



2019-20
KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL
POSTGAME QUOTES



#1/1 KANSAS vs TCU
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020
LAWRENCE, KAN. // ALLEN FIELDHOUSE

KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF

On clinching a share of the Big 12 title:

"It feels good! It is a goal every year to try to win the league and this guarantees a share of it. We would like to go down to Texas Tech and win it outright. It has been kind of a long grind throughout the conference season, especially when you start out behind and the team in front of you never loses. It has been about eight weeks of grinding, but the guys have handled it well and hopefully we have not worn ourselves out as we are getting ready to play our best ball. The guys earned this won."

On the team embracing playing in close games:

"When you (TCU) has two guys go 9-of-11 from three obviously we did not guard them, but even if you are wide open you do not go 9-of-11 from three. Iowa State made 11 threes in the first half and we were still up 10 (points). It was not that tonight, but those two played like that and we were still in the game. The second half was no better to start and then Marcus (Garrett) got us going on the defensive end and Dot (Devon Dotson) got on a roll there. We played pretty well in the second half I thought."

On what most impresses him about Udoka Azubuike in his play as of late:

"I think his aggressiveness. At K-State he was not aggressive early in the game and he hesitated making a move and that is how he turned his ankle. Tonight he just got (it) and went. I think that is the thing; he is playing to a very impressive level of athleticism that he has not consistently done in a long time. He is hard to score over, he is hard to score around and he is hard to score when people beat our perimeter defenders. Udoka changes everything, but the biggest thing is that he is playing like it is his last go-around."

On the upcoming matchup against Texas Tech:

"I think it is the best of all worlds for us. We will just go down there and let it fly. We are going to be able to do much tomorrow. Texas Tech is a hard team to prepare for because they run motion and that is the hardest to prepare for if a team knows what they are doing and they do. It will be a hard game and Texas Tech's effort against Baylor was terrific on Monday and they have had time to rest and recoup. The way I look at it, it's not a pressure game. I do not want to say it does not mean anything and it does in terms of seeding and all those things, but as far as pressure, there should not be any pressure on us."

KANSAS SENIOR CENTER UDOKA AZUBUIKE

On how well his Senior Night went because of his performance:

"Like you said, it's a good day to be a Jayhawk. We are the Big 12 Champions and it was my last home game at the Fieldhouse. It was good, but a little emotional, being my last game here."

On how he felt he would play on his ankle:

"Yesterday was the only day I practiced. The trainer checked and told me to take it easy. I wasn't really practicing that hard, but I didn't know how it was going to be. Coach (Bill Self) told me to take it easy. When I started running back and forth, I was in the game mood and not feeling much pain. It was good."

On Coach Self saying this is the proudest he's been of a Big 12 Championship team:

"I think it was (because of) what we've been through. This team has been through adversity and a lot of stuff has been going on with our teammates and everything else. We've had to fight through those (difficult times). We've just had to fight dealing with a team like Baylor. At Kansas, if you lose three games or something then you won't even win the Big 12 Championship. We had to deal with playing a good Baylor team that hadn't lost any other game. We had to be consistent on the road and we went out there fighting every night. We just have a fighting spirit and I think that's what Coach was saying he was proud of."

KANSAS SOPHOMORE GUARD DEVON DOTSON

On Udoka playing 35 minutes and having 31 points on his Senior Night:

"He's a warrior. (It's) Senior Night and he went out with a bang. It was a special moment for him after all that he's been through. I was happy to see and be on the court with him and winning that title. (It was a) Great night."

On feeding the ball to Udoka at the beginning of the game as much as he was:

"We knew the dominant game he had against them last time and they didn't really have an answer for him. It was our game plan. We knew something good was going to come out of it. He was great tonight and I'm just happy we got the win."

On coming back for another year for a championship and being able to hold up the Big 12 trophy:

"It was a great feeling. The season we had last season; we came up short. We had that goal of winning it. That feeling of the guys getting the trophy and bringing it back to where it belongs: in Lawrence, Kansas. Hopefully we can keep it going, but this is a great feeling. It's a special moment. I'm just happy and excited."

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KANSAS SENIOR GUARD ISIAH MOSS

On winning the Big 12 title in his first and only year here:

"I feel great about it. That's why I came here, to win. It's my last year and I wanted to go somewhere where I knew I was going to compete hard and win games. It feels good."

