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2021-22
KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

POSTGAME QUOTES

(3/3) KANSAS vs. EMPORIA STATE
LAWRENCE, KAN. // ALLEN FIELDHOUSE



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Head Coach Bill Self

On the win over Emporia State...

"I thought that we did play a lot of combinations and we actually played well in the first half. We didn't play very well in the second half, but we let the young kids play and there were some good things that happened. David (McCormack), when he was engaged was really good, Mitch (Lightfoot) when he was engaged was really good. Those two were by far our best bigs tonight. I thought Juan (Dajuan Harris) was solid and I thought CB (Christian Braun) was really solid and Remy gave us a spark off the bench without question. Ochai was terrific, especially in the first half. We did some good things. We guarded very well in the first half. Good teams, you let them get that close to the hole and they'll shoot a much higher percentage against us. It'll be a good teaching tape. I don't know if we are ready to play, but this game will certainly help prepare us for Tuesday."

On if Remy Martin coming off of the bench woke him up...

"Remy hasn't had the best, last two days that we've ever had a guard have here. KT (Kurtis Townsend) says this all the time, 'when the lights come on he's a gamer.' He did some things tonight that were good. Some shots he made that maybe weren't the best looks and he's still got to get more people involved. I thought he played well offensively. I thought Och (Ochai Agbaji) did too. I thought we did some good things offensively and had some good possessions defensively. It was a pretty good dress rehearsal. The crowd, considering it's exhibition, I thought was great."

On Yesufu and Cuffe, both 6-footers showing athleticism...

"Yeah, it reminded me a lot of back when you (Greg Gurley) played. You're one of the few guys--weren't you 6'6" when you played also? With a six foot two wing span? Short arms. That's one reason why you probably never buy a meal, because he can't get his hands all the way to the bottom of his pocket. Those guys are pretty athletic and I thought that Och (Ochai Agbaji) looks really athletic. Dajuan (Harris Jr.) and Remy (Martin) are quick, but Joseph (Yesufu) and Bobby (Pettiford) have real athleticism, from a strength and vertical standpoint."

On the approach to the redshirt discussion with the depth of this team...

"We'll talk some as a staff, I think that we have one or two, possibly three prime candidates that would do that, but I'm not sure that they'll want to. I really think, just to be a real candid, a guy like Zach Clemence, he's been our second-best big for a good part of the preseason. We know he's not ready, but he could be ready by January. So we'll have a conversation with Zach, and obviously with KJ (Adams), but KJ could be one of those guys that can help us in a month from now. I think we will have a couple more, but I'm not saying that we want to do that with them, I'm just saying those are the type of conversations we need to have because right now if you're going in and playing the Orlando tournament, you're playing Michigan State, you're playing St. John's as soon as you come out, I don't know if there will be enough practice time for those guys to really jump some guys, so we'll talk about it and see what happens, but it's a nice problem to have."

On the Michigan State game next week...

"I don't know much yet. Coach Roberts has the scout and he has a better look on them, but that will be our focus from this point forward. We'll practice on Thursday and Friday, take Saturday off and then Monday and Tuesday will be all Michigan State. We need to work on us, but we also need to make sure we understand that they will be the best offensive rebounding team we may go against all year. They go from defense-to-offense probably as fast as anybody historically in the country, so we have to really do a good job in those two areas."



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Senior David McCormack

On getting back to playing in Allen Fieldhouse after covid..

"It's like Christmas came early, you know. Just from warm-up it was exciting and you could feel the energy in the building and I was happy, not only for myself but for the new guys so they can just experience it. I know they've been anticipating this feeling and you know it's just magical so it's a great feeling having people back in the stands."

How did you feel about Remi's first game in Allen...

"I think Remi brought a lot of personality in his first game. I think he showed how energetic he is as a player and what he brings to the table as far as scoring and passing ability and I think it's only going to be up from here. This is only the beginning for him."

Battle with Emporia State's big...

He was definitely very aggressive. I definitely took for granted his playing capability and his skill set. He tried to be a big scoring option and I think he was, just to give credit to him, a really well-skilled big and was pretty quick"

Tempo on defensive end...

"Coach has made an emphasis, definitely on defense, but as well as transition. I think we will be a lot better transition this year, so that starts on the defensive end, getting deflections, steals, just getting rebounds and kicking it out as quickly as we can"

Remi's personality..

"Remi is like that and a lot of people don't know that because again this is his first game and you know we expect him to have some personality but he really just laid it all out there so I can't wait to see what it's going to be like in real high intensity games."

12 different guys getting to score for the Jayhawks...

"I think it's a perfect opportunity to see how we can play different lineups and different sets. I think it allows newcomers and transfers also to just get the feel for playing in Allen Fieldhouse and kind of get in their groove and really play for somebody else under coach Self."

