



2019-20
KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL
POSTGAME QUOTES

#3/3 KANSAS vs TEXAS TECH
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2020
LAWRENCE, KAN. // ALLEN FIELDHOUSE



KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF

Opening Statement:

"That is about as good as we can play to start a game and as poor as we can play as far as intellect to finish. We turned it over and did about everything wrong that we could in the end. We couldn't remember if we were switching or staying and fortunately we got a couple of lucky blocks late and then Ochai (Agbaji) made two huge free throws. I don't know if we could have guarded (Jahmi'us) Ramsey, so if it is a one or two point game, our defense is totally different and we probably couldn't guard. We did a lot of good things and it's great to get the win. We didn't have everybody give us what they have been giving us from a consistency basis. Udoka (Azubuike) was a non-factor today because of fouls, but also when he was in there he was just a non-factor today compared to what he has been. I thought David (McCormack) was really good after he got going off the bench and certainly Isaiah (Moss) made some shots off the bench. This game belonged to (Devon) Dotson and Marcus (Garrett). They were the two best players for sure."

On Dotson's line and the turnovers:

"We have to keep the ball in Dot or Marcus' hands or we do turn the ball over. Our passing has just been atrocious. We did enough good things offensively. If you hang 78 (points) on these guys, that is plenty to win. We couldn't guard Ramsey and he had a great game. He is really good. Then (TJ) Holyfield had a great night. Even though our defense wasn't great, it wasn't really that we didn't play to the scouting report. They had some guys step up and make shots better than they had been making for the most part."

On the game against Texas on Monday night:

"We got a win down there and Dot came back and played like 39 minutes and keyed that win. We need to regroup tomorrow and we have to get Dok, I don't know what is going on there, but we have to get him going and hope like heck that we come out and we play with great energy on Monday. This is the toughest stretch for us. Although there will be hard games moving forward, these games with so much emotion going on and everything, it is good that we got through this game today. But we have got to be better on Monday and moving forward."

KANSAS JUNIOR GUARD MARCUS GARRETT

On Devon Dotson "rallying the team":

"(He was) Great. He was just able to just go one-on-one and get us quick buckets. Almost every time he went on a run, he was able to get right to the paint and get a layup."

On the block on the last drive:

"I was basically just trying to stay in front of him and make him miss the shot but without fouling him to give him the 'and-one.' I was able to get my hand on the ball once he went up."

On his health and what happened today:

"That's probably what's been going on. It just sometimes it gets me, sometimes it doesn't and I just kind of need to come out for a little."

On if he is fine:

"Yeah, I'm fine."

On what it was like to play with four guards and one big and whether that helped open up driving lanes:

"You could say that. With either Dok (Udoka Azubuike) or Dave (David McCormack) in there, I feel like the help man didn't want to rotate as much because we could just throw it up there and dunk it. I felt like they were just giving us layups instead of lobs."

KANSAS SOPHOMORE FORWARD DAVID McCORMACK

On Devon Dotson's leadership:

"I think Devon does a good job of rallying the troops together and making sure that we have our heads on straight and stay focused."

On how he felt to be back in the game:

"It was a great feeling to be back, of course. There's nothing like playing in the Fieldhouse; all the support from teammates, fans, family. Everyone just had my back, so I'm happy to be back."

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KANSAS SOPHOMORE GUARD DEVON DOTSON

On David McCormack's performance:

"He gave us great minutes. When he was in, he made some key plays that got the crowd into it - big block, lob dunks. He did some really great things out there so I feel like he's a big reason we won this game today."

On what it means to win a game without Udoka Azubuike playing a lot of minutes:

"That's big. That's how some games go in conference play and all throughout the season. There are going to be times when a player doesn't have it or is in foul trouble, so it's got to be 'next man up' to play. I feel like a lot of guys did a pretty good job around the team - making some key plays and moves. You're always going to need them."

TEXAS TECH HEAD COACH CHRIS BEARD

Opening Statement:

