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2021-22
KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

POSTGAME QUOTES

(8/8) KANSAS vs. OKLAHOMA
LAWRENCE, KAN. // ALLEN FIELDHOUSE



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Kansas Head Coach Bill Self

On the game ...

“What were we from the free throw line at the last minute thirty? Do you know? Though we were 3 of our last 10 or something, I could be wrong but ya we shot it horribly from the line and actually our best free throw shooters. We were fortunate to win, although we had the game and didn’t close again. I don’t know if you noticed, the ball where the cut the lead from three to one at the end, that was a kicked ball. I don’t know how that can be missed but that was a kicked ball. So that cut it to one and then we were lucky, really lucky after that, Jalen made one of two, then we actually defended well on the last play to get a stop. We got to be better, OU played great. I thought Goldwire and Groves were arguably the two best players in the game. You know, Jalen and CB in the second half were the two best players in the game, that was the difference.”

On Christian Braun

“I wanna give CB credit on all that stuff except one. Ochai had Gibson majority of the time but CB did a good job, no question about that. I thought CB played well, we posted him there on out of bounds, he got the ball three feet, must have lost his leg or something going up, they blocked it, he got beat back on the next play, instead of going up 10 we are 6 and then we are kinda scrambling. I think that Ochai was pressing a little bit, Ochai had a good game, he just didn’t make shots and you have to work your butt off to get ‘em the way they were playing him. They play Ochai the same way we play Gibson and Gibson got 0, we did a good job on a guy that just got thirty. There were some things that we did well, obviously the bigs couldn’t guard groves until we actually put Zach in. Zach was athletic enough and quick enough to do it. I was encouraged by Zach, he’s gotta play, he practiced twice in the last 6 weeks or whatever. I look for his minutes to go way up. KJ, we tried switching 5 when he was in there, he did fine but we just needed production. David can give us some points in rebounds but we didn’t get any production out of any one else and we gotta become better screeners. This is the worst screening team, I think I have ever been around, we never touch anybody. Zach actually screened late but David and Mitch and KJ, they definitely don’t enjoy body contact when they are on offense, so we need to do a better job there. Zach actually screened, he got us a basket when he screened one time, we gotta get better at that, especially for Ochai but it was a win, the crowd was great. I’m disappointed we didn’t play better, but you gotta win some games, when you struggle sometimes and today was one of those days.”

On Jalen Wilson’s play

“He was great, I just wish he would guard on the other end like he’s capable of, he was terrific offensively and defensively. We are all better than what we showed. We were so timid in the first half that we were a very unenergized group to start the game. You see how athletic we look when we aren’t energized so we gotta be better at that, it was still a good win, we are still in the learning process, they young kids, Zach and KJ need to get some time, but Zach did deliver for us today.”

On preparing for Oklahoma State on Monday ...

“They are the most athletic team in the league and we played them the first time, they were coming off a covid pause and we still went 9 minutes without scoring, even though we won the game going away, we got to be better than what we were today and certain think we are capable of that”

Kansas Freshman Forward Zach Clemence

On his role in the game ...

“Honestly just being out four weeks really get to you, so when I got back in, it was like playing basketball for the first time, it felt good.”



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On the message from Coach when he went in to the game ...

"Take a pop basically. We were struggling with that but then I just happened to figure it out."

Kansas Redshirt Sophomore Forward Jalen Wilson

On his play lately ...

"Just been playing for my team. At the beginning of the season I was just thinking that I need to play for myself. Now I just think how can I make us better and what's the best play for us."

On Zach's 3-pointer ...

"Yeah he's always confident in practice so I had no problem going to him knowing that that shot was going in."

On the pace of the second half ...

"I think the same thing (as Jalen). I think that me and Jalen both play better knowing we were getting stops and getting out into transition. We're a really good transition team. Like I said we need to get stops first."

Kansas Junior Guard Christian Braun

On Zach's 3-pointer ...

"It was a big shot, like you said. It was more important that he came in and guarded Groves in the pop. He came in and is super confident so we knew when he took the shot, he was gonna hit it. That's his favorite shot being popped from the top of the key."

On if anything changed for his approach in the second half ...

"Nah, just playing with more energy on offense. I think I was doing an ok job on defense. We just need someone to take it up a notch on offense. We were just kinda dead at the start of the game, but I came in and that normally where I can provide a spark, and I need to do a better job of doing that in the first two minutes of the game."

On the pace of the second half ...

"It gave us so much more energy. Like CB said, we were dead at the start of the game and I think with our team that's what we do best is run and get in transition and when we do that it kinda ignites everybody and gets the crowd going. I think in the first half we were slow, slow pace."

Oklahoma Head Coach Porter Moser

On the look OU got on the final possession...

"I thought Jordan Goldwire did so much to help us win. He was exhausted. He played 37 minutes and only one turnover, he did so many things he was exhausted. We like to attack the rim and get him in a scramble situation. It came down to one play but he made 30 to help us win, to put us in that position. We definitely wanted to go downhill a little bit more."

On coaching the final minutes with no timeouts...

"They went to switching 1-5 and we were trying to take the switch and go downhill and we couldn't get that done. We were trying everything we could do trying to get rest, trying to get an advantage. Sometimes with this crowd you need even more. There's times we couldn't hear. Where we go forward is how we set the bar. We played two of the top ten teams in the country the last five days, beat one and we were right there with the best atmosphere in college basketball. You can't just be satisfied. We need to be greedy and keep getting better because I don't want people to be telling our guys 'It's good to come close,' you gotta keep chasing to get better. That's what February is about. Get better, get better, get better. I thought our guys



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played their tails off to put themselves in a position to win against one of the top teams in the country and one of the top atmospheres in the country.”

On Oklahoma’s effort defensively...

“I looked up with three minutes left in the first half and they had about 22 in this atmosphere. I thought we were doing so many good things. They got their athleticism going down hill driving it. Agbaji hit a big three, Braun hit a big three, Zach Clemence hit a real dagger that I thought helped them a lot. Our guys followed the game plan coming in. They ended up with 31 at the half but they were in the 20’s and teens. I thought we did some good things. Their athleticism kept on going downhill in the second half.”

Oklahoma Junior Forward Jalen Hill

On Oklahoma’s second half scoring drought...

“We kind of just stopped moving. We just gotta find ways to put the ball in the basket. Keep moving, making plays for others, and that’s pretty much it.”

On Kansas’ size...

“They’re a great team, they have great players one through five, they have great guys coming off the bench. We just gotta play a whole game of defense. Just staying with each other, staying connected, if we do that for a full 40 minutes we can stop any team that we want to.”

On building off of these last two games...

“We just gotta keep this in our gut, keep this feeling. We need to go into this Texas game with the will to win. If we can just keep playing great on offense and playing great on defense, we can beat any team that we want to.”

On his aggressiveness...

“I just want to play to my strengths. If I have a smaller guy I can go and post him up, if I have a bigger guy I can just drive past him. If I can get to the rim, get to the free throw line, get easy buckets, do whatever I can do to help my team win.”