TCU HEAD COACH JAMIE DIXON

Opening statement:

"I was proud of our guys. I thought we competed, thought we battled. I thought we played way better than we did at our place. We played hard and the rebounds got away from us the second half. We were down one on the glass and it got away from us in the second half as it went on. I thought we executed especially well in the first half. We did what we wanted to do offensively but as they stepped it up, they got more aggressive and the game kind of turned. It is similar to what we have done some in the past this season, we kind of get away from what we are trying to do. A little ball pressure, a little hand check and all of a sudden we are going backward and dribbling sideways. I felt they forced us to do that. It is something we have to fix and get better at and something that we are going to continue to work on even though it is game 30 at this point. I was proud of how we played, I don't know that I have ever been in that much foul trouble that quick in a game in my life but we managed to do it. We adjusted and did some things. We fought. These two guys (Dennis and Bane) made shots. Our execution was good. (The) Second half we didn't get the same looks, we didn't have the same execution. I think Kansas' defense, they are number one in defensive efficiency so they had something to do with it. We just need to have that will to stick with it against a really good team on the road and at this point, we haven't demonstrated that. I thought our guys really battled and this is all about getting ready for Oklahoma. It is hard to come in here (Allen Fieldhouse) and win. We played good for a half, we competed in the second half. We didn't do the things we needed to, we got outrebounded and had too many turnovers. We told them what we had to do and we didn't do it numbers-wise. You can't win that game. I was proud of how we competed. We are getting ready for Oklahoma, competing for a seed and a spot. If we beat them, we are ahead of them, if they beat us, they are ahead of us. It's pretty simple."

On the play of Kansas senior center Udoka Azubuike:

"Obviously he put us in a difficult situation with the fouls, especially early, it changed pretty much the whole game. We still battled, I was proud of how we handled it. He was 13-of-14 (field goals) and 5-of-13 (free throw line). We did some things there. He was a big part of why they outrebounded us by nine. The reason we were up two in the first half was because we were even on the glass. We got outrebounded by nine in the second half. These are the things that I try to get across to our players. He (Azubuike) was a big part of that with 14 rebounds. When I came here, I thought he was a one-year guy and four years later, he's still here. He may be coming back next year. I never thought he would be here four years but congratulations to him. He is a little banged up this week but he sure didn't look like it. We have to learn from it. They are No. 1 in the country for a reason. (They are) Well-coached, that is no question, and the good players are obvious. He has gotten better and better each year. He was always that big, so that was a good starting point."

On how big it is to get a bye in the Big 12:

"I was in the Big East and we won it with four games, so it is doable. I just want to play good in the next games, that is the number one (goal). We want to have a good Senior Night for our seniors; Desmond obviously. There are a lot of different reasons you can go into the bye thing but as far as where it lies on the list, I would say it is a little bit lower. I want to play well because I think we are playing good basketball right now. We had a good half, the foul trouble was wearing us down, the turnovers cost us. We had seven turnovers the first half but the turnovers in the second half went into the basket the other way. That is something that kills us and something that has killed us. The travels you can play through and they took a jump ball from us but those turnovers for buckets are what killed us. I think we are playing better basketball, we are defending a little better, we are executing a little better. There is an opportunity for us to play well on Saturday, that is what I look forward to."

TCU SENIOR GUARD DESMOND BANE

On having a hard time sustaining their play for the full 40 minutes:

"They (Kansas) turned up their energy and instead of us turning up our energy and intensity, I feel like we got back on our heels a little bit. I turned the ball over too much in the second half and we didn't give ourselves enough chances and opportunities down the stretch, but that's it."

On the peaking of this TCU team:

"No question, I knew that we would get better as the season went on. We were a brand-new team back in November, and now I feel like we are starting to hit our stride. Our guys are playing with energy and playing with confidence. Being able to switch up defenses has really been able to help us on that end, and just our communication, we've been communicating much better across the board which has kept us in games with the number one and two teams in the country."

TCU SENIOR GUARD EDRIC DENNIS JR.

On the change from the first half to the second half:

"They're a good defensive team. Like Coach (Dixon) said, we got away from our execution a little bit, that was pretty much the reason."