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2019-20
KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

POSTGAME QUOTES

#3/3 KANSAS vs TCU

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2020

FORT WORTH, TEXAS // SCHOLLMAIER ARENA



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KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF

On how good Udoka Azubuike was today:

"I thought he was great after he got started. I thought he was as bad as early as he was good late. He ran the floor, he protected the rim and the lane and we didn't do a great job of getting him the ball, but him getting 14 shots will always be good for us because he's obviously going to make a high percentage because of where he shoots it from. I thought he played terrific."

On what he told Dok when he sat him on the bench early:

"Not really much, just 'wake up.' He had two dunks to start the game and he bounces and hesitates and all that so I just told him to wake up and he got an easy basket, I think, right when he checked back in and after that he was pretty confident."

On Devon Dotson's 11-assist game:

"I thought he played good, really good. If you think about it, who other than Devon and Dok really played well? Everybody else kind of just played good defense. Marcus (Garrett) wasn't himself offensively, Ochai (Agbaji) was really not much of a factor offensively and Christian (Braun) wasn't a factor offensively. So, we need to have Dot play well. But I do think what all our guys did, was that we guarded pretty well."

On when the team is in an offensive funk, if the players know that defense is where they should 'hang their hat':

"I think so. Coach (Eddie) Sutton taught me this more than anybody; but you don't have to be better than the other team for 40 minutes. If you can kind of stay even or whatever and then you have that one spurt where you can be a lot better during that one spurt; fortunately for us, we had two spurts. We had one early in the first half where I think we went to something like 19-11, so it was maybe an 8-0 or 10-0 run. When they (TCU) cut it to 44-40 with the ball, we locked in and guarded them. To me, that was the biggest difference in the game, was that two-or-three-minute stretch."

On if defensive spurts are a 'thing' for this team:

"I think the defense leads to offense, so you if you get three or four stops in a row ... in that stretch where we went from four to 11 of whatever, did we even run offense? We didn't. All we did was get a steal and make a layup. Our numbers are so inflated, for the better, because we got some steals and layups. If it wasn't for that, our offense would have been pretty inept."

On if anything special was done to commemorate his 700th-career victory:

"Yeah, they actually did. I got a ball, which I'll keep. (Kansas Athletics Director) Jeff Long gave me a ball and I was surprised he was able to get that done in like seven minutes after the end of the game [laughter]. Then, my granddaughter is here, so I was able to take some pictures with her with that situation. They're both special and it's a great day if you tell us we win by 14 coming down here, I'd be ecstatic. But the way the game kind of ended, not getting the ball in press ... it leaves you out of here thinking, 'Well, I'm glad we won, but gosh dang, we've got to be better.' We've got to be better in certain areas too."

On TCU, the best 3-point shooting team in the Big 12 Conference, being held to 5-of-22 from behind the arc today and what he attributes that to:

"I think two things: [a)] luck, because I do think they had some open looks that they missed and b) I do think we guarded them pretty well. I think our switches were pretty good, for the most part. I'd like to think our team deserves some credit for that, but stats are so misleading sometimes. I think if you watch it, of the 17 misses that they had, there were probably seven or eight that were pretty good looks too. So we got pretty fortunate with that."

On what it means to match North Carolina's record of 31-consecutive 20-win seasons:

"I didn't know anything about that. It's pretty good. How many years? Thirty-one? So the last time we haven't won (20 games) was Roy's (Williams) first year and we won 19. Before that, we won more than 20 in all of Larry's (Brown) years. So that record could have easily been 36 or 37. It's great. The consistency the program has had over time is pretty remarkable, but 20-win seasons now don't mean the same thing as 20-win season back in the '80s, because you play more games. But, still, it's a remarkable accomplishment. You could almost take it a step further and say there's been at least 23 wins (in) close to 20 seasons as well. It says we've had some really good players, more than anything else."

On Marcus Garrett not scoring on drives to the basket in today's game, as usual:

"I thought they did a great job of taking away slot drives. I thought they defended us well. I really think the way they defended us, it was a perfect way for Dok to have a big game. If we could (have) just thrown him the ball more often, he could have had a huge game. That was our best offense: just throwing the ball to Dok."

