't feel like it's that hard, we've prepared for games like this. Of course, when you don't practice you don't have rhythm. So it's always tough in that sense, but as far as preparing for the game, it's that same as any other game and I feel like today we just weren't fully prepared."

On the team's confidence after this game:

"I don't feel like our confidence is low at all. We talked about it in the locker room, at the end of the day we're still in first place and in order to stay there we have to worry about Saturday. The only difference is we're sharing it now and I feel like our confidence is at the point where we don't want to share first place with anybody. So we have to get back in the gym, learn from this game and get ready for Saturday."

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