



88

2021-22
KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

POSTGAME QUOTES

3/3 KANSAS vs. STONY BROOK
LAWRENCE, KAN. // ALLEN FIELDHOUSE



59

KANSAS HEAD COACH BILL SELF

On the win over Stony Brook...

"Stony Brook came to play, they played well in the first half. We didn't guard them very well, but everything was one-on-one and they whipped our guards just to be real candid. We didn't get off to a good start. I think it took until about the eight-minute mark and we went from down three to up eight in a heartbeat, maybe two minutes. Then we played pretty well after that. It took us about twelve minutes to get going. I thought we played really well in the second half. I thought everybody that played contributed in a positive way. Remy tweaked his back, reinjured it as he had kind of hurt it before, so he wasn't himself tonight and that's why he didn't play much. I also think that's why he wasn't very effective and he just didn't want to tell us. Everybody was solid and Ochai was off the charts again."

On getting David McCormack involved...

"He could've had six points right off the bat and he didn't guard very well. That's the thing that's frustrating. Being candid we ran a play to post Christian Braun first play, get's it at three feet and backed out of it. Not aggressive at all. We gotta have those guys where they are contributing more early on. CB ended up having a good game and his numbers were good, but he's certainly gotta take more than five shots and he's certainly gotta take more than one three. He wasn't aggressive. Not everyone is going to play with the same confidence Ochai is right now but we need more than that offensively. I thought Mitch was really good, came in and gave us good minutes. KJ was solid in the first half and Zach was great when he was in there the last twelve minutes or whatever. Bigs did fine and the guards with the exception of Remy being hurt contributed in a very favorable way. We still gotta get better."

On Ochai Agbaji being at 999 career points...

"I wasn't aware until someone told me. I put him back in and as soon as I said 'Och, I'm gonna put you in for a minute and you have to shoot it, and as soon as he touches it he passes it to Zach for a lay-up.' I told him 'Och you're one point short,' and he had no idea so I said 'you're coming out but you gotta get up one more.' He got up one more and it obviously didn't go in but he'll break that first game in Orlando but I was hoping he would do it tonight."

On how the team has progressed through three games...

"Not bad. I think we've done some good things. I don't like how we started the game tonight and I just feel like we don't make people play bad. Jalen will add pace offensively, hopefully some defensive rebounding, and also a pretty good perimeter shooter. We are excited to get him back, some minutes will start going down. There's a lot of guys playing a lot of minutes tonight, it can't be like that all the time. It's nice to have depth but we aren't gonna be able to play that many guys that many minutes moving forward."

KANSAS SENIOR GUARD OCHAI AGBAJI

On playing at the level he has consistently thus far...

"Really, my main focus has been what you said, consistent. Really focusing on that more than anything. Not going out with a total in mind like points or anything like that, just being assertive and consistent at being that."

On his second half mindset...

"New half. I was telling the guys when we got in there, like I said they kept me confident and they were just like it's a new half, shots are gonna fall so I wasn't hesitant for any of the other shots that I was taking."

In his jump in production this year in comparison to previous years...

"Yeah, I'm looking for it more. I think another thing too is finding my spots within our offense, within the way we play, the way we cut, and all of that. I can still cut, give myself up for a possession and still get it back, and still find looks. It's just the way we play and finding my spots within it."

On the importance of having fun during these times...

"Really important. This pre-season we've been playing teams like this. You know, they're coming in here with a lot of energy so it's just good practice for us. But it's a lot of fun, man I love my team. They're coming along, all the new guys, newcomers are coming along. That's all we can for them. I'm having fun with them."

On him being at 999 career points and trying to get to 1,000...

"Coach told me during a timeout. He told me during the timeout that if I didn't shoot it he was going to take me out. He ran a couple sets for me, and I unfortunately didn't get it. 1,000 in Florida."

KANSAS REDSHIRT SOPHOMORE GUARD DAJUAN HARRIS, JR.

On Ochai Agbaji...