On if Dok picked up going left on his own, being that the TCU defense was sitting on his right shoulder:

"Yeah, I guess he picked it up. He's been told numerous times that they are taking his left shoulder away and he's got to go to the right shoulder quick. The other thing about Dok is why does he pump fake? He pump fakes and bounces and he's got to eliminate some of that. I do think Samuels is a formidable defender for him to score over because he's such a good shot blocker."

POSTGAME QUOTES

SELF (CONT.)

On when he thinks this team got a defensive mentality:

"I don't know. If you look back at the games that we lost, we guarded Duke, we guarded Villanova and we guarded Baylor, at least respectively; it's just that their defense was better than our defense. I think that's kind of been who we are. One thing about it, when you labor offensively, it definitely gives you more of a defensive identity, which sometimes is a positive because if you score easy, then a lot of times you don't give the same detail to defense."

On receiving a No. 1 seed in today's bracket:

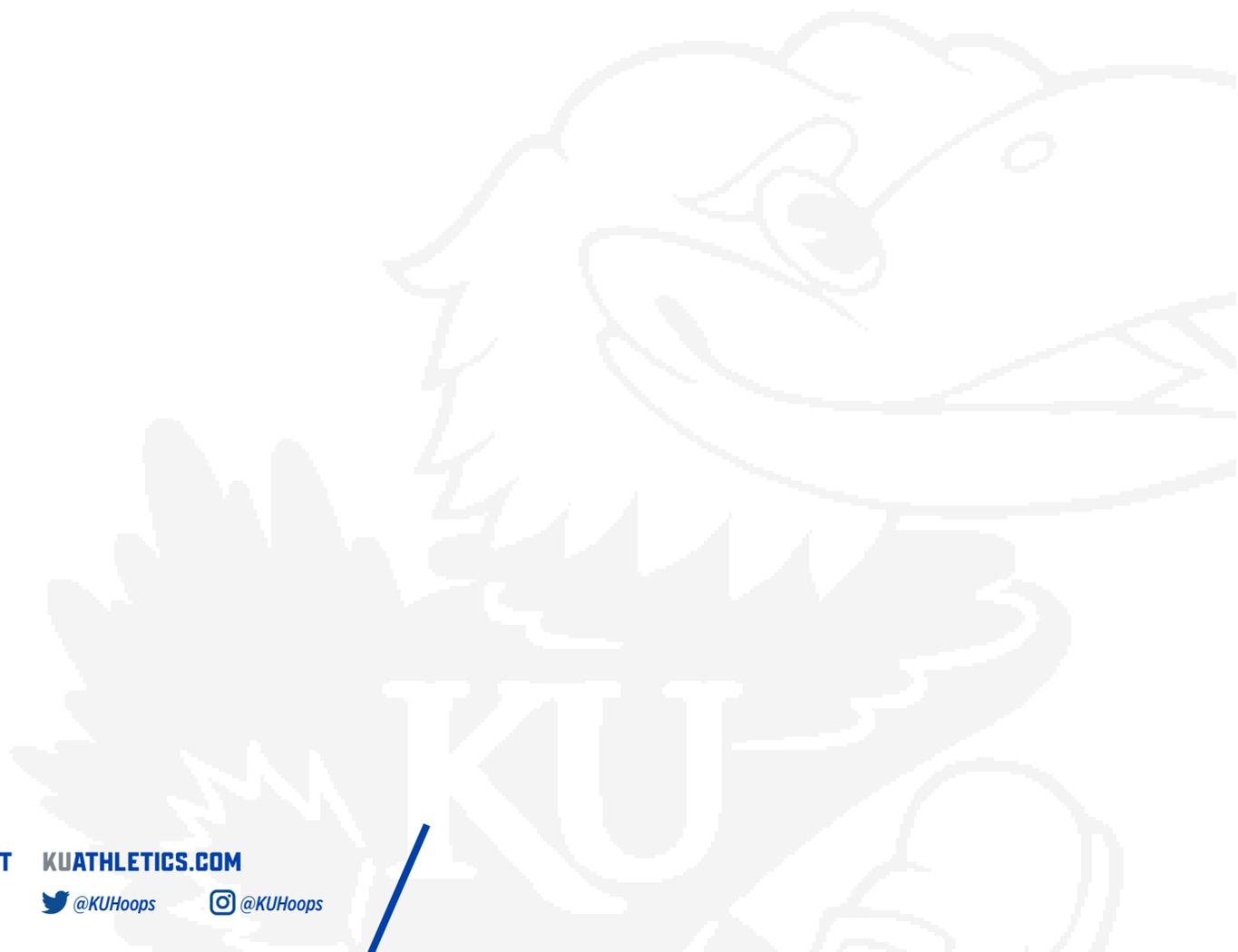
"That doesn't mean anything. From our analytics and our resume, we probably deserve that. We've played a hard schedule and everything. But that doesn't mean anything. (If) You lose one game, you're going to drop. If you win two more, you're going to move up. I do think, at this point in time, we do deserve that."

