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2021-22
KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL
POSTGAME QUOTES



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(6/6) KANSAS vs. NEVADA
LAWRENCE, KAN. // ALLEN FIELDHOUSE

Kansas Head Coach Bill Self

On the matchup with Nevada ...

"We did a lot of good things. I was pleased for the most part. We can certainly have our bench play better. In all honesty, Mitch, Jalen and our starters played pretty well. I think every starter was at least +28 with some of them in limited minutes. A lot of good things happened tonight. I thought we guarded pretty well to start the game. They shot 37%. It sounds like we did a much better job but the fact that they had 21 turnovers, so their effective field goal percentage is closer to 25%. That was better. We got out of here happy. It was good to see Steve. They tried to keep in it for a while, but our guys played pretty well in the second half."

On Dajuan Harris ...

"Nobody can say Juan can't shoot. You can say he doesn't shoot. When they give him their shots, he's got to take them. He will make one of two. Of course, tonight he made both of them. When the ball moved, we looked great offensively and shot layups. We went through that period of time in the 8-minute mark to the end of the first half, the ball stuck. Guys were trying to make individual plays with saggy defenses and that doesn't work. Other than about 8 minutes, I thought the ball moved pretty well."

On the play of David McCormack and Jalen Wilson ...

"Jalen 10 rebounds in 21 minutes. David made a couple good moves in there. Happy to see that. The first group defensively was pretty good. CB was fabulous to start the game. That's about as good as a guy can start the game, being aggressive. We pass the well."

On the George Mason matchup on Saturday ...

"We will take tomorrow (Thursday) off. We will have one day to prepare for George Mason. It's up to our fan base to sell out Allen Fieldhouse. We sell this thing out in 48 hours, that's what Kansas basketball fans do. We have a streak of sellouts since 2001. We don't need to put an asterisk just because we only have 48 hours to sell out. That's what our players are dealing with right now. We don't know what's happening day to day. We're just rolling with it. Those who haven't had the chance to see us play, this is the opportunity to. This can be a fun team. They can play above the rim. Shoot the threes pretty well. Share the ball. Unselfish for the most part. More personality than we have had in years, maybe a little too much. I would much rather have to correct than encourage something. We can have some fun with these guys. We need to enjoy these guys every opportunity. George Mason won at Maryland and at Georgia last week. They're capable. Kim will have them fired up. He's done great in the profession. It should be fun. I really enjoyed Nevada being here tonight. Steve respects the game so much. He was juiced to be here tonight, and his staff was too. I'm sure Kim will be too."

Kansas Guard Christian Braun

On always finding a way to lead in these games...

"I would say that we have so many weapons, you know you're going to see things like see games like you said we'll just kind of put our foot on people you know throughout the game, we got a lot of guys that learn how to play with each other, so I think that's probably why you're seeing us get better, you know as the games go on. We got guys like Jalen getting back in rhythm and once all those come together, you're going to see us get better and better."

On whether points in transition can be a strength for the team...

"Yeah I'd say the same thing (as Jalen), I think especially different that last year that this year we're really good at transitioning, we got a lot of guys that can push it and a lot of guys that are confident in doing it themselves and we're all pretty unselfish in transition, so I think we're going to be a really good transition team throughout the season."

On the defense tonight...

"Yea I'd say the same thing, they had two guys that we really had to focus on, that we didn't do a very good"



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job on to start the game and kind of like I said as the game goes on, we kind of wore them out a little bit and we threw a lot of guys at them, so I think we got better and better."

On how important playing above the rim is...

"Yeah I think our team really feeds off plays like that, I think Ochai said my bad, I just didn't jump high enough, it was a good pass, so that was my fault, but no the team really feeds off stuff like that, Remy especially. So, you know those plays really help us out and then like I said going throughout the game that wears on people how we run, how we're really good in transition so it's just an energy thing."

On how much fun it was to be back playing after 11 days and if there were endurance issues...

"I would say that there wasn't, you know we're all kind of itching to get back on the court and we know there's going to be times like this during the season where there are breaks so you'd think a guy that gets 11 days could jump a little higher than Och did but no we're excited to get back on the court and it felt good."

Kansas Forward Jalen Wilson

On the defense tonight...

"Individually I'd say on my end it was poor, but I'd say throughout the game we just figured it out a little bit more, they played with us a little bit in the first half we let them walk in and get shots and stuff like that, but I think all around team defense the second half was a big turnaround."

On whether points in transition can be a strength for the team...

"Yeah I think with the shooters that we have and the guys that are going to transition like me and Juan pushing the ball like Och and CB spotting up just things like that are something we can do I mean almost every Fastbreak especially when we get the rebound and you it's a long rebound and stuff like that, especially with the different guys that we have as far as finishing at the cut or getting the shooters involved."

On how important it is to be patient and if it's difficult to be patient...

"No I mean I know with the position I'm in right now just to play when I come into the game to get the team going, I've been trying to just think about how I can affect our team instead of myself lately and just play hard, focusing on rebounding, defending and whenever I have a shot to take it or make a play for somebody else."

On if we should expect Dajuan to score quite a bit...

"Yeah I think his confidence is what it needs to be, ever since that Mizzou game I mean he's been hitting shots and he knows they're going in I think he did something towards the bench after he hit one of his threes, so you know that shows his confidence right there and that's all we expect from him."

On if anything has been holding him back...

"No, if anything it's just been myself transitioning and getting back into things, I don't think as far as teamwise, they've all been supportive of me and just finding my rhythm and I think as of late I've just been trying to focus on making everybody else better and I feel like that makes me better as we get into a rhythm as a team as well."

Kansas Guard Dajaun Harris

On the defense tonight...

"I feel like we could've closed in on shooters more, but I feel like the second half our defense picked up the tempo and let the offense do stuff."

On what was working for him tonight...

"Just being aggressive, coach and my teammates have been telling me since we got back from break to



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be aggressive, shoot more, attack the rim more, so that's all I've been trying to do you know setting up my teammates too that's all I've been trying to do."

Nevada Head Coach Steve Alford

On his thoughts on the game ...

"I thought the two halves were a little bit different, first half we turned it over at a high level, we had 16 turnovers. Second half, we took really bad shots, out of character bad shots. Both of those bad shots and turnovers lead to a ton of transition, and they are so good in transition they are very talented. I thought we did a good job on the backboard. We didn't give up a lot of second shots, I thought we were really bad in transition. We gave up too many drive middles. It's a good experience for the guys."

On the quick turnaround ...

"We were confident coming in, it's a new experience for all of them. We only got one senior on the roster so you don't get a chance to play in front of 16,000, it's a great venue, great fans, incredible program, and a top 10 team. We didn't have KJ, that really hurt us and got us into foul trouble in the first half. We had it to six, then they went 3,3, dunk, the end of the first half really hurt. Because we had major foul trouble in the first half."

On KU's defense ...

"Well they are outstanding defensively, they do a really good job, they got real big physical bodies, they do a really good job with ball pressure and taking you out of things, that's why it's a good experience for us because of their physicality and their switching bothered us, so that will help us, as we get into league play and play teams that like to switch, we gotta learn from this."

On the experience of playing at KU, due to a cancellation ...

"You know we gotta play games, it's the second year in a row where scheduling is just turned upside down, with all of the covid shutdowns. We've had two pauses now. I appreciate Bill, Bill reached out to us, being willing to play this on short notice, a lot of travel involved for us to get out here, I just appreciate the opportunity the guys got to play. Even though the outcome wasn't what we wanted, getting to play this game will hopefully help us down the road."