



102

2021-22
KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

POSTGAME QUOTES



65

(8/7) KANSAS vs. MISSOURI
HYVEE HOOPS BORDER SHOWDOWN
LAWRENCE, KAN. // ALLEN FIELDHOUSE

Kansas head coach Bill Self

Opening Statement...

"We played great early and in the second half we didn't play as well, certainly not defensively but we made shots. It's good when the ball goes in the basket like it did tonight. All the starters got us off to a great start, Mitch was great off the bench, without question Jalen Coleman-Lands did some great things. All in all, it was a great win. I'm happy to see everybody, expressly the local kids. Ochai was great again, but Christian wanted it more than anyone. Since he has some my connections to Mizzou, with his mother and uncle being a great player there and his brother going to school there for a while. Dajuan living in Columbia, right there. The key play to the game without question happen about one minute into it. They weren't going to guard Dajuan they were going to leave his man in the middle of the lane, and make him beat him, Daevion made two out of his first three three's and messed up their game plan. That was the biggest thing in the game, that was also his first three of the year. I was happy to see that.

On Dajuan Harris' play ...

"Three of four and five of six from the field. He was great and handled the ball well. Made a great pass to Mitch on a little pocket pass pick and roll early on. I thought that he was good, I thought it was kind of exciting we only had one guy take ten shots, and that was Ochai with 12. We shared the ball for the most part, I think that sticks just a little bit that was pretty efficient.

On the history of the game and how did the players take that in ...

"I thought everything was good. That play from Dajuan at the end of the first half going to Mitch then to Ochai for the three at the buzzer was the prettiest play that we had of the day. We played quick, we played athletic we still didn't guard like we're capable of guarding."

On the atmosphere of Allen Fieldhouse ...

"It was a fun day, I appreciate and enjoy all of the fans and how committed they are to the game. They made this day special and certainly our players played like it meant a lot to them. The atmosphere the first half was as good as it gets, and the atmosphere the second half wasn't as good because the game wasn't in question at all. We have it better than everyone else, when this place is turned up there is no better place to play or coach."

Missouri head coach Cuonzo Martin

On the energy in the game and on Christian Braun ...

"It was basketball. He's a good basketball player. I'm not sure what the family dynamic is, but he's a good basketball player. He played well. I enjoyed watching him play."

On the defensive mistakes ...

"Game plan of course was to make them take contested threes. They got in transition, so we weren't able to do that as well. We did a better job early in the first 5-7 minutes. The key to make those guys plays outside and not allow the interior because McCormack is a physical presence. When you have 1-2 guys around him that allows perimeter guys to make shots and make plays, they get downhill and get guys in foul trouble. We need to do a better job contesting those threes, especially with Agbaji."

On the last nine minutes without Kobe Brown ...

"We were not going with him to get the third, especially with him going interior. It's tough from a standpoint and whether he scores or not everything flows through him. He can move the ball. What makes him good is not necessarily how many shots he takes. He can rebound the ball and gets other guys shots and opportunities."



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On Amari Davis ...

"I thought he did a good job with opportunities got to the rim to shoot it. I thought he did a great job in the game plan hitting the bigs with them off the ball screens to capitalize on it. I also thought he got downhill. He got his shot blocked but he got downhill and was aggressive."

On how to measure the KU vs. Missouri rivalry ...

"We just lost the game. We lost to a good team. We learn from that and move forward."

On the Allen Fieldhouse experience and whether it caused communication issues ...

"I've been in loud venues. Great fan energy. Difficult to communicate yes."

On the tough stretches of the game ...

"Margin of error is slim. Have to give yourself a chance to win the games. You can't have mental breakdowns. When you're playing good teams, you will have breakdowns here and there, but you have to execute on both sides of the basketball and give yourself a chance to win games. We will learn from it."

On the state of the rivalry ...

"If you're keeping score, it's 1-0. That's it."

On the message to the team at halftime ...

"Execute what we were trying to do. Get stops, contest the three-point shots, force three-point shooters to put the ball on the floor and play 1 on 1 defense. Of course, we have to be sound with our post defense with McCormack. Offensively continue to execute and get the best shots."

Kansas junior guard Christian Braun

On energy directed towards the Missouri bench in the first half ...

"There's nothing behind that. I have a lot of respect towards them, for their coaches and for their players. Obviously, I was amped up for this game. I heard that they don't think that people where I'm from can play with a lot of passion, so I just showed them."

On the volume of the Fieldhouse...

"We haven't heard that in a long time, just that amount of passion. It's the loudest I've heard it. Like Ochai said earlier, some of those students camped out for a week to watch us play. Their passion, you have to give them something in return. We appreciate that and all that they do for us, so that passion and energy was matched."

On having fun in the first few minutes of the game...

"I told the guys, after the first five minutes, I was kind of tired. I think I tired myself out a little bit, but yeah, that was the most fun I've had in my life. I feel like I was born for this."

Kansas senior guard Ochai Agbaji

On the focus of the team going into this week...

"There were people out there camping since Monday or Tuesday, it's a chance for us to get better and to put on a show for them, so that's what we did."

On taking on Christian and Remy's personality and confidence on the court...

"It's really just confidence. Sharing confidence throughout the team, throughout Remy, even Dajaun too today, telling him to shoot the ball. It's just confidence."



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On the improvement ...

“Not taking defensive possessions off, playing the right way offensively, finding each other and playing with each other, just playing the right way no matter what the score was. I think that’s what we kept our mindset on.”

On having former players at the game and the pride that comes with that...

“There is an unspoken level of pride in between us. They’ve played in those games, they’ve watched other teams play in these games, and it means a lot to them too. We didn’t say much to them, but just kind of gave that look, just kind of a good job, way to take care of business today.”

Kansas redshirt sophomore guard Dajuan Harris

On his career night in front of his hometown...

“They (teammates) forced me to make shots, my teammates gave me the confidence that I needed, my coaches and I just wanted to make the shot. I’ve been I think 0-8 from three, so everybody is going to be helping in the lane a lot, so I just needed to be ready to shoot the ball.”

On being extra motivated today..

“I had some family down here that I wanted to play well in front of, then my teammates and then the crowd. And it’s my birthday too.”

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