"I'm just obviously really proud of our team today, we fought, you know. Adversity, injuries are such a large part of college basketball, so we were without Chris Clarke today, with the ankle. He tried to play, showing a lot of courage getting ready, but just couldn't move. Kevin McCullar, a freshman in our rotation, he's going through concussion protocols so to be missing two of our top seven or eight players coming here, getting into a one-possession game, I think that speaks pretty clearly on how dominant we were. (It's) Not an excuse, at all, but it's just part of it. It's what makes Kansas' run here and the consistency success so impressive. They've had their share of injuries and have guys being out and what have you. They just find a way to win. As we continue to build our program, you know the expectation will try to be to win games like this even when we're a little short-handed. But (I) congratulate Kansas on a great win. I thought the difference in the game from where I was sitting and standing were the blocked shots. We talked about trying to have a jump stop and a two-foot game. We wanted to play a low turnover game, which we got done, but we wanted to put those blocked shots in the category of turnovers, because to get your shot blocked by Kansas, it's a live ball, so they're going to transition on you. Other than that, the guys played a pretty clean game. We just have to do a better job of not getting our shots blocked. But again, congratulations to Kansas. It's a place we always enjoy coming to play because we have such respect for this program and all the players and coaches before us. I got my coaching start in Fort Scott Community College just down the road (in Fort Scott, Kansas). I've always had a fond feeling about this state and its profound respect for basketball. Tonight is no different. So it was an honor to play in front of this crowd. I thought the guys played really well. I'm proud of our team."

On Kansas' sophomore point guard Devon Dotson:

"It's frustrating, you know. You know it's coming. Coach (Bill) Self does a great job of putting his players in positions to drive downhill, be aggressive, and put that pressure on the officials to make the call or not. So you know it's coming. We just did the best we can. Dotson's a dynamic player. He's got poise and composure about him. They really feed off of him. When they needed it most he made big baskets. To win at Kansas, to win these types of games, you need a bunch of stuff to go right. You have to have some big-time performances. We had two of those tonight, with (Jahmi'us) Ramsey and (TJ Holyfield). We were missing one more guy. Two of our best shooters got some good looks. There's just a lot going into tonight. You need that third guy to show up and defensively, you have to get some time in these stops. Whenever we had the game kind of where we wanted it, Dotson goes and makes an individual play. It's like flashbacks. Is that (Devonte') Graham out there, (Frank) Mason (III)? No, that's Dotson. So, a lot of credit to him as an individual player, and a lot of credit to their coaching staff and program to put him in those situations. We'll just have to do better next time."

On charges, driving the middle:

"It's obviously a big game plan. It's not a secret, we prefer the ball not to get in the middle. But Kansas gets to the middle, that's where the threes come, the downhill drives come. Tonight, we just didn't do a very good job, especially in the first half. The second half, Coach Self, doing what he always does, was controlling things, putting the ball in the middle of the floor. Then it really just kind of turned into a one-on-one game and as a coach, you make those decisions. They've got good 3-point shooters, and they keep their bigs right there around the rim for dunks. Late in the game we scrambled it out of his hands a couple of times, but give the guy credit. He made a lot of one-on-one plays. He did a great job of initiating contact. I know it's a hard call for the officials, but give them credit. Victory favors the more aggressive team, and that's what Coach Self's team always tries to be. And so do we. I thought we were aggressive out there tonight, too. Really proud of our team. As a coach, you don't want to make excuses but, he's (TJ Holyfield) banged up and he's playing hurt right now and to play the way he played tonight, it was one of my all-time most courageous player-coach moments. This guy was just dynamite tonight. I hope that'll be part of the story tomorrow."

On what he wanted in the last 15 seconds:

"You've still got some time to take the two and then maybe get the quick foul or the quick trap. We're prepared for these moments. We (have) got some young guys on the floor. I loved our composure in the last three or four minutes; we gave ourselves a chance. I would've liked to have had a timeout, but Allen Fieldhouse, the crowd, the Phog, you know it had something to do with that. I almost didn't call that one but I feel like I needed to. I would've loved to have had that timeout late in the game, but it doesn't go that way. That's the value of Kansas' homecourt. We've got the same thing in Lubbock. We just try to get the best basket we can. I thought Ramsey made the right play late. I know we were down three, but he had the chance to get and make one. I told him that was the right play to make. You're not always going to make the play, but you do want to make the right play. More times than not, things will go your way. But I liked the way we finished tonight. We gave ourselves a chance."

POSTGAME QUOTES

BEARD (CONT.)

On Kansas' Udoka Azubuike having a rough day:

"Thanks for asking that, I would agree. Sometimes when great players don't have a great game, the thing is always that 'Oh, well he didn't play well tonight', but you (have) got to give credit to the opposing team. We always do that; well, always try to do that. I think tonight we did a good job of getting those two fouls on him in the first half. Holding, getting shots and drives, it's a difficult guard for them. I think that's what Dotson understood, what was going on today. He probably just thought, 'I'm going take this thing over' and he certainly did."

