



MEN'S BASKETBALL POSTGAME PRESS CONFERENCE

K-State 69, Kansas City 53 | November 17, 2022

HEAD COACH JEROME TANG

Opening statement...

"Excited for the win. Winning is hard. We got to enjoy 'em. And looking forward now, you know, thinking about the Caymans."

On the status of Ismael Massoud...

"We've had a like the flu bug running through the team this week. And he [Massoud] was he was pretty bad yesterday and I was just you know, trying to see if we could like, get him an extra day of rest so that he could be better in the Caymans."

On potential lack of focus in the zone...

"I thought coach [Marvin] Menzies did a great job in the zone and his man switch in sometimes he would switch from zone to man on two passes, sometimes on four passes, you know, they switched up so we weren't allowed to we, it took away our ability to wear them down on the offensive end to play with pace, you know, and so that really slowed the game down the second half. In the first half, I thought when they were in the zone, other than a few lapses, we got pretty good shots and Cam Carter did a great job, Keyontae [Johnson] did a good job of making shots. And so but in the second half, give him credit for what they did on their end."

On learning from this game...

"Yeah, we're gonna look at it and figure out how some things that we can do different we were able just to run zone sets against the zone. I thought we got good looks and when we're able to run man sets against the man we got good looks and so now we have to learn how when they stall us how to like keep that thing moving. And so I think that this is really going to help us."

On using players during the upcoming Cayman Islands tournament...

"Now we're gonna use whoever we need to use to figure out how to win that game, you know, and the hardest game to win is the first one and we're going to do it. We got to and if it means playing 11, we'll play 11, if it's playing six, we'll play six whatever it takes."

On the size of Kansas City...

"Did you see, they are huge. I mean, they are huge, like there was probably as big of a team as we're gonna face all year long. And so yeah, it was it was just huge. A part of the rebounding thing though, too, is that, like, I think we lost by one defensive rebound. We had more offensive rebounds than they did. I believe, but when you turn them over 22 times, that's 22 shots, they don't get up. That gives you a chance to defensive rebound. So those numbers get skewed on that also."

On Nae'Qwan Tomlin's dunks...

"[Nae'Qwan] did a good job. Yeah, we didn't get it off quick enough. I was hoping to get the shot up a little bit quicker. So that we had that chance. You know, Coach Menzies they did a good job, but we got to turnover and then we didn't secure the ball and I would have gotten us the second shot."

On learning and improving as a team...

"We're gonna go back and look at it, you know, see how much of it was their communication, how much of it was the staffs game plan, you know, and we're gonna look at that everybody has to look themselves in the mirror and figure out how we can do better and to help the team so we'll look into that."

On Cam Carter's performance...

"No, it's it's great and and I was very disappointed that he didn't get another catch and shoot three attempt in the second half. And, you know, as, as teammates when you have a teammate who's going like that, that's got to be something that you're actively seeking, you know, like, let's keep him rolling, you know, and so that that we're going to look at and address."



On Desi's Sills potential leadership role...

"We feel like we've brought in multiple guys who at any point in time they can score double figures. And so when they were focused obviously on Markquis [Nowell], making it hard on them to focus on Keyontae, right, and so that's when Desi [Sills] had his opportunities because they can't take everything away. And so you appreciate his toughness, and, you know, just his aggressiveness there at the end, wanting to do what it takes for us to win."

On having guys step up each game...

"It's very important to have balance, you know, to have a balanced team that's, we talk about that all the time. I tell them you know, I want different guys at the podium after every game you know, my goal is to have nine guys interviewed by Chris Button or Holly Rowe after the game, you know, the nine different dudes on nine different games, you know, that's that's, that's that's the goal. So you have that kind of balance. It's hard for the other team to prepare for."

On continuing to get better...

"There's a maturity that our team has to continue to make. That's going to allow us to play every possession like we talk about going 1-0 and every possession and I don't know that we've executed that yet."

On improvement from the team...

"Well, I would like to see them make layups. And I thought we had opportunities for layups that they turned into jump shots. And so we're gonna go back and show them and see where they can have some opportunities there. You know, I felt like those guys drifted too much tonight rather than staying close to the rