



ROCK CHALK JAYHAWK  
**LES MILES PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES**

**// 2020 KANSAS FOOTBALL**

**FEBRUARY 6, 2020**

**Head Coach Les Miles**

*Opening Statement:*

"I thought that the coaches and the families that supported the recruiting and the administrators that were in our building, those professors that gave up their Saturdays to see their building and their curriculum did a magnificent job. I really enjoyed the effort and I think that the class that we landed were specific to needs, but at maybe a little bit higher of a level than we've recruited in the past. So here's the breakdown. We're going to lose a ton of receivers this year. Having a good seven-man receiving class, brings them in and allows them to improve and puts them in a position so that when we go to the field a year from now, certainly, these guys will play big roles. We have five on the offensive line. The guys are athletic and what we needed. We have a left tackle to replace, we have a veteran offensive line now. So, we are going to have to have big classes in the offensive line, and that is a big class. At cornerback, we lost five, we took five. The need there is certainly is met. We were very fortunate to get Karon Prunty, Jacobee Bryant, and really the entire group. They are all very talented corners. Defensive line, we took three, a quality three. Kenean Caldwell, Clinton Anokwuru and Caleb Taylor. Caldwell will be a nose tackle, the rest of those lads will be defensive ends that can move. Then we took three linebackers, two tight ends. We think Will Huggins will be really good, we think Trevor Kardell will be a tremendous receiver. Then Jalon Daniels at quarterback is a guy that can run and can take hits, and yet really dominates the game. He is going to be a great team player. Daniel Hishaw, who is the player of the year in the state of Oklahoma, very talented running back. I think he will have an opportunity to touch the ball in a number of ways. I'm excited about the new staff that we have. Again, I think that they jumped in there. What happens when you have these analysts in the background, and you've had guys that have gone onto the field and understand how to go onto the field, that is the great place to bring and hire from. In other words, you have a guy that has trained in your information, he is a very fine coach because you have been with him and know who he is, and now you have a loss at a spot, and you can immediately replace him. I think that is a philosophy that we will stay with and will be standard for us."

*On the strength of the signing class:*

"I think the corners, if I had to pick one group. Karon Prunty is the Tidewater area champion in the 60 meters, and I think he is going to be a very, very talented corner for us. I think Jacobee Bryant is instinctive, he's going to be a talented, ball-skill guy. Johnquai Lewis, is big, 6-0 long corner. We like long corners and he's that guy. Deuce Mayberry, a talented guy out of again, Oklahoma. We will enjoy those guys. Then Ra'Mello Dotson, he's a guy that has ball skills and speed and so many times you get a corner in a position to make a play and he doesn't squeeze it. This guy has unbelievable ball skills and he will make plays. He's the best player on their team, and they played offense with him too, so he can play both ways. I like that group. I think that group will help us right away."

*On Jacobee Bryant's recruitment:*

"We had good knowledge there. We stayed with him the entire time. He's a guy that we came in on late and yet we knew him. We got free for a scholarship and that kind of made it all work. He's instinctive, again has ball skills. This has been the kind of class that we've needed. You're going to really know about this entire class in about two years. That guy will have a great career, this guy is coming, and that's just the way it is. But, we have speed, size, and ball skills. Guys that have played and understand the position. I think you can probably take a couple of these guys and make them safeties, but I think it's a talented group."

*On whether the team was looking to bring in a veteran quarterback:*

"Yea. I think that could have worked. But we are thrilled with who we have got. The mid-semester guy is an advantage. They had never done that here. The only thing that I am saying is, you get a guy on campus now, he goes through spring, he goes through the weight room and then he has the summer to do the exact same thing and a camp. So these guys, who are on campus now get the opportunity to really improve. I think its seven guys that are mid-semester. And they are all high school guys. That hasn't been done. We're using a time-frame for a high school player to come in early, get on board, have a nice introduction to academics, the weight room and our kids have already on their own, gone into the indoor and played some seven-on-seven. It's really a climatization, if you will. It gets them on campus, the academic center is right there and now some of your most skilled kids are playing and making significant gains. Having them on campus early and having them be a part of that production just allows you when you get to the fall, these guys aren't playing as first semester freshmen that they are, they're playing as sophomores."

*On Kenean Caldwell:*

"I want you to know. These guys, it's amazing how they grow. I mean, Clinton Anokwuru, is a guy that is 6-2, but as wide as he is, he's tall, he weights 250-260, and will eventually be a big strong man. Kenean Caldwell is going to be able to step up front and take guys and shake them and just leave them. Clinton, is going to be able to take an edge on a tackle and get to that quarterback, so he is a great pass rush guy. We need different guys, one guy needs to be a big, strong block, and he needs to initially start at the center spot and strike him and play knock-back football. Then these other guys get the opportunity to just pass rush. You push and then you let guys come off the edge like Clinton, you're going to have a good defense. Then you have guys that you already have who are on campus right now, the improvement that they can make, then with these guys to be in a backup position, almost ready to go right away because they were here early."

*On an all-freshmen class:*

"It's an interesting thing. You get to a point and say, can I recruit better in the next year? Let's hold the scholarship and lets recruit next year with that scholarship. Well, you might say yes, but when you say that high school player shows up on your campus and you get to introduce him to the weight room and you get to see how he grows, you have an extra semester in front, now you say, boy he's probably going to be 270-275, he's going to be fast because he's athletic as sin, so what you have is an advantage. The advantage you have is to get him on campus and let him go like heck and spent that scholarship and have them on campus and let next year be next year."



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*On recruiting a full class this year, as opposed to coming in late last season:*

"This class is a view of how your staff can recruit. You know, it's a new staff with new guys. They did a magnificent job and they worked together. The good news is, those guys that worked in the back wall, those recruiting specialists and analysts, they do a great job of teeing it up for you. You know, you walk in and say ok this is Oklahoma guys, Kansas guys and right on through, now you can direct them and you're into the recruiting game in a high-powered way. You're in it and going. The analysts that are by the wall and are now a part of our staff, they already knew what was going on and knew what to expect. They knew how to recruit and it made a difference, it really did."

*On Ben Iannacchione:*

"He's a weight strength guy that I knew and met at LSU. He was the head guy at Wyoming. He was number two at LSU. I knew that if I ever left to go anywhere, I was going to hire him. And this is not a reflection on anyone who was here before. But I knew that I was going to hire him because first of all, he's demanding, and an excellent weight strength guy. You walk in there and you're expecting to get after it. Plus, he's a gentlemen and he just fits."

*On Joshua Eargle:*

"Josh Eargle is coaching our tight ends and recruiting coordinator. I met him and knew him again, at LSU. You watched a young coach really work his craft. He's been a head coach, offensive coordinator, defensive coordinator, he's got unbelievable experience."

*On Chidera Uzo-Diribe:*

"A guy that is going to coach our outside linebackers and has really been with DJ Eliot for time at Colorado as a player and as a leader, we have him here and being able to be with him and understand the impact that he can have on our outside linebackers is really good. That would be Chidera Uzo-Diribe."

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