On their quick turnaround (next game is Tuesday, Feb. 4 at Oklahoma):

"We just stay the course. You guys have seen this before. We were fortunate enough to win a game here before. We've got a 12-hour rule in our program, we'll bang ourselves up a little bit and then we have to get back to work. Every once in a while we'll win a big game, celebrate for 12 hours, then get back to work. (You) Can't get too high or too low. We gave ourselves a chance tonight, (even after) a really poor start in the game. We'll learn from this, just like we do with (any other) victory or defeat."

TEXAS TECH SENIOR FORWARD TJ HOLYFIELD

On what the Red Raiders were able to do to claw back after the start to the game:

"It is not the start we wanted but we had to take in the atmosphere a little bit more and get back to how we play."

On what kind of got him going today:

"Just my teammates and my coaches, they believe in me and they want me to shoot open shots. I think that gives me the confidence to do so."

On what got him shooting the three today:

"I was just reading the defense and however the defense reacted. That's how I reacted. They left me open a few times and I let it go."

On what he and freshman guard Jahmi'us Ramsey were able to do together down the stretch:

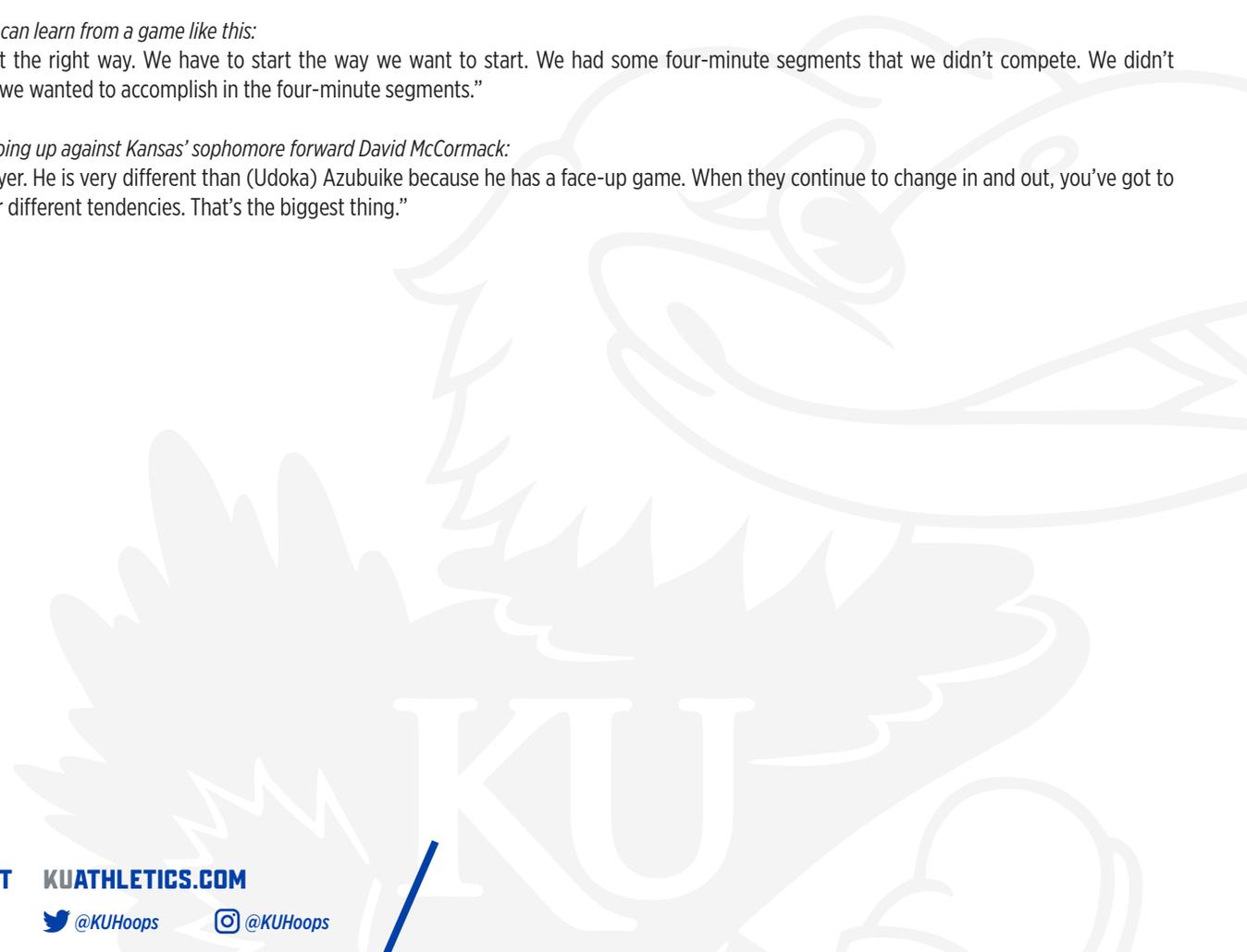
"Ramsey is playing really great right now. He is the big part of why the reason we stayed in the game, not just the threes, him getting downhill to the rim as well."