This season compared to last season...

"Personally it felt a lot better for me. You know last year I didn't really get off to a great start and I think this game has, not necessarily set the town, but allowed me to keep that same free heart, free mind aspect and play loose and free"

Joseph Yesufu

First night playing in Allen. How was it?...

"It's a dream, a dream come true. I have been watching Kansas play since I was a kid. I didn't really have expectations. I just wanted to get the win for the team and play as hard as I could."

On whether he was nervous...

"I had a little. I am kind of used to this from last year with my prior college experience"

Think of how you played?

"Overall, I feel like we played well, given that it is the first game but there are definitely areas that we need to improve on defensive wise, offensive wise, but I feel like we are gelling as a team."



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Thoughts on Remi's energy...

"He brings a lot of energy to the team and I have been learning a lot from him."

7 guys with steals. Is that a positive for this team?

"All our guys can defend really well. Obviously there are areas that we need to improve on, switches and all of that, down in ball screens and all that but we are definitely going to be a great defensive team"

Surprised Remi came off the bench?

"He handled that really well. We support the team and we didn't have a problem with it and he handled it really well."

Multiple practices today. What were they like? Self seemed frustrated?

"Yeah, I'm not gonna lie. It's just intensity we brought intensity. We had practice at seven a.m. and at two so it's definitely -- we had to get after it. It doesn't - We are gonna play hard no matter what time it is to prepare for this game and for games to come. We are just trying to get better as a unit"

Senior Remy Martin

On what it's like playing at Allen Fieldhouse...

"I love this place, that's just really what it is. Fans came out so supportive from the jump. The team itself is really coming together. I love this group of guys. Coach Self and the staff helping me, trying to get me right; unbelievable man, I really do love this place. I just love playing. Obviously it's not my first time playing but the first time I knew this was a special place, always like a memory of mine. Being on the team is something I am not taking for granted, and something I am really thankful for."

On wanting to bring his "fiery vibe tonight"...

"It's really just myself, I tell people all the time that I don't know why I do certain things that I do. But, I know it's for the love of the game. I enjoy playing this game, and I like to entertain the fans, it's just who I am, and I really do enjoy playing the game. I try to bring that upon my teammates and the crowd, and just have a good time. A win is just a bonus. I enjoy playing the game"

On the good team chemistry showed tonight...

"Yeah definitely, I think today's game was good for us. Just to kind of play together and we want to connect on those (a missed alley-oop play mentioned earlier) so kind of getting that out of the way. I needed one more dribble to get it up better and for him to time it. But you also want to have fun with it. Obviously it's not going to happen when we're down 3 points and I do that and I'm not going to start laughing, it's a different story. I just like having fun when the time is right."

On Ochai and him discussing chemistry together at their house...

"A little bit, not too much, but we definitely make sure we're on the same page. Like I saw him in the corner one time and I just let him know "I see you". Maybe against Michigan State that layup of mine might not be there. So I just let him know that in different situations, different moments require me to do different things. I think me and him will be fine. We all want to win, we all want to make the best out of this experience being our last year. That ultimately is the number one goal."

On the message Coach was trying to send by not starting him....

"I think I haven't been doing my part of the deal. I think I could do a lot better of what's required of me, and to bring a lot more on to the court. And he's challenging me every single day, and I just have to respond. I just want to help the team win and give our team a spark whether its off the bench or on the court. So I think I got to respond better in practice and do better things to deserve getting on the court. It's something that I have got to figure out, and he's challenging me which I appreciate. And it's just all for the better of myself"



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and the team.”

On whether or not he was fired up after coming in and scoring 11 quick points...

“Yeah definitely, I’m fired up to be here first. But also like I said I love the game itself, i love playing and that’s just who I am. When the game starts I just love to try and make plays for the team and help the team as much as possible. Being my first game with fans is definitely a little bit to that. I wanted to make sure to give a glimpse of who I am and everything they can see for the rest of the year.”

Emporia State Head Coach Craig Doty

Statement about the game...

“I think that it was awesome that Coach Self, the staff and the Lawrence community invited us here to play this game. I thought that it was beneficial for both teams. This all comes down to us preparing for our first game and Kansas preparing for theirs. For their student-athletes to play and get reps in front of 16,000 people, there is great value in that. I thought that we played well in pairs, but then the goal for us is two fold. We want to play well because it will help us prepare and shows where we can execute well, and number two it gives Kansas a look to help prepare them. I thought that there were moments in the game where it was competitive. We’ll live with the result of playing a Big 12 team. As a fellow Kansas state institution, we’re thrilled to get the chance to play up here.”

