



2019-20
KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

POSTGAME QUOTES

#2/3 KANSAS vs #20/21 COLORADO

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019

LAWRENCE, KAN. // ALLEN FIELDHOUSE



KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF

Opening Statement:

"I actually think we played really well defensively; their first two shots were threes, and two of them were by their backup center, which we knew would be a hard matchup for us but I thought we defended well and we rebounded well the first half. Offensively, we weren't any good. But when you guard you've got to figure out a way to score enough points to hang in there. Then the second half, we kind of just puttered around but still guarded, and then the lid came off, and what were we, (in) the second half? Six-of-seven. Yeah, from three. I think Ochai (Agbaji) made four, and Isaiah (Moss) made two, so that was good. Then you crack the game open and we finish the game very poorly, so that was disappointing with the group that finished the game. But I think we're getting better defensively, and certainly, Dok (Udoka Azubuike) wasn't very good in the first half. The second half his activity level was much better, so there were some good things that happened. But we can't turn the ball over that much."

On Agbaji's rebounding:

"Yeah (Ochai) did really good. The best rebounder in the game was Ochai, but there was pressure on him, because (Tyler) Bey, for them, kept every ball alive it seemed like the second half, he went after all of them. So yeah, Ochai rebounded (well). But Dok only getting six (rebounds) and David (McCormack) only getting two, our bigs have to rebound better and play bigger. We did some good things, but offensively we had a chance to crack them, but (we) just never put our foot on their throats. We were so careless with the ball. When the other team doesn't play well offensively and doesn't make shots, and we were thankful they didn't make them, but when that occurs you have to find a way to step on the pedal and we didn't do that today. But it was still a really solid win."

On Devon Dotson and McKinley Wright IV going up against each other:

"Devon's good. He's a good player. I get frustrated with him sometimes because I think he can be such a much better passer, but he can guard his man, he's fast, he controls the game, he just has to get a little bit better passing the ball and taking care of the basketball. But, he's really a good guard, and Ochai's really a good player, and still yet, Marcus Garrett, (is the) best defender I've been around in a long time. So those three are pretty good, we just have to get a little more consistent play from the perimeters. Especially when we play Tristan (Enaruna), who had a rough day, and Christian (Braun), who I thought was better today, and Isaiah had a nice game, but we have got to get a little more consistency there."

On the Tyler Bey matchup vs. Marcus Garrett:

"He had one basket. Their leading scorer had one basket, so I mean we did a good job on him. He hurt his knee with about four minutes left, I hope he's okay. I hope it's not serious. But he's a good player. Tad's (Boyle) obviously got a great team and (has) done a great job. He should have all five players back next year. They've got a chance to be really good next year."

On Milwaukee:

"I haven't studied them yet, so I don't know much. I know they're much improved over last year, and Pat (Baldwin, Milwaukee head coach) is a good guy, a great guy. He played for Larry Hogan at Leavenworth and produced Wayne Simien; he was one of the great ones they had over there. We're excited to see him and his family, and hope like heck we can get a little bit better each and every week and build some momentum over the holidays."

SOPHOMORE GUARD OCHAI AGBAJI

On staying under control and not getting too psyched up while playing:

"That's just how I am. When I'm going through struggles, I just handle it myself."

On how his defense and rebounding are impacting his offense:

"It was more on the defensive end, getting confidence there. It was nice seeing the ball going in, but I tried to focus on both. Coming into this game I had a different mindset. I didn't really care if my shot was falling in or not, I just focused defensively because that's where I get my energy from."

On how Udoka Azubuike opens up the 3-point line:

"We threw it into him a lot, especially in the first half just playing in and out. Playing in and out with him is always good."

On Marcus Garrett's defense:

"I get my energy from him. Just seeing him deflect balls and helping everybody just makes me want to help more."

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AGBAJI (CONT.)

On how his shooting today will carry forward:

"Moving forward, I'm not really trying to worry about if it (the ball) goes in or not. Defensively just focusing off of that and getting any energy I can on that."

On the key to a championship:

"Just staying together. There are going to be a lot of ups and downs moving into conference play. Learning from of each other and teaching the new guys. The seniors leading our guys and the upperclassmen showing the newcomers how to get around."

On what Silvio De Sousa was able to bring in crunch time:

"He was great. He made some great hustle plays and got his hands on a lot of balls out there, so he was very active. He helped us out a lot toward the end. He was great down the stretch."

JUNIOR GUARD MARCUS GARRETT

On what made the team effective defensively:

"Reading the scouting report, knowing what guys like to do and what makes them uncomfortable."

On defending Tyler Bey and slowing him down:

"Knowing where he likes to catch the ball. I know he likes to catch the ball close to the goal where he can just explode. My biggest thing was just making him catch the ball farther out and make him uncomfortable."

COLORADO HEAD COACH TAD BOYLE

Opening Statement:

"Well it's not the way we wanted to come back to Allen Fieldhouse but I was really proud of our guys' fight and their toughness and their competitiveness that they showed but we couldn't make shots. I thought we had some really good looks. It's not like our team to take 34 of 60 shots from three but sometimes KU makes you do things you don't want to do and they have such good rim protection and they're very sound defensively - we all know that - I thought we just had a lot of good looks that didn't go in tonight and sometimes you've got to make those shots and we knew that coming in but we really had trouble scoring over their length inside. I thought Evan did a good job in the first half but they are a good team and KU does not have a lot of weaknesses. They're not perfect either; we turned them over 10 times at halftime, they turned us over 9 times, and then 17 for the game. We knew that was key coming in here so KU beat us tonight. Very soundly. People are going to see that score. It really wasn't even close as the score indicated and you guys know that and I know that but credit to our guys for not giving up and fighting. I think that's what we can take away for tonight."

