



95

2019-20
KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

POSTGAME QUOTES

#2/3 KANSAS vs MILWAUKEE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019

LAWRENCE, KAN. // ALLEN FIELDHOUSE



68

KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF

Opening Statement:

"We pretty much just did it. That was pretty good. I thought we were great early, probably the best we played for the first five-to-six minutes of a game all year. We made everything we looked at, it seemed like. Even when we didn't score, we got it exactly where we wanted to, and it turned up. Then it got pretty boring there for a while, and from about the five-minute mark in the first half, until about the five-minute mark in the second half, there wasn't much excitement at all. We were kind of just trading baskets. We were duds and we didn't guard anywhere close in the second half like we did the first 15 minutes of the game. I always thought that you usually play your best defense when you know you have to because you're not making shots. When you make shots, usually, you can take the gas off defensively, and I thought we did that some tonight. We haven't been doing that, but I thought we did it tonight. Dok (Udoka Azubuike) was a monster inside, rebounding the ball. And certainly, (Devon) Dotson and Ochai (Agbaji) carry just from the perimeter."

On finishing the game:

"If we could have finished, and started off the second half, at least with a little bit more energy, I really think that I would leave here more pleased, but I thought that we were pretty casual in the second half."

On Azubuike's performance:

"He had 10 (rebounds) at halftime and we challenged him to try and get to 20. You would think a guy that does this for a living, his stats would be better. But I thought that Dok was really good. David (McCormack) made some shots, but David didn't rebound. If we are going to play two bigs, we have to push them. I thought that Silvio (De Sousa) was the best he's been energy-wise, but he just hasn't had anything good happen. He did some good things, and we should leave here feeling pretty good, even though I know we can play better."

On potential to be ranked number one:

"Yeah, why not? But I do think this, I'm not sure that we will be. It seemed like last year we got passed over a couple times early in the season, and it wouldn't surprise me if Ohio State jumped us, just because they've got some great wins. We've done what we're supposed to do, we've played pretty well since the Duke game. Of course, that was the first game and we weren't very effective at all in that game, even though we thought we easily could have won the game, we didn't. And you certainly can't get that back, but since then, we've been pretty good and fairly consistent. I think we are getting better, but still, up until about January, rankings don't really mean that much, but it is worth a little bit more as we get toward conference play."

On the upcoming Kansas City game at Sprint Center:

"I know that Bill Donlon is a new coach, and they're off to a good start. They've had some good wins and certainly, it's been a place where we haven't played very well going over there at all, except in the Big 12 (Championship) Tournament, so we've got to generate more energy and just like tonight, we were kind of duds energy-wise when we turned them over to eight, tops. We have been turning people over fairly regularly up until tonight. We need to be better at turning people up, and making them play faster than they want to and certainly, tonight, I thought they did a good job handling that."

KANSAS SOPHOMORE GUARD DEVON DOTSON

On teammate Ochai Agbaji's start to the game:

"It was amazing. I just wanted to come out aggressive and try to look for shooters to set up my teammates. I saw that he was feeling it and that hyped me up and I was excited for him."

On if he liked Agbaji's 3-pointers more or the lob-to-reverse-dunk finish:

"I liked the lob. That had to hype me up. I looked up at the replay and saw it on the jumbotron."

KANSAS SOPHOMORE GUARD OCHAI AGBAJI

On tying his career high with five 3-pointers:

"Seeing those three go down early was good, I didn't really plan to shoot so well."

On his alley-oop dunk from Dotson:

"I wanted to put some style into it. I just jumped and I thought I might as well put style into it." (Smiling)

2019-20
KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL
POSTGAME QUOTES

AGBAJI (CONT.)

On Udoka Azubuike's performance on the boards:

"It was great. From the shots that they missed early on, he was cleaning everything up getting a lot of tip-backs, especially on the offensive end. Honestly, it was the best I have seen him rebound."

SENIOR CENTER UDOKA AZUBUIKE

On what allowed him to be so effective rebounding tonight:

"The coaches challenged me to go out and get more rebounds before the game. I also challenged myself. I told myself I was going to go out there tonight and spend more effort trying to get rebounds."

MILWAUKEE HEAD COACH PAT BALDWIN

Opening Statement:

"First of all, it's great coming in here and having the opportunity to play against a really good team. I think they're moving into the No. 1 spot after Louisville lost, but it was great competing against them tonight. Tremendous effort by them, I think they took us by storm in the first five to ten minutes of the game where we just couldn't recover. I think that was the push, that when you're playing against a team such as Kansas, you have to do a great job of weathering that early storm. I tried to call a timeout when it was 8-0 just to calm our guys down and it just wasn't enough, it was their night, they were making threes. When you have a team like this with an inside presence, that you have to account for and when they're making perimeter shots, it makes it really difficult to cover everything. But give our guys credit, we didn't lay down and we continued to fight in the second-half. Our shots started falling for us, but it was just too much to overcome. The first five to ten minutes of this game was the most difficult aspect when you're trying to beat a really good team. Some things have to happen for you in a game like this. You have to make shots yourself, you have to put pressure on them, and we just didn't do that especially in those first minutes. We'll take a lot out of this, we have a lot to learn and get better at, but there were lots of positives that we'll take and continue to work on with our guys."

On his impressions of Udoka Azubuike:

"Well, it's really difficult because when you're trying to game plan, you're trying to game plan for someone not just one on one, but off the ball as well. (Ochai) Agbaji, when he's shooting the way he is, when you have a really good point guard that's going 3-for-6 from three and as quick as he is, you have to account for so many things. So if Azubuike is left one-on-one or attacking the offensive glass, he's really tough. He's probably one of the best big men in the country and his numbers are representative of that. But he's really good, the other guys around him make him look even better, especially if they're making shots. This is going to be a tough out in the NCAA tournament if they're clicking on all cylinders."

On his guards' performances:

"Yeah, when they have a 7-footer inside and McCormack is also inside, it's tough, when you're trying to throw the ball inside and having your big score. We tried to pull them out of the paint and drive them a little more. The transition helps when you're getting those paint touches but our guards were much better in the second half in getting to the basket. The other thing is if you don't have a post presence, we always talk to our guys about it, is having footprints in the paint from driving. That's another post situation where you can now kick the ball out and get some open shots that way because you're forcing help. But our guards are really good. I think we have two really good guards. From the standpoint of [Darius] Roy and Te'Jon [Lucas], I like our chances when we're going up against somebody other than No. 1 in the country. I love my guys. They really compete and this is a test for us, because if we want to do anything in our league, we have to be in environments like this and compete. I want to see how our toughness is and how we compete against the best. I know my guys aren't afraid to do that. Obviously Kansas was very special tonight."

On coaching so close to where he attended high school (Leavenworth HS):

"I did have a lot of friends and relatives here which was really nice. When the game starts and when I'm preparing for this game, you may think it's crazy, but I have an out-of-body experience where I don't think about anything external. I couldn't even tell you who was here with the list that I had. It is great coming back home and I wish we had a better performance to show for it. But when you have support like that in a great state like Kansas, for me it is nostalgic being back home and to have my dad and my brothers and sisters to watch their baby brother and baby son."

MILWAUKEE RS-JUNIOR GUARD TE'JON LUCAS

On how much the Jayhawks' start to the game got their team in a tough spot:

"That is definitely what we were just talking about. We spotted them 15. They came out to a great start, we came out terrible. (It was) 15 to zip, or whatever it was. We can't do that, we have to get better. We can't start games like that especially on the road, getting the crowd into it. We have to learn how to come out better and take it to them right away instead of spotting guys."

2019-20
KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL
POSTGAME QUOTES

LUCAS (CONT.)

On what it's like trying to shoot against Kansas' length:

"Their length is very, very long. We (have) got length on our team a little bit. It was just confidence at making shots at the end of the day, stepping up, being tough and making shots. The shots we took today weren't like they were uncharacteristic (of us), or doing anything we weren't supposed to (do). I think even though it says we were 7 for 35, I feel like we got a lot of great looks. We just have to step up, man up and knock shots down."

On Kansas' 7-foot center Udoka Azubuike:

"He is a great guy. (He shot) 100% today, we already know coming in he was about 80%. We tried to limit him a lot. I didn't know he had 17 rebounds but he is a great physical post. I (have) seen a lot of guys like that in the Big Ten and stuff. He is definitely a great player and great guy. I think he played very well."

On if it is different seeing this Kansas team live, rather than on TV or scouting tape:

"Of course. We can prepare all you want and you can drop schemes, but when you get out there you have to execute. The first 10-to-15 minutes of this game, we probably didn't execute anything. I feel like in the second half we started off better and showed we are a team that can play. Just have to be able to execute."

MILWAUKEE SENIOR GUARD DARIUS ROY

On how much the Jayhawks' start to the game got their team in a tough spot:

"I think so (much) of that is because of miscommunication and starting off; yeah what he (Lucas) said."

On what it's like trying to shoot against Kansas' length:

"It is tough at first because you don't really know how long they are as a team until you actually get on the court."

On Kansas' 7-foot center Udoka Azubuike:

"We don't take anything from him. He is a great player. He is actually 7 feet."

