



ROCK CHALK JAYHAWK
QUOTES
// 2019 KANSAS FOOTBALL

HEAD COACH LES MILES // AUGUST 8, 2019

Opening statement

"Being in full pads has made it a lot more fun to be a football coach. There is aggression, contact and enjoyment in competition that has a physical curriculum. The last couple of days have been really good. We had a scrimmage on the fifth day and we played pretty well. Not bad. We probably used 60 plays and a number of special teams opportunities. I think this team is well ahead of where they need to be, but there are still some things that we need to accomplish and we will accomplish as we go forward. Sad that John Hadl is having difficulties. There were a number of guys in our circle at the end of practice that spoke about him. So there are some heartfelt condolences to family and friends. We hope that John can pull it out. But it was a good day. The defense was better on third down than they have been. There is some pass rush to that group. Offensively there are some big plays that can be made. So, I like where we are at. I like my team."

On who has stood out so far at camp

"Kyron Johnson moving inside has made a tremendous difference to that team. I think [Steven] Parker and Azur [Kamara] are two big, tall athletic men, so I think at that position we have been very productive."

On translating his success he had at LSU to Kansas

"Well, I have always enjoyed a team that can be ambitious. And this team is. I think they are hungry. I think there is a good solid core of this team that doesn't want to take what the opponent gives them. They want to win. I like their attitude. I can tell you this, this practice was a very up-tempo, go get after them kind of practice. And that is how they have conducted their business this entire camp schedule."

On if he ever imagined getting to coach his sons

"I thought that I might at one point in time step away from college and coach them, but that didn't happen. But it is wonderful. You get to see them struggle because everybody struggles. This is competition. You don't just walk on to the field and go here I am. That is what you want. You want your family for that matter to physically fight and compete and struggle. And I think the Jayhawks are giving that opportunity to my two sons."

On what it's like having all four kids in the same town

"If we could ever get them to all show up at the same house that would be good, but we will enjoy them being close. But these two boys are going to be at school so it just doesn't happen. There is not an 'I come home' time."

On what he has seen from wide receiver Daylon Charlot

"Daylon Charlot is a six-foot-one, just huge hands, strong and a guy that thinks and pursues being the best. I think he is the guy that steps onto the field and does things that we didn't expect for him to do or that he has not done before. He is trying hard and having a great camp."

On how Bryce Torneden has been a leader thus far

"He is a leader. We set up a unity council and he and Hakeem Adeniji, two guys, one defensive and one offensive, who have really sat in the center of the room and talked about what we want to get accomplished and both bought in. I think that when you have leaders who buy into what you are trying to get accomplished, it becomes a much easier transformation. Because everyone is saying the same thing. We are going to do some hard things for people in this room. We are going to do small things better than anybody. And it is nice to hear the recall, if you will, of meetings right here in this room."

On what kind of culture is being established

"The off the field culture is key. What is going to be important in the community, what is going to be important in grades, what is going to be important in how you handle yourself socially, all of that is the ground level strength of any culture. Then we examine that and put that on the field. Physicality, toughness, the ability to put yourself in tough spots and get yourself out. We've prided ourselves in playing in tight quarters, in other words, tight games, tight finishes and then having everybody buy-in. In my opinion, that's being done. I think you'll enjoy the culture this group wants to adopt. They don't want to just be a football team; they want to be a dominant football team. They don't want to be just a player; they want to be a dominant player. They put that in front of them to look at on a daily basis."

On the pass rushers

"There are a number of guys that can rush the passer and, certainly, the outside linebackers can fly. Our defensive line is going to be fine in terms of pressuring the passer. We would expect that we would be able to put a quality pressure on all the teams we play in a bunch of different ways. If you can't get it with a four-man rush then maybe you get it with a couple extra linebackers and take a couple defensive linemen out and make it a four-man rush, but it is just a little different. A more athletic group. I would expect us to be fine there."

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On the offensive line, specifically the centers

"We had a pretty decent day today and back at the practice we had a couple hit the ground, but I don't know if that was the center's fault so much maybe the quarterback's. I don't think there will be a real issue. We've always been involved in two huddles and two different styles of snaps. Api Mane is probably a little ahead of the other group. I think the offensive line is more physical and in better shape and really going to give us great play.

On who is emerging from the wide receivers

"Kwamie Lassiter has had a really good camp. Stephon Robinson Jr. has had a really good camp. Andrew Parchment has had a very good camp. We got some nicks on a couple of the guys, but we think they be back certainly in the next three to four days. That group has been daily catching the ball, running the routes the way they are supposed to be run and giving leadership. That is a great group.

