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2019-20
KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

POSTGAME QUOTES

#1/1 KANSAS vs OKLAHOMA STATE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020

LAWRENCE, KAN. // ALLEN FIELDHOUSE



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KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF

Opening Statement:

"The game started out where they were actually quicker than us early on but we made four 3's early on and I think we were up like 12-10. Then we shot miserably for the rest of the half but we started guarding and I think we ended the half like 1-for-10 from 3(-point range). We started guarding and then second half we started playing pretty solid, made a couple of shots. I thought everybody played well; it was good to see Christian (Braun) have the ball go down. I thought Isaiah (Moss) did a good job on both ends, really good. I thought Ochai (Agbaji) had his best game in a while on both ends. Then Tristian (Enaruna) was good, Marcus (Garrett) was rock-solid. Dot (Devon Dotson) wasn't Dot today; he was tired and he didn't play with the same energy. But Udoka Azubuike: wow. He's playing. He's on a roll. He's dominating the paint. Just in the few possessions that he's out of the game, David's (McCormack's) making every shot and we're scoring on that end. But his presence defensively: it's nothing against anybody else. We're just a different team. The way he rebounded the ball and made his free throws today; that hopefully will be a springboard for more of that."

On Azubuike's performance at the free-throw line recently:

"Well, not too many guys go 7-for-8 and, of the seven, they bank one in and the one miss is an airball. That doesn't happen very often, but we've seen a lot of things from Dok that we've never seen before. But he was great. His attitude was good but our guys were tired. We need tomorrow off. We need a really light day - if anything - on Wednesday and (to) get our batteries recharged to go take on a game which we know will be very competitive on Saturday."

On Agbaji's bounce back from Saturday:

"He was aggressive; he was looking to shoot the ball. I don't know football very well but it seems like they're playing nine in the box or whatever they call it and it seems like to me you've got to throw long every now and then even if it's incomplete just to stretch the defense. That's what we've got to do; we've got to shoot the ball to stretch the defense. When we do that, it opens up a lot more driving area and lanes."

On the rematch Saturday against K-State:

"We'll be fired up to play and I think certainly our guys will be excited. Anytime you play an in-state rival, you should be excited. There's a lot at stake for us, obviously, with the league race and seeding and a lot of different things going on. We'll prepare hard for that one and hopefully go give a great effort on Saturday."

KANSAS SENIOR UDOKA AZUBUIKE

On having fun while playing:

"Of course, you've got to have fun with it. This is my last year, this is my last (collegiate) season. Regardless of what's going on, you have to embrace it. I just said to myself, 'I'm going to look back one day, on this moment, and it's best to just stay in the moment.' Especially in basketball."

KANSAS SOPHOMORE OCHAI AGBAJI

On it's like to play with Azubuike:

"Last year, I never really got the chance to play with him. This year, it's all new. Having that presence, like I said, having him on the lane, more on the defensive end than the offensive end, is really special because the stuff he does for us, when you're watching on film, is crazy."

On how his game at Baylor compared to his game tonight:

"I was definitely happy for my teammates and (about) the outcome of the game. Our main goal was just to go down there and win, no matter what, any way we could do it. If that takes me not even scoring, then I'll take that any day."

OKLAHOMA STATE HEAD COACH MIKE BOYNTON

Opening Statement:

"Damn, they're good. One of my goals was never to hear that chant in this building, I was 2-for-2 and now that's over. If Udoka (Azubuike) makes all of his free throws, they will win a national championship."

On what he said to Azubuike after the game:

"I told him that he will be in the rafters. This game was about these kids, I've watched his development in my time here. I saw him play in high school and his growth has been remarkable. Obviously, a lot of credit goes to their staff for putting him in this position. He has put a lot of work in and has made himself more than a plotting post player who can get lost in today's game. He is terrific. It would be hard to find a better national player of the year candidate. The way that he is playing now is special."

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BOYNTON (CONT.)

On the difference between this game and the last game against Kansas:

"We played more zone at our place. We played more man-to-man and tried to bring bodies and surround (Udoka) when he had it. Then we fouled him and he went up there and made the shots. If you don't foul him then you have a chance, there is no defense for him. I told him that he's a really good player. He is truly one of the best players that I have watched over a period of time."

On if he found this game discouraging after having the team's inside-out-game working lately:

"No, have perspective man. We're not a national championship team. They are, and the reason that they are is that they have Udoka. But they also have the most dynamic point guard (Devon Dotson) that you can have in college basketball. If the season would end today, they would be one and two for players in the league. We just played against a really good team today, and I'm not going to let my team be discouraged. We've gotten a lot better in the last month. I can see the improvement of my team within the last month and I want to focus on that with them."

On his team fighting at the end of the first half:

"Our kids play with pride, for the most part. We tried to compete for as much as we could. However, we don't have all of the pieces yet. We're still working on that part. I think that our talent will improve and we won't be down 30 to 19. I have confidence that we are recruiting the right way and that will take care of most of it. I still believe in our staff."

On how he compares Baylor and Kansas:

"They are both really good. Baylor has more playmaking guards. However, Kansas has the best playmaking guard. I watched every play of the game. Those two (Azubuike and Dotson) will represent our team really well postseason."

OKLAHOMA STATE SENIOR FORWARD CAMERON MCGRIF

On keeping it close early, but letting it slip away:

"They made shots from 3(-point arc), I think that's what really opened it up. Udoka (Azubuike) definitely got it going inside and made all those free throws, that was huge for him. When they knock down shots from three, they're a pretty hard team to stop. They're number one in the country for a reason."

On what Udoka Azubuike was doing so well:

"I would definitely have to say him catching rhythm at the free throw line, that's huge for a guy like that. A lot of teams strategize to foul him to stop him from scoring and then when he continues to score at the free throw line, it's pretty difficult. Hats off to him, he's a great player and he knows how to use his body, he's a big guy."

On being discouraged going forward:

"We're not going to change our identity based on one game, that's what Coach (Mike Boynton Jr.) definitely has instilled in us. We didn't play good basketball today, but we are more concerned about us becoming a better team in the future. Today we really did not play like ourselves. It's a tough environment to win in, so we have to go back to the drawing board and just get better. We still aren't going to change our identity; it's been working for a while, so I think we are going to stick to it."

OKLAHOMA STATE SENIOR GUARD LINDY WATERS III

On Udoka Azubuike's defensive presence:

"He's a big guy. Like Cam said, we strategized to get him out of the paint because when he's the only big in there and we get him out, there's no other shot blockers. Whenever we get stagnant on offense, he's able to sit back and play a little conservatively on the defensive end and continue to protect the paint. He had eight offensive rebounds and that really hurt us."

On the freshmen handling the Allen Fieldhouse crowd:

"We tried to simulate it in practice—we have speakers and we played chants as loud as we could. You can practice that as much as you want, but once you get in the actual environment, it's a lot different. We practiced huddling up and communicating with it being loud, but I think they did a pretty good job for their first time in an environment like this. The freshman class has a really high ceiling."

On the team going into the last few games of the season:

"We still have a lot to play for. That's our mindset. We still have three winnable games and then anything can happen in the conference tournament. That's our mindset for the next two or three weeks; we (have) got a lot more to play for."

On feeling rhythm in his shot:

"Yeah, I would say so. I was just trying to be a little more aggressive than I have been in the past few games and those one-dribble pull-ups have just been working for me."

On his 100th-career start:

"It's been a blessing. Being able to be in the position where I am right now, there are a lot of little kids and a lot of people my age who would die to be in the same position. It doesn't go by every single day that I can't take it for granted."