

Postgame Quotes
Kansas 86, Fort Hays State 56
October 24, 2019
Allen Fieldhouse // Lawrence, Kan.

Kansas head coach Bill Self

On how he felt about how Kansas played...

"I don't even know if there's anything else to talk about. It was a long statement, it wasn't even a question. I actually thought that we did pretty good. We were awful to start. I think we had four turnovers in the first four minutes, but I could be wrong. They were awful to start the second half. We challenged our bigs to really get out and defend the arc. They [Fort Hays State] came out and made nine straight points and three straight threes [pointers] and the bigs were guarding two of them. They [Fort Hays State] made eight threes and I think our bigs gave up seven of them. So, that's stuff we can hopefully improve on or we're just going to have to play guards. We were much better when we played four guards. I thought we did okay other than that. We got down 21-7 in those two segments and after that, we actually locked in and played decent. They're [Fort Hays State] small. Mark [Johnson] does a great job with his guys. They're just finding themselves and they didn't run a lot of stuff and certainly, we didn't run anything. We never got Dok [Azubuike] involved the way we need to. Marcus [Garrett] played great and Ochai [Agbaji] made some good plays, and we were able to pull away.

On Marcus Garrett's performance at point guard in place of Devon Dotson...

"He's not going to make four threes every game but if you have to guard him, that's going to open up a lot of stuff because he's so good with the ball, driving downhill. The problem that we have offensively, that I'm sure people who watched us can see, that when you play two bigs and one of those bigs can't stretch it, the floor gets pretty crowded. Especially the way they played because they just dared us to shoot it. We didn't shoot it very well but we made enough. Marcus was key on that. Whenever they cut it to two in the second half to start, after a bad start, Marcus is the one who made the plays to get us right back in control. I was really pleased with him. Certainly, I think that him, Devon [Dotson] and Ochai [Agbaji] out there together could be kind of fun to watch.

On the play of the three freshmen...

"I'd say not awful, not great. I thought they all did some great things. Christian [Braun] made a couple of shots and I thought that the ball moved pretty good with him, but he can defend much better. We defended under 10 terribly. When the shot clock got under 10 seconds, they scored at least probably 10 or 12 points. We can improve on that, I hope. I thought Tristan [Enaruna] did some good things, he's just casual. He just plays at a very cool speed and he has to turn it up because he could be a terrific defender with his length. Jalen [Wilson] is aggressive. He made his first shot of the game and didn't really get the chance to do much after that shooting the ball, but he had a lot of good looks. He'll shoot it, there's no doubt about that, he and Christian both. They will shoot it if they're open. I thought they did fine.

On looking forward to the next few days and against Pittsburg State next Thursday with Devon Dotson and Isaiah Moss' injuries...

"We're more concerned about Isaiah than Devon. I can't imagine Devon not practicing by the end of the weekend. Structurally, he'll be fine based on the MRI, the X-rays and the doctors. So, I can't imagine him not practicing by the end of the weekend. We're hopeful that Isaiah can get on the court by the end of the weekend, but probably in a limited capacity. Hopefully they'll both be available to us full speed by next Thursday, but Isaiah would be the one we're most concerned with."

Kansas Players Ochai Agbaji, Marcus Garrett and Christian Braun

Ochai on if he has taken a shot he didn't like...

Agbaji: "I mean, it was good to see the ball go in tonight. Not as good as I wanted to shoot it, it was good to see that though."

On workouts over the summer, preparing him for the season...

Agbaji: "The workouts, they push me. They are high level and intense. He just wanted the best out of me."

On how he plays the game...

Garrett: "I just try not to turn over the ball. That was my biggest key, is to try to protect the ball, not turn it over and try to run the team."

On Christian Braun's poise...

Agbaji: "He also ran that point guard spot. I thought he did well with that. He was also aggressive to, we need that either coming off the bench or whatever position he is going to play this year."

Garrett: "He did great. We see him in practice every day. He can do a little bit of everything and that was able to show."

On Christian Braun reminding him of anyone...

Garrett: "Myself."

On difference of high school and college ball...

Braun: "The biggest difference for me is just that the speed and strength of all the guys. I go against all the guys in practice, so they prepare me for the games, but the speed and strength is so much different from playing Kansas level of high school basketball to playing college. I have just experienced a little part of it but for sure the speed and strength."

On the pressure of shooting due to Fort Hays' pressure inside...

Agbaji: "I wouldn't say pressure really, I feel like it would really give us more confidence. I feel like if we have that we will be able to make those shots."

On the importance of the transition game...

Garrett: "That's what I kept saying, when they cut the lead to two, I keep saying we got to get it in transition. We have to push the ball, we have to push the pace of the game."

On Agbaji getting two steals in the first half...

Agbaji: "I would have to say those came from Marcus. I give him a lot of props there, playing on ball defense. That allowed that turnover to happen."

On Agbaji's finish...

Garrett: "Great finish."

On the importance of Garrett's three-pointers on the offense...

Agbaji: "It adds an extra boost to our offense, obviously. Having that for him to stretch the defense is good."

Fort Hays State Coach Chris Brown

Opening statement

"I think, for playing them, the big thing was their size. (...) It made it very challenging for us offensively to try and score, the size differentiate. Then they pressured us so much you have to put your head down to make a play. I was really impressed with their defensive efforts that they put against us. I was proud of our guys, I thought that we did really well, then the last ten minutes I think just the battle of trying to go against guys so much bigger than you, we kinda hit the wall."

On handling Kansas' inside presence...

"We just tried to send everybody there. We can't take away everything, so you just have to take away everything they can get on the rim."

Fort Hays Players Devin Davis and Aaron Nicholson

On what they took away from playing KU...

Davis: "Everyone was big from the one spot to the five. I think to go into the season I was surprised too. We defended them well. When you make the number three team call a timeout, it was 34-36. I was pretty happy with that. I think to go into the season we're going to be fine."

Nicholson: "They're really long, I don't think we're going to play anyone that long in our conference or all year. That should prepare us for the season."