On what the team can learn from a game like this:

"We have to start the right way. We have to start the way we want to start. We had some four-minute segments that we didn't compete. We didn't accomplish what we wanted to accomplish in the four-minute segments."

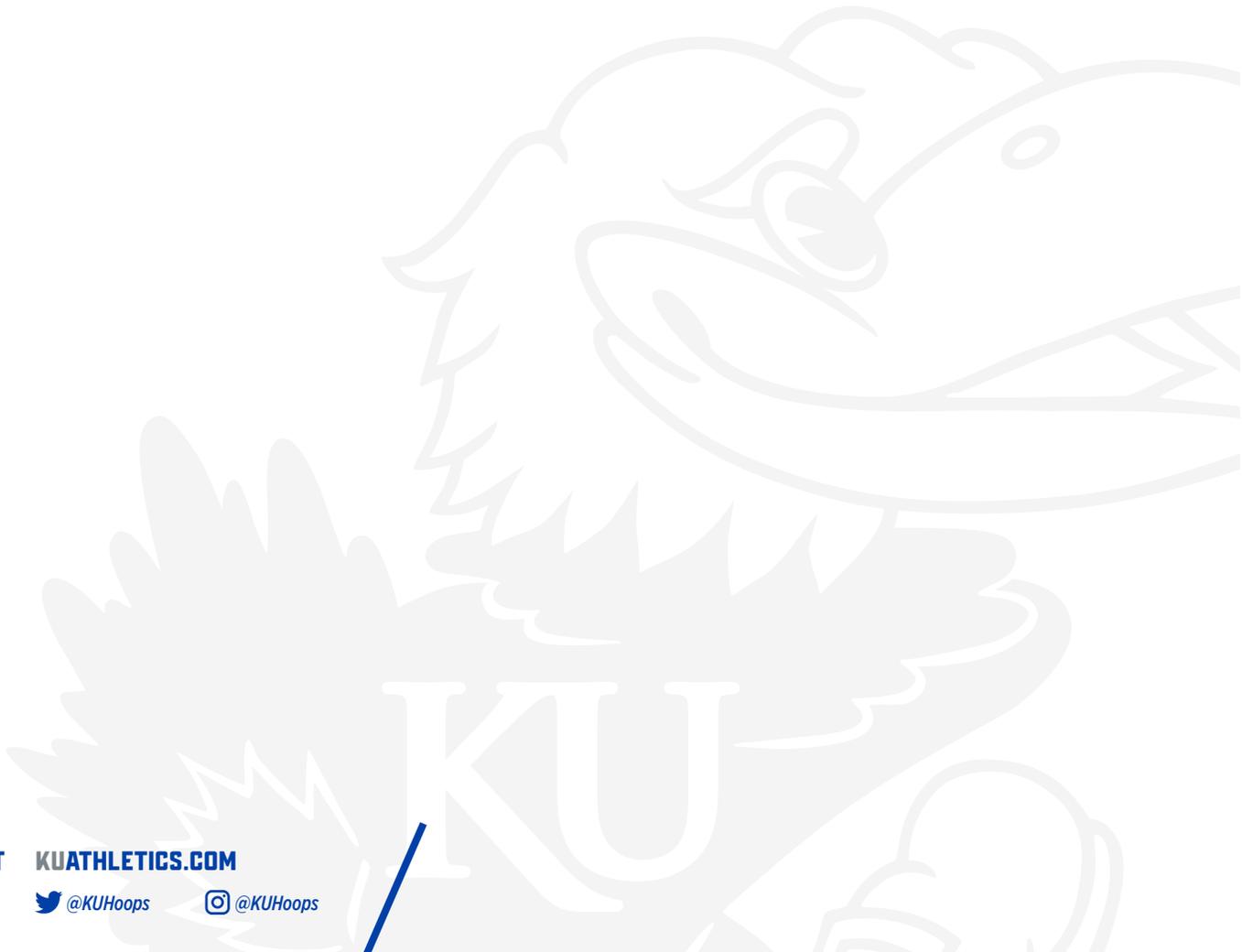
On what he saw going up against Kansas' sophomore forward David McCormack:

"He is a great player. He is very different than (Udoka) Azubuike because he has a face-up game. When they continue to change in and out, you've got to be alert with their different tendencies. That's the biggest thing."



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