"I feel like if he keeps playing like that we'll be a really good team. My job is to get him open shots and if I can do that I feel like we'll be a pretty good team too."

On Zach Clemence and his 3-point shooting...

"Zach can really shoot it. We'll be at practice doing red team vs. blue team and when we are playing sometimes he will be lighting us up too. So that's something we see everyday."



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On how he thinks he has handled being the primary ball handler so far...

"Last game I had 3 turnovers I think but today's game I feel like I handled it well even though I had another bad little turnover. I feel like today's game I handled it well."

KANSAS FRESHMAN FORWARD ZACH CLEMENCE

On being called upon and being ready...

"I don't know when I'm going to go in but I know when I go in I'm going to be ready so that's what I plan on. Staying focused through the whole thing, it's hard, I'm not used to it but that's what I got to do. That's my role on the team."

On what Ochai Agbaji does for the team...

"I mean, it's Ochai, that's just who he is. He's a great guy, a calm guy but there are some moments where he'll get going. For the most part he's calm and he'll give you everything, rebounds, steals, assists. He's just that guy. He's a leader."

On what the coaches have wanted him to improve the most sense he's been at KU...

"Defense, defense has been the main one. I'm not the strongest guy, I'm not the fastest guy so I have to be doing everything right, one step ahead, all that stuff"

On his comfort playing at this level...

"Yeah, I was nervous but I was never to the point where I wasn't comfortable playing. I've always been playing on a big stage. Not as big of a stage as this but a big stage. So I'm used to it."

STONY BROOK HEAD COACH GENO FORD

Statement

"Kansas has a terrific team. For 20 minutes, we hung in and did a lot of good things, there were a lot more positives than negatives. In the second half, they got it going. Some of it was them being great and some of it was us self-inflicting mistakes including turnovers. The reason that it was competitive at halftime was that we only had five turnovers, and they only had three offensive rebounds. In the second half, they have nine offensive rebounds, and we have nine turnovers. Those two things flipped. We talked at halftime about why were in it. We couldn't do it. Give them credit. They're a great team, and they had a lot to do with our miscues, we have to get a little bit better."

Comparison between Kansas and George Mason...

"Well, both teams are great. George Mason just beat a top-25 team, and they're undefeated. So, our two road games have been hard. We try to get paint touches thrown inside, drive it in the lane on two feet and find shooters. I thought that we did a pretty good job at that, for the most part. We made more shots in the first half than in the second half. So, the scoreboard is going to tilt a little bit. The only real concern that I have is turnover in the second half, as they turned up their heat. We just couldn't make enough plays with the ball, they're physical and strong. The number of times that we were able to get the ball in the paint and couldn't finish was all defense by them. We got it in there we just didn't get it in the basket."

Spreading the ball around...

"I thought that we did much better than when we played George Mason. We had nine assists on 21 field goals, so almost half of our baskets were assisted which is way more what it needs to look like. We made more jump shots but we have to find a way to score inside. When you emphasize that and then the next game is at Kansas; you don't just throw it in there to get a basket, you throw it in there and they collapse and they're able to challenge. I thought that they did a great job, and I give them a lot of credit. We have to find a way to get the ball in the basket."

STONY BROOK GRADUATE GUARD OMAR HABWE

On his performance and this game prepares them going forward...

"For the most part, I thought it was a really good challenge for us playing against one of the best teams in the country, if not the best team in the country. Going forward, I think I'm just going to have to focus on just staying locked in for forty minutes, being able to take in what we learn from practice and carry it over to games. I think for the most part I was just trying to bring energy to the team even in the lowest moments."

On their mentality against Kansas...

"I think we just had to play within ourselves and know that what we do in the offseason and what we do in practices prepares us for these types of moments. In our floor game, we know that teams will get runs, especially a good team that has a lot of scorers. We just have to keep our composure and play through the whole game, play through the full forty minutes."

On what they can take away from playing against the third team in the country...

"I think it's a learning experience for us and that we need to keep playing hard and it lets us know that we have a really good chance to make it to the tournament and be ready to play in the conference."