



2019-20  
KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL  
**POSTGAME QUOTES**

**#2/3 KANSAS vs KANSAS CITY**  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019  
KANSAS CITY, MO. // SPRINT CENTER



### **KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF**

#### *Opening Statement:*

"We scored easy and we didn't play very well early. Then David McCormack was just awesome! He had 27 points in just 16 minutes. If we would have played him 25 minutes, he may have gotten 35 points. He was great, Dok (Udoka Azubuike) was great. Dok probably (was) the best he has ever passed the ball. I did think Devon had one of his better outings, Ochai was just okay, not bad. Marcus (Garrett) was solid and shot the ball well, but we kind of pieced it together and blew it open there in the eight-minute mark of the first half."

#### *On McCormack's performance:*

"We haven't seen anything like that in Kansas City since Shawnee Mission South days back in the mid 90's. He was great, Dok was great and everybody had the chance to play. I thought Christian (Braun) was more active, although he didn't make shots. Tristan (Enaruna), good gosh, nobody can say he's gun shy but he has to shoot the ball better and Isaiah (Moss) has to shoot the ball better. We did some good things. It was good we got out of here with a good win. It sets the table for what should be a very exciting rest of the season. There are no more games you can circle and say, 'We cannot be our best today and have a chance to win.' Villanova, Stanford, Tennessee (in) nonconference and then 18 tough league games. We have 21 regular-season games left and they will all be hard."

#### *On Azubuike's last three games, including this afternoon's:*

"It's kind of unique because Dok, in the past, has always compared playing well to scoring and getting shots. Today he compared it to playing actively, blocking shots and passing the ball. He had so much fun out there passing the ball. McCormack is a big target. David cost himself two more points, he would have had a 30 piece, if he would have went up strong with the pass of the dunk to start the game. They were good together. That is the best that our bigs have played when it comes to passing to each other. That is encouraging. I know UMKC was small and we aren't going to play against a team that small in the front line. It was good to see them sharing it."

#### *On taking starters out early and giving Silvio De Sousa the chance to showoff:*

"He gets the ball at one-foot (from the basket) in the first half and a 6-foot-4 guy blocks his shot. He has a 50/50 rebound where a 6-foot-4 guy takes his ball. He just wasn't exploding and playing athletically. Then, in the second half, he played more athletic and looked it, going and blocking shots and stuff. Certainly, I was happy to see that so hopefully that will be a springboard for him."

#### *On the upcoming week and preparing for Villanova next Saturday:*

"We are going to take tomorrow off and that will be a study day. Then, we will practice long and hard on Monday and then take Tuesday off. Then, we will find time Wednesday, Thursday and Friday to practice until we obviously leave for Philly. We are going to give Villanova three intense days of practice even though they will be an hour-and-a-half long, probably each one of them, not long because of finals. This is the most important week of the year so far; it's finals week and we are, of course, going to be concerned with 'Nova but we have to handle business in the classroom first."

### **KANSAS SOPHOMORE FORWARD DAVID McCORMACK**

#### *On his career-high scoring night:*

"Honestly, everything (was going right), (I was) getting the open looks that I want, going after the ball, as far as rebounding getting seconds looks. Just making the right plays, honestly."

#### *On getting comfortable toward the end of the game:*

"I think a lot of it has to do with that. Coming off of our first year, coming into this year, I know that was my biggest thing, waiting for the game to slow down, being more patient and not trying to rush plays. That's what I've been focusing on and that's why my game has changed a lot."

#### *On what he means by the game 'slowing down':*

"The best way to describe it is, you get the ball, instead of trying to rush and get a quick pass or trying to make an open look, (to) just wait for the open looks to come to you. People are going to be moving, the defenders are going to be on their toes. As a player, those right moments of when to shoot, when to pass, when to drive; those moments are just going (to) hit you and you're going to see it more clearly when the game slows down."

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### **McCORMACK (CONT.)**

*On how his playing minutes impact his game:*

"Definitely. You know, I feel that I have to bring high intensity and high energy every game, every day, no matter what minutes I'm playing. So, I feel whatever the minutes present or Coach (Self) plays me, I'm just going play to the best of my potential."

*On the team's game defensively today:*

"Coach had a major emphasis on defense; he feels that we kind of slacked off or tried to make a bigger emphasis on the offense, and he knows that the farther you want to go down the road as far as playing basketball, the defense has to be your emphasis and that's what we made sure of tonight. Guarding balls, screens, having high and active hands, making sure we jumped the passing lanes. All those little things are what got us those turnovers and steals."

*On wanting to be back in the game:*

"Always. I always want to get back in the game and do what I can to help the team."

### **KANSAS SOPHOMORE GUARD DEVON DOTSON**

*On the team's talent:*

"We're a very versatile team. (On) Any given night, it can be somebody's game. We're very deep so it can show how much potential we have. We just got to keep it going, lock in each and every game and practice."

*On David McCormack's breakout game:*

"It was tremendous, going after each and every ball. His activity level was great, he finished down low and hit some shots so, he did a lot out there on the court. (He had a) Great game."