On Ochai Agbaji:

"He was terrific. Again, I thought we did a great job in the first half, other than there were two plays at the end of the half where they got downhill off ball-screens and got the ball to the rim. We gave up nine layups in the first half and some of those you're going to give and not give but Azubuike, he's a low down there and they do such a good job of playing through him so you're going to give up a couple of those a half but we gave up 9 layups. That's way too many. We held them to 0 threes but we've got to take away the layups and again that's what Kansas does. They take away something. In the second half, Agbaji got going from three. One of the things we talked to our team about is that we can learn from Kansas and one of the reasons they're so hard to guard is that Azubuike screens and rolls to the rim as hard as he rolls to the rim and you better have somebody there. If they're there, they throw it to the shooter and that was Agbaji tonight. He made some tough shots. I thought our defense wasn't awful but they execute. That's what we have to take from Kansas. We have to execute better on our end offensively and get that guy going to the rim because, if you don't guard them, you've got a layup and if you do guard them, then you have to kick up and hit the open three like he was tonight. But hats off to him tonight; he's a good player. They've got good players and they're young. They're not perfect. One thing about Bill's team if that you're going to see them get better as the year goes on. I thought if we play the way we're capable of playing and make some shots and take a little bit better care of the ball then we could make this a game tonight. But our guys fought. I feel a totally different sense than seven years ago when I was in this building with the Colorado team then and the way we at least gutted it out. The result is still the same. We'll use this as a way to get better."

On Kansas' defense:

"We just felt with two bigs, they've only got three guys out there that can make threes. Now, McCormack, he made the 15-footers coming out but that really didn't hurt us. He hit, I think, three in a row, maybe 3/4, but we were going to live with that. Now when they go small, it's a little tougher. When the game got out of hand, we're a man-to-man defensive team. If we could keep them off-balance, maybe slow them down offensively out of the shoots which KU offensively, coming out at home, wants to control the tempo offensively. I would do it again. We're not a great zone team but we were giving McCormack those shots. Those are on me; they're not on our team. That was part of the game plan."

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BOYLE (CONT.)

On Kansas' defensive ability and defensive potential down the road:

"They've got great rim protection; they're got great size at the rim. They've got long athletic guys in the perimeter. They shoot passing lanes. We knew that coming in. They try to blow out handoffs. I thought we needed to be a little bit stronger with our cutting and our handoffs and be crisper because they try to take you out of their stuff. I thought our guys did a good job adjusting to that and, again, we got open shots, we just didn't make them. KU's length at the rim, their length at the perimeter, their athleticism, and their effort. One thing about KU's teams is that they're going to play hard. I thought our guys played hard; I thought they competed. We just couldn't make an open shot. We had some wide-open shots that we just didn't make. Credit to KU; I thought they deserved the win tonight for sure."

JUNIOR GUARD MCKINLEY WRIGHT IV

On getting out of the offensive rhythm:

"We got the ball in the paint pretty well; we got a lot of open looks that just didn't fall for us tonight. I wouldn't take back our game plan. I don't think we did anything necessarily wrong. We got the looks we wanted, we just couldn't get them to fall tonight."

On Kansas' defensive abilities:

"They're a good team. They were out on their home floor, they got a couple stops and they feed off their home crowd. When the momentum is going their way, they ramp it up a little bit, more (so) on the defensive end. For the most part we did ok; 17 turnovers isn't going to cut it, but they're a good defensive team."

On how far off the team is from playing its best basketball:

"We're not close to our best yet, obviously, you guys saw it tonight, we missed a ton of shots that we need to make. I think we had at least eight wide-open 3-pointers that just didn't fall. We got some paint touches, we (have) got to finish in the paint. We aren't playing our best basketball yet, but it will come."

On KU limiting Tyler Bey:

"Tyler Bey is our number one offensive weapon. We try to get him as many touches as possible. They doubled him, denied him the ball as much as possible and made it really tough for him. We need to find ways to keep him involved and make sure he gets touches, because he's really good at the rim. He can shoot the threes, he makes free throws and can shoot the mid-range. He's an almost-complete player, and they did a really good job of doubling him every catch he got."

On what the team can take from this game, going forward:

"We learned a lot from this. I think early in the first half, we just had to settle in. The crowd was loud from the get-go, and it was a good test for us because we never played in an environment like this. It's the loudest arena that I've ever been in in my life, including NBA arenas. It was different, but it was good for us, we will learn from it."

SOPHOMORE FORWARD EVAN BATTEY

On getting out of the offensive rhythm:

"Our game plan was to play inside, obviously, and they were doubling the post on Tyler (Bey), so we had to adjust and make shots."

On how far off the team is from playing its best basketball:

"In order for us to play our best basketball, we can't let our offensive struggles effect our defensive game plan. Defense is always a constant."