On Baylor being No. 1 overall:

"Which they should be, in my opinion."

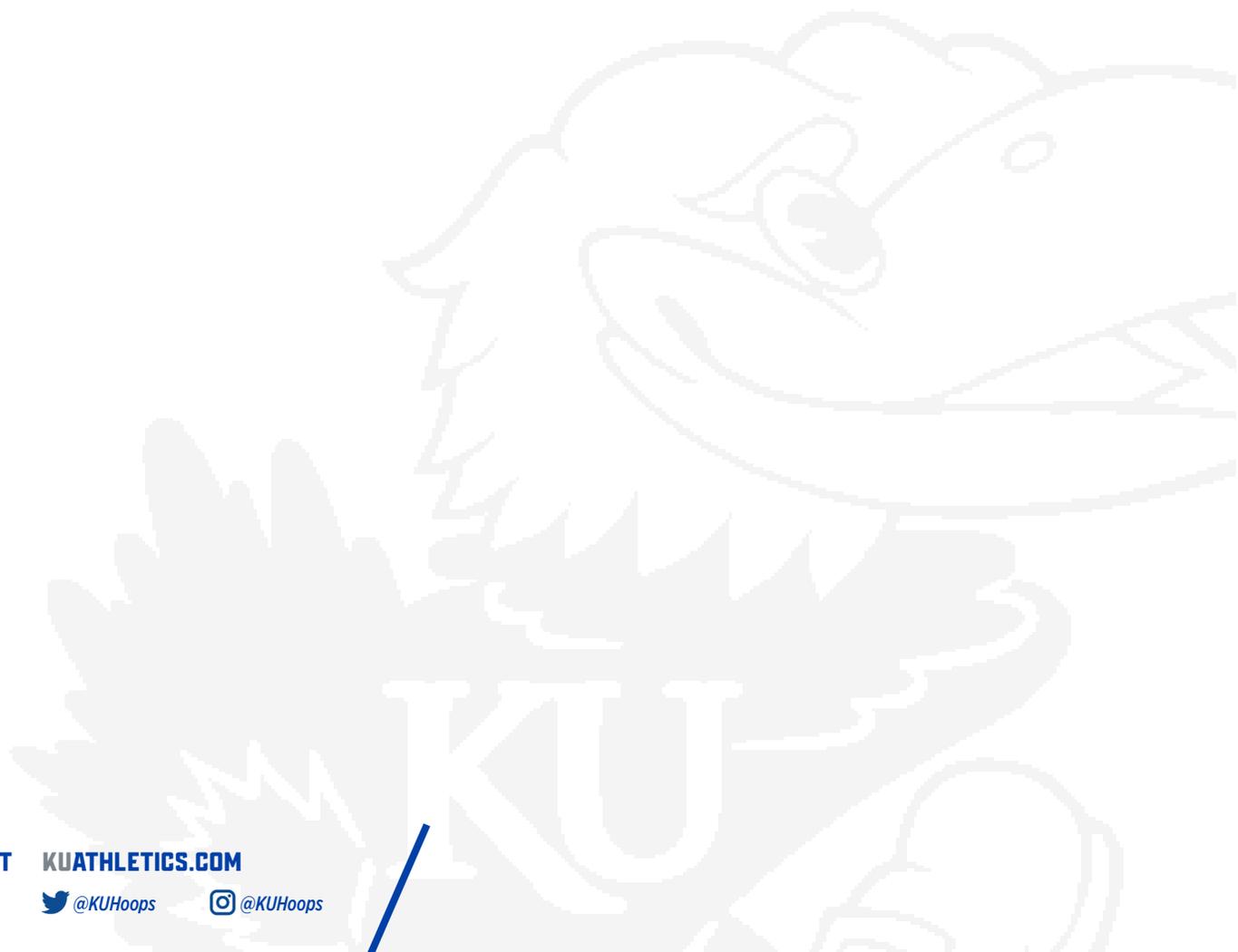
Although usually modest, on if career win No. 700 today is a big deal to him or not:

"No. No, it's not. Eight hundred might be, because that means I've really been around a long time. But 700, I hadn't even thought about that. I was asked that this morning. It's nice; it's a lot of wins, but certainly, I would be much more concerned about just beating TCU and playing well at West Virginia than I am any of that other stuff."