*On Silvio De Sousa's second half of play:*

"I was excited; he had me out of my chair a lot. He picked it up the second half, as far as his activity level. He was blocking shots, offensive rebounding. It was great to see him playing like that."

*On going up against De Sousa as a shot-blocker:*

"(Of) All the guys, (against) Dok (Udoka Azubuike), it's tough. Practicing down there, I think it's harder there than in the game. That only helps me out, being more crafty with different finishes. Yeah, it's tough."

*On Azubuike's improvement:*

"In practice, doing a better job of putting him in different situations when the traps come. You know, just being more comfortable with it and embracing the trap. He's developed, he's more experienced and that helps a lot too. He's learned from his past mistakes and he's corrected (them)."

*On Marcus Garrett's confidence:*

"It's great. When he can knock down shots, that can space out his defense, keep the defense honest out there on the court. It's great."

### **KANSAS CITY HEAD COACH BILLY DONLON**

*Opening Statement:*

"Kansas is terrific, there's no other way to deal with it or to say it. When you watch some of their other scores against some other mid-majors, I think one score on Tuesday was 43-15, at one time in the game it was like 76-28 with somebody else. They're really good. They have very few weaknesses, and they have a Hall of Fame coach. In terms of Kansas City, I am just really disappointed in what our guys did to start the second half. The one thing that we did do is we didn't turn it over in the first half. We made Kansas have to play longer possessions, they didn't just come down and score off of two passes."

*On how they tried to handle KU's size:*

"When you have our size, you really have two choices: you can front it and try to bring backside help for lob protect, or you can try and lap off the other big, which was effective in the first (half), but then they buried us in the second half. We gave up transition layups that eighth grade teams shouldn't give up—and I don't mean that (to be) disrespectful of Kansas. That's all on me, I'm the head coach, it's not our players' fault, that's my responsibility. They're really good. They will have a typical terrific season."

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**DONLON (CONT.)**

*On what was established coming into tonight's game:*

"I thought for 15 minutes, they followed the plan, if you look at the score, as I always tell our guys when they have a plan, the other guy is coaching too. But we wanted to make (Devon) Dotson—we wanted to make it hard for Dotson to catch once he gave it up. In the first half, we did that. We wanted to try and trap Dotson's ball screens, we wanted to try to make guys shooters who aren't great shooters, who can make one obviously. (Marcus) Garrett made two 3's in the first half, if he makes one of those, that's three less (points). But at the end of the day, when you play Kansas, you can't give up 24 points in the first half on turnovers for touchdowns and the glass. Twenty-four of their 43, you have no chance. That's what we tried to do, and I thought for 12 or 15 minutes, we did it. And I thought we could get some decent looks, I joked that we were the (Los Angeles) Lakers in the 80's because we had about six layups roll around and go out, which maybe we would have had a little better number. And that is credit to their shot blocking; you're always worried about it, but we did have a lot of balls spin out in the second half to maybe get it to a little more manageable number. I thought we got the ball to some decent places, for us."

*On what it takes to play a complete game instead of just for one half:*

"I think any time you are building a program and you are trying to establish a winning culture with your defense, there is going to be some tough times. We are playing a hard schedule right now. We came back from the Bahamas and we beat Western Illinois but then we are on the road for Iowa State and we are playing Kansas and we have a top-70 team coming on Tuesday in Toledo. Then we are at a top-80 team in South Dakota. I am glad we have all of that because we want to accelerate into a championship program quickly. That is what we talk about and for us, it was a four-point game at Hilton (Coliseum in Ames, Iowa) with four to go. Right now, this is a generation of kids who get satisfied easily so our guys aren't used to being down four (points) at Iowa State with four minutes to go. So there is a lot of satisfaction or we have a four-point lead in this game against Kansas with under 13 minutes to go and obviously they are going to start punching them out, but I could tell by the look on their faces that there was some satisfaction. That is part of taking over a program and growing it, it's not the kids' fault, we have to continue as a staff to grow that."

*On why senior guard Jahshire Hardnett didn't play today:*

"He is injured. I don't know when he will be back, it will be (a) game-time (decision) for Tuesday. I would say he will probably be out; that would be my honest opinion, but there is a chance he will play."

*On how he prepared his team to play against Kansas:*

"You have to be really careful with them. I am a very honest and (a) straight-shooter with our players. They know it is Kansas, but we didn't change a lot of what we do defensively or how we were going to attack. It is just about trying to do the best that we can. That was where I was disappointed, there were some opportunities in the first half where they kicked it loose, but some of it was just our carelessness. There were some rebounds that I thought we could have won and we didn't. We are going to see if we can grow and compete and make our fans prouder."

*On what they have to work on before going into their clash with Toledo:*

"We have to work on taking care of the ball. We can't have this many turnovers (22), that lead to touchdowns. We have to get better at finishing at the rim because we got some plays there. We have to do a better job of playing with consistent toughness on the defensive end. Those are three areas we are really focusing on."