On special teams

"You have to have speed under a ball. When you punt it or kick it. The recruiting we've done has really spoken to what would speed under our specialty kicks. Our kickers are certainly having some good competition with Liam Jones and (Jacob) Borcila. They are really competing routinely. Of course, we have the second team all-conference punter and an early preseason All-American. Basically, we took a nice return man, I think we had a number of guys who said they would go out there, and work on that and decide, with along with Stephon Robinson Jr., and Kwamie (Lassiter II), that there are some other guys we will maybe pursue and compete in there. I have always been a special teams guy. While I was with the Dallas Cowboys and I really enjoyed how they approached it and I think we have done some of the similar things right here and I think our guys will really enjoy playing special teams. It's a great group of guys. It's offense, defense and special teams and the defensive players, generally speaking, donate their talents and skills to special teams. Our offensive players don't necessarily have the same skill set that the defensive players do. That special group of specialists that are holders and kickers that thrive in that environment of special teams, they are a key part to every school, every team that steps on the field. You have to have great special teams and I think you will really enjoy our special teams.

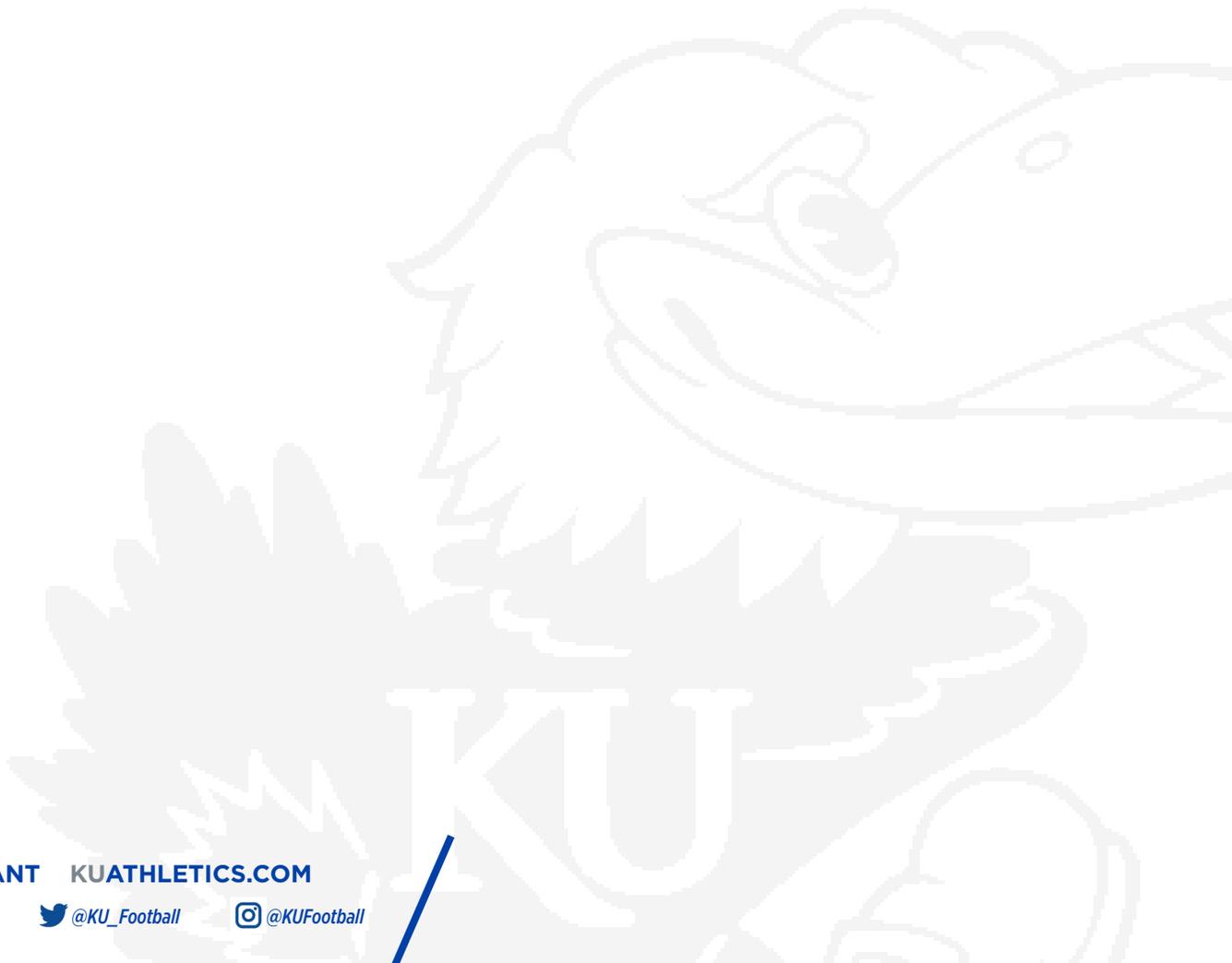




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