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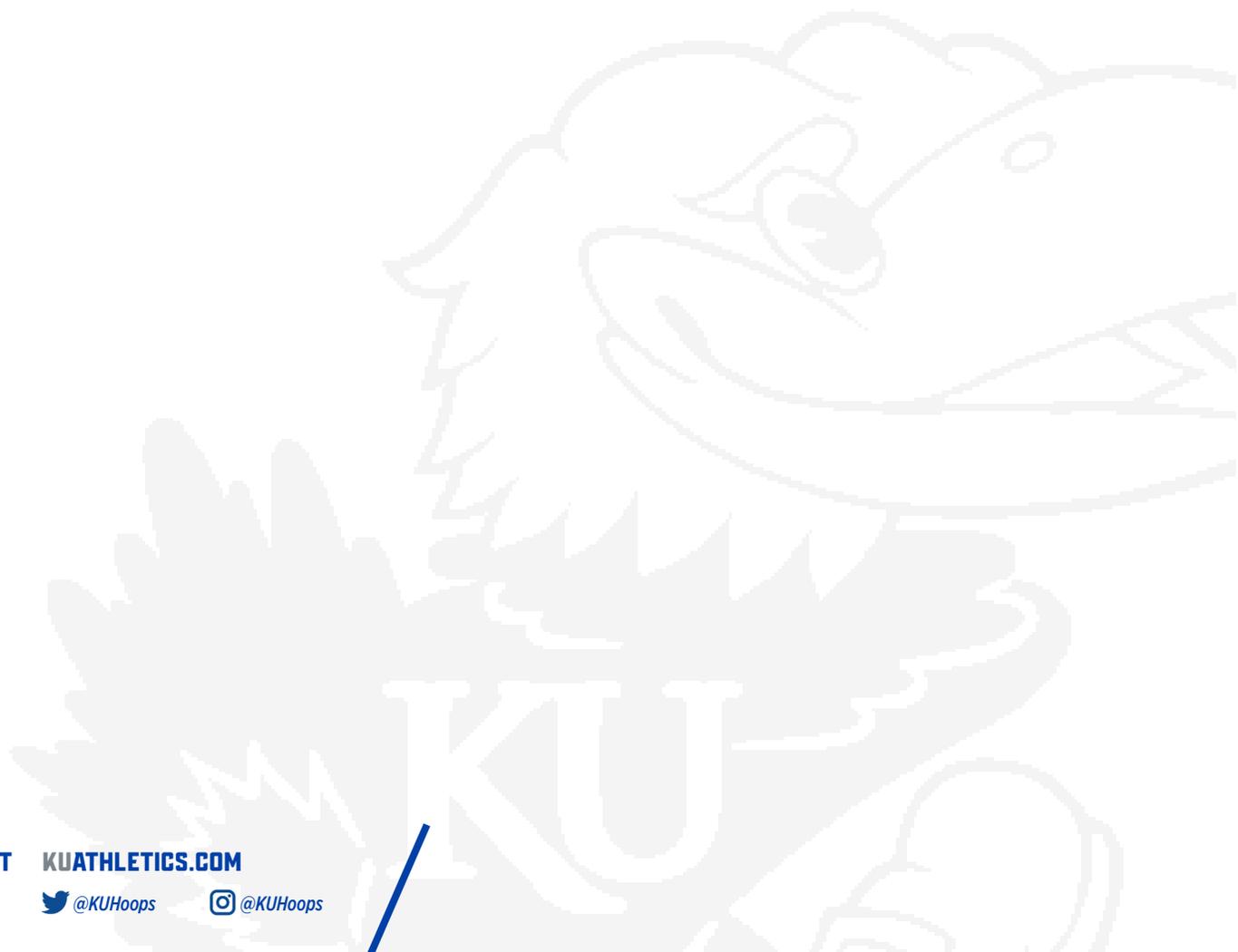
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