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2019-20
KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

POSTGAME QUOTES

#3/3 KANSAS vs #16/17 WEST VIRGINIA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 2020

LAWRENCE, KAN. // ALLEN FIELDHOUSE



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KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF

Opening Statement:

"We went from awful to bad, offensively when we played four guards. We were never good but the guys hung in there and we played tough and made enough plays. Certainly, a typical (Bob) Huggins game that we've had with them especially when we've been at home. It seems like every game like this, with the exception of last year, is this exact game; we get down double figures and have to fight your way back. Oscar (Tshiebwe) is a monster. The first thing Silvio (De Sousa) said after the game was, 'Coach, that dude ain't 18 years old, he's a man.' He and (Derek) Culver together are good, but how about the job Marcus Garrett did on Culver? It's unbelievable. The guy is 6-foot-4, he's not a high riser and he's not the biggest guy, of course we helped him by trapping but he eliminates him for the most part, except on the glass. And Dok (Udoka Azubuike) did a good job on Oscar the second half and then we made enough plays but it was just a tough-ass win, to be honest with you. That was one of the hardest first games to open conference play that we've had that I can remember and I thought the guys responded to the physicality after we were shocked initially."

On Christian Braun playing the entire second half:

"He was good. You know, Tristan Enaruna is good, he may be the best prospect but that's a game that he had never felt before. Same with Isaiah (Moss), I don't think he's ever felt anything like that before either. We decided to go with our toughest guys and Christian's for sure one of our toughest guys and he did a nice job. In a game where Ochai (Agbaji) was basically a nonfactor and they took away Marcus' right hand better than anybody probably has since we've been playing and (Devon) Dotson was so tired he couldn't do much offensively in the second half. I mean, a guy plays 40 minutes with pressure like that every possession so we just kind of piece it together and I thought Christian was a stapling force for us to do that."

On David McCormack's slow start:

"David got off to a terrible start. I don't mean to be negative, but he got off to a terrible start and then we put him back in there and he gambles and misses on a guy who isn't going shoot the ball from outside of four feet and gives him a dunk and it's like he was just too sped up. He wasn't himself. David is usually kind of a guy with poise and when he went back in the game down the stretch, he was great. And he went and got that ball, he went and got that rebound and Marcus made a perfect pass to him when we set something up for him to drive it downhill. We have a lot of things that we've got to get better at and it'll be more fun getting better at it since we've got this one under our belts."

On Udoka Azubuike's performance:

"We were so rattled in the first half we were running on the bench and he checks in and we had no idea I mean it was unbelievable how rattled we were. After he made a couple of plays, poise kind of took over and he was great in the second half. Oscar was the best player by far in the first half, but there's no doubt the best player was in the second half (was Dok). I thought Dok played huge. I thought he played well and they're going to be hard for anybody to beat. Our guys hung in there and that was a great win for us."

On playing on the road in Ames this Wednesday:

"We've actually had some success up there playing Iowa State going back to when we first got here and it is one of the hardest places in the league to play. I don't know how they did today, but they're coming off a disappointing loss with (Tyrese) Haliburton out, but he's back they say, so they'll be at full strength and they're always at their best when we come to town, so that'll be a hard game. And then you get through that and you've got Baylor, a top-10 team coming in here (next Saturday). This is a time for us to get better and in a weird way, I do think we grew up. I think there are some guys on the bench who didn't play, (but) Isaiah and Christian have got to be contributors for us to be a really good team. I thought that was a big step in growing up and knowing how tough and how competitive you have to be to win games in this league. It's an unbelievable league. I think you were quoted as saying it may be a down year for our league, at least that's what my guys say, and you look at our league and we're beating the No. 2-ranked team in the country, the No. 1-ranked team in the country and Baylor's got three top-20 wins and that isn't even including us. So, certainly, every game like this is going to be a dogfight."

KANSAS FRESHMAN GUARD CHRISTIAN BRAUN

On what Coach Self said to him during halftime that caused him to have so much success in the second half:

"He just told me that I needed to play hard, the same thing he was telling everyone else. I knew we were down, so I needed to step up and do what I always do, what I've been taught to do since I started playing basketball. He just told me to play hard."

On Marcus Garrett's ability to create stuff off of the bounce:

"It was really important because like you said, we were getting a lot of lobs in the second half. That's something that he does every game and will continue to do for us. It's something that's really important to our team."

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KANSAS JUNIOR GUARD MARCUS GARRETT

On his opinion of Christian Braun's effort in the game:

"I thought he was great. We needed him. I was telling him at the beginning of the second half that we needed a spark, some stops and to be quick on the ground."

