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2019-20
KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

POSTGAME QUOTES

#3/3 KANSAS vs TEXAS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020

LAWRENCE, KAN. // ALLEN FIELDHOUSE



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KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF

Opening Statement:

"Yeah, it was a grind-out win. Our whole league guards but I think Texas guarded us very well. Once again, we don't make any shots, what are we 2-for-12 from the three? We can certainly shoot it better than that, but we didn't tonight. We haven't shot it very well in a while but we were fairly efficient the first half when we made a couple of bad defensive breakdowns to end the half to give them the lead. The second half, we played pretty good defense. I think they had 13 points in 17 minutes. Dok (Udoka Azubuike) got going and Dot (Devon Dotson) got going a little bit and Marcus (Garrett) was solid the whole game and we were able to pull away. I also thought Ochai (Agbaji) made three really nice pull-up jumpers. They weren't threes, but they were nice moves, they were all very timely (and) forced as well."

On David McCormack earning the start over Azubuike and Dok's stat line of 8-of-10 from the field:

"Dok is our starter, there is no doubt about that. We didn't have a great day yesterday. That is about the extent of that. He knew he wasn't going to start, but he responded beautifully. That is what you are supposed to do and (he) certainly play(ed) with a lot of energy."

On if Ochai's shot faking and driving in is something you talked about as he kind of has struggled from the 3-point line:

"I think they did a good job running him off the line. Teams are guarding us like they are really trying to take the three away and run us off the line and he did a good job on those little shot fakes, you know, one-or-two dribble pull-ups. That was good. We took good care of the basketball up until the end. Dok had four (turnovers) in like the first two minutes he was in there, then we actually did a decent job at taking care of the ball. (If) We can just eliminate some silly plays and keep guarding for 40 minutes, we will be in games. Hopefully we will have enough offense. Tonight we didn't run great offense by any stretch, but when we did, it was amazing the shots we got."

On Marcus Garrett dominating games without scoring a lot of points:

"Yeah, he is good. He is our rock, our 'glue' guy. I thought Dot was really good the second half. I thought (Texas junior guard Matt) Coleman (III) played really great and (junior forward Jericho) Sims played great for them. Sims made some hard shots. I thought Matt (Coleman III) had a really good game and did a good job guarding Dot. Dot is so fast, all you have to do is blink a couple times and he can get downhill. It was a good win; it was grinded out and certainly, we will take it. It has been kind of rough -- not rough, but tiring -- few weeks. It is good that we can catch our breath a little bit and hopefully regroup on Wednesday and have good practices on Thursday and Friday and go down (to Fort Worth) and be rested playing TCU (Saturday)."

On going to play TCU on the road:

"Our schedule, are we just halfway through? But our second half is much, much harder than the first half. Unfortunately, Baylor has already had the hard first half because they played at Kansas and played at (Texas) Tech. I know they got a good win tonight in Manhattan. They aren't going anywhere, so we certainly need to keep close contact with them. We have half the season left to do that; but certainly, we are going to have to play better than what we played. Even though our record is pretty good, the schedule is still going to get tougher."

KANSAS JUNIOR GUARD MARCUS GARRETT

On being second in the league for assists:

"I actually didn't know that until you just told me. I definitely didn't think that (was possible), before the season. It was kind of just me being more aggressive this year, just trying to make more plays."

On his health recovery and treatment:

"Yeah, (I'm) basically just treatments two or three times a day, just trying to get it better. (I'm) Resting it a lot, trying to stay off of it."

On how he's doing with his injuries:

"It's getting me. Kind of once the game gets going, if it touches anything it'll almost get me during the game, but I can get through it."

On feeding off of Udoka Azubuike's energy:

"(We feed off him) A lot, once we see him blocking shots and being energized, dunking the ball, that makes us push more on defense, trying to pressure more. Knowing how energetic he is will make it hard for (the other team) to finish anything."

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KANSAS SOPHOMORE GUARD DEVON DOTSON

On the Texas defense making it difficult to get downhill tonight:

"I think I did a good job of loading up; (but) we couldn't really get out and run like I wanted to. It was kind of a slower game, but you know, we got the win."

On Coach Self's message prior to the second half:

"We just have to play and wake up. He emphasized just 'waking up.' We kind of blew some coverage(s) and made little mistakes that we know we needed to fix and we came out and we fixed it."

On senior center Udoka Azubuike's game:

"I thought he played great. He was active, had great energy and played well on defense. When we threw it to him, he converted down low, so I thought he played well."

On Marcus Garret's toughness, battling through injuries:

"He's been tough, battling through the things he's been going through. He's been tough, toughing it, out getting treatment and coming out each and every game like he doesn't feel it and playing well. Like every game, he does a little bit of everything. He can defend, make plays. He does a lot out there."

KANSAS SENIOR CENTER UDOKA AZUBUIKE

On the feeling of a great run:

"These past few games, they've been trying different offensive options on me, like two minutes in between, so it's been hard for me to get the ball. We kind of ran the set. Like I said, my team(mates) did a really great job of getting me the ball."

TEXAS HEAD COACH SHAKA SMART

On the second half:

"I thought the majority of the first half that our guys did a really good job at least being even on the aggressiveness battle, the physicality battle in having an edge there. In the second half, Kansas really flipped that by ramping up their assertiveness. They put their head down and drove the ball. (Udoka) Azubuike was terrific rolling to the rim and they found him. We were not tough enough in our pick-and-roll defense to keep them from turning the corner. (Devon) Dotson was way better in the second half. All of those things combined allowed them to go on a huge run."

On if this game was a missed opportunity:

"Any game you lose is a missed opportunity. For us to come in here and win, we needed to do a few things better than we did. We needed to shoot the ball better. It is tough to come in here and shoot the ball better. Tough to come into a game and win shooting 4-of-24 from 3-point range. Our defensive aggressiveness was not as good in the first half as the second."

On how tough it is to defend Azubuike:

"I thought he really played well. He is a good player whether he starts or doesn't start. He is tough to deal with in their pick-and-roll stuff because he is such a big target. Even if you have a help defender there, they can throw it up and he can go get it. He did a nice job finishing. He and Jericho (Sims) got really tired and you could see it out there. They both battled and Azubuike kept fighting and was able to play through fatigue."

On the team's 3-point percentage:

"A lot of the shots were good looks that we missed and would like to have back. We had a stretch in the second half where it was within a few points and we had a few open threes that we did not knock down. When you are playing against Kansas they can make it tough on you at the rim, so you have to mix in being able to knock in some shots from the outside. I thought our guys did a really good job of getting in the paint in the first half. They closed some more of those shots off better in the second half. Shooting 4-of-24 from 3-point range is going to be tough (to win)."