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2021-22
KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

POSTGAME QUOTES

(9/10) KANSAS vs. (15/16) IOWA STATE
LAWRENCE, KAN. // ALLEN FIELDHOUSE



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Kansas Head Coach Bill Self

On his thoughts on the game ...

"We did not play very well. The first half we did not play very well, we were lucky to only be down 2. We missed a lot of shots. We turned it over so much. Our guards were dominated early in the first half. Then second half we took better care of the ball. We only had 6 turnovers, most of them were forced but some were unforced. I really felt like it was a bad game not to have Remy because you got Jaun and Remy both back there each playing 28 to 32 minutes it's a whole different deal as far as being able to pressure. We only have one ball handler. Jaun did a good job for the most part. He turned it over some, but it was a great win. We shouldn't put we won but, we should not talk like that today. Hey Baylor, is thinking hey we had that game and let it get away, fortunately for us we did not let it get away. I thought KJ played well. He didn't screw up and I thought Mitch played well. There's just no scoring from those guys. The thing is and I said this to our guys after the game, the only way you really can only determine if you can get by people by the bounce or what your offensive skillset is, is when people constantly trap you or play underneath you. That's how the best teams guard and the last four days we've gone against two of the best defensive teams in the country and we haven't handled it very well. In practice you can pass it where you want it or shoot threes in transition at will, that ain't happening in big boy games. So hopefully that's an eye opener to guys. The way that we get our shots in practice isn't the way you score in real games. We feel fortunate but we'll take it."

On Dajuan Harris' game...

"He made a floater from about six feet, which was great. CB hit a floater from about seven feet. So, there were some good things that we did well but its, we outrebound them by one even though they got six dead ball rebounds. We are not dominated on the glass. If Christian and Ochi get seven each, we think we should be looking pretty good but when Jalen Wilson and our bigs don't rebound like they should and Juan didn't get one today. Everyone has got to rebound. Guys made some big plays to win the game."

On David McCormack's block at 1:45 mark in the game...

"That was a big play. It's good David had something good happen, he definitely did that then turned around. You know I don't know hit the crap out of him, but I thought he was set. I thought it was a crap call, but I would have to go back and watch it because they said he didn't give him a step. I'm watching it and it was half court and we ball screened the whole time and we did not run up on him. I thought it was a bad call. They may have got it right but certainly it was unfortunate that he hadn't caught a break and seems like hasn't all season long. But fortunately, his teammates picked him up."

On the upcoming game against West Virginia...

"They are going to pressure the crap outta us, we need Remy healthy. He was good yesterday, then about 30 minutes into practice he gets hit and reinjures it. We need him. That's hard to play against teams that pressure with only one guard. Bobby tried to come and help us some, but he has probably practiced a total of a hour in the last six weeks and so he has no rhythm or conditioning or anything. He thought it'd be easy, then when real boys come out and trap you first possession. You know you step through a trap in practice and right there you panic and handle and go make a layup it kinda sets the tone there. You are kinda hoping to play well rather than be in attack mode, but Juan stepped up big for us. Ochi had a good game; CB did a lot of good things but I still think Och and CB can play better. I think defensively those guys can get a lot better."

Kansas Redshirt Sophomore Guard Dajuan Harris

On his game winner ...

"I think I haven't hit a game winner for so long. I saw Ochai dribbling the ball, I thought he was going to take the shot. I saw him dribbling my way, and it opened a little crease for me, and I heard coach say 'Give him a lane', so I just drove it. I just made the play and made the layup."



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On whether he thought he made the shot ...

"I think the dude hit the ball down, so when I got the ball back I just chopped him back up there and it went in."

On the team's depth ...

"Like they said next man up. We have a lot of depth on this team. Whoever comes out, has a good chance of playing good and winning the game"

Kansas Senior Guard Ochai Agbaji

On the back-and-forth game ...

"He didn't say much about it. Obviously , we're going to go back and watch the film of those last couple minutes when they had that run and came back. Needed games where the team finds a spark late and close the gap and even take the lead. Just executing down the stretch like that."

On the clutch free throws in the final minute ...

"I know all these guys trust me. They want me to go make a play. Coach called a play for me. Either if I get the basket or get fouled and shoot the free throws, they trust me to make the play."

On the Texas Tech win over Baylor ...

"Really important to win. It's early in the conference season. A lot of games to go and a lot of things to play out. It's good to be back in the right sport."

On KJ Adams making his first career start ...

"It was really special to see him get the start and play those minutes in the first and second half. Bring energy right from the jump. He did really well. Freshmen coming in starting and third conference game of the season. A lot going on. Maybe too fast. He handled it well. I'm proud of him."

On the final defensive possession ...

"They got it out really quick. Hunter was driving on the left side of the court coming down. All eyes were on him. I didn't even notice there was someone to the left of me that was running and they skipped it over there. It was a good look. I contested late."

On the team's depth ...

"Next man up. Bobby came back from injury. His first game back in a month or so. He handled it well. He played well too. It's just the next man up mentality."

Kansas Junior Guard Christian Braun

On the physicality of the game ...

"Those games especially in conference play are really important. We have to come out and win those. They were really physical. They did a very good job at switching defense. They slowed us down a little bit. We were playing a little predictable too much. These guys were really good down the trust and we trust them to make a play."

On the defense getting them back into the game ...

"We just amped up the pressure a little bit. In the first half, they were the aggressors and pressured us a lot. We had to take it back to him in the second half. We closed the lead down at half to two. We just had to be more physical than them. Defensively, we all turned it up a bit. Everyone was flying around more than we had been in the past few games. That's what got us the lead in the game. We did a good job holding them. Down the stretch, they hit some tough shots. We knew they would hit a couple. Defensively, we just turned it up a little bit. That's what it's going to take to get wins in conference play."

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On the final defensive possession ...

"He made a good play. I was the first guy back after Juan's layup. I was trying to tell everyone to get back. We stopped the ball really well. He made a good play to an open guy. They got a look. It seemed like they hit every shot down the stretch, it felt like they had to miss one eventually."

On the team's depth ...

"I'd say the same. We have a lot of different looks we can put on the court for different teams. I think KJ did a really good job coming in. Providing energy. That's what it all comes down to. We can give you a lot of looks, but if we provide energy and play defense, we can beat a lot of teams."

Iowa State Head Coach T. J. Otzelberger

On his overall thoughts of the game...

"Really proud of our guy's effort tonight, our competitiveness. As a team we need to be defensively every night out. I felt like on Saturday, we weren't the best version of ourselves defensively, but tonight I think we were really effective. We pressured the basketball, we were physical, we were tough and we were resilient. Look, we got down nine with just eight minutes to go and our guys kept fighting and kept clawing back. If we give that effort, we'll be successful a lot more nights than we won't. This is a tough league, it's a tough place to play, they're a great team and they found a way to make one more, they scored one more point than us. It's nothing our guys should hang their heads about. We want to win every game, we're highly competitive, but with that effort and that togetherness and that toughness, we'll be successful."

On playing here before and expecting a lot of runs, but not seeing them...

"Defensive effort. We knew when they score, that we had to be ruling the next possession. Defensively, we had to prevent those runs, so we had to wrap up our pressure even more. Whether it was going a 1-3-1, trapping them, pressing them, we just had to keep them off balance so they couldn't get those runs. Really, it's just a credit to the effort our guys play with to prevent it. This is a tough building to keep their team out of runs."