On West Virginia's ball screen coverage on the lobs:

"It looked they were trying to mix it up. Sometimes they'd drop and sometimes they wouldn't. We also saw that sometimes we needed to fake it and go back to Dok so they wouldn't give up the edge. But I think that once they come up a little bit and you get the ball, then it's too late."

On having an extra emphasis on the importance of the lobs in the second half:

"Yes, because we felt like their bigs kept coming up a lot, but they were coming up and dropping. I knew that I was just trying to get the ball as soon as they stepped up."

KANSAS SENIOR CENTER UDOKA AZUBUIKE

On how he felt about the first half versus the second half of the game today:

"Coach spoke to us at halftime and we came out with a different intensity and mindset in the second half."

On his opinion of West Virginia freshman forward Oscar Tshiebwe's play:

"Oscar is a grown man. I've never played against someone like that. I had to move in the paint because he was really physical and really strong. It was my first time playing him and I tried boxing him out as best I could. In the second half, we just had that mindset to go out and play hard. I just went out there and tried to rebound the ball."

On Marcus' ability to create stuff off of the bounce:

"What he [Christian] said. He does a good job coming out on screens and trying to create lobs."

WEST VIRGINIA HEAD COACH BOB HUGGINS

On West Virginia's performance in the second half:

"We just didn't stick to the gam plan. We have a bunch of young guys. We're trying to play a bunch of guys, and I think we had some combinations out there that, at both ends, you can't help up. If you help up, they're going to throw to the rim and he's too big, too strong. We started helping up for a lot of reasons. We didn't do what we were planning on doing."

On freshman forward Oscar Tshiebwe's performance:

"The beautiful thing about Oscar is that Oscar is Oscar. He doesn't try to be anybody else. He's really good at what he does, and you don't have to worry about him going out and dribbling between his legs and losing it, or jacking up 3-pointers like some guys in his situation would do. Oscar knows who he is, and he's happy with who he is and he's pretty damn good at who he is."

On the last three minutes in the first half, when trying to extend the lead:

"(We went) 12-of-22 from the free throw line. We miss both ends of a two-shot foul. It kills us."

On who to look for to get the team back on the right page of the game plan:

"We have three seniors. One didn't play today, one of them has played very little and the other one is the transfer that has only been here a year. I don't have a lot to pick from."

On what junior guard Marcus Garrett provided for KU:

"That's a hard cover. He's a hard cover when they play him at (the) four, because he can bounce it so well."

On second-half calls not going WVU's way and players getting frustrated:

"I didn't really get into the whole explanation, but yeah. I'm not going to get in trouble for saying this because this is not degrading anybody, but you've got three guys out there who all see the game differently. We've got 10 coaches in the league, and they all see how to play basketball differently. And so, you get a call on one end from a guy who really thinks he made the right call, and probably did. And then you don't get that same call on the other end because there's another guy down there who didn't think that that was a play that should be called. Now all of a sudden, you're saying they're calling it down here and not calling it down there. But they're not. I think that's hard on officials. And we are never going to have where we have the same crew all the time, I understand that, but I just think it makes it hard on them. Then you get fans booing you when they do the replay because you did or you didn't call something that the other guy either called or passed on, and it happens awfully fast. It's a hard deal. It's a hard deal, (and) if they didn't get paid so damn much, I would feel sorry for them. But since I know what their check is, I don't feel sorry for them."

POSTGAME QUOTES

HUGGINS (CONT.)

On how to fix the differing opinions of the referees:

"It's been that way for so long. It was two opinions before for a long, long time, and now it's three. And I think the game is a lot faster (now). Shot clocks changed the game, a lot of things have changed the game, so we probably need three (officials). And again, it's not their fault, it's really not. Everyone has a different view of what is and what isn't from a travel to a foul."

WEST VIRGINIA FRESHMAN GUARD MILES McBRIDE

On the differences between the first and second halves of play this afternoon:

"They took advantage of some good opportunities. I thought in the first half we might've turned it over, but we got stops in the second half. We weren't getting stops and making free throws."

On the Allen Fieldhouse atmosphere:

"It was great, it's everything a college player could ask for."

WEST VIRGINIA SOPHOMORE GUARD SEAN McNEIL

On the atmosphere and crowd at Kansas:

"It was tough for us, the second half (the crowd) kind of got things going a little bit. It was a little tough for us to get back on the run, especially with the atmosphere. It was just kind of tough for us to get things going again."

On how different the two halves were:

"That's on us, we (have) got to put two halves together. We can't just play one half. Credit to them, they played a really good second half. They fixed some things at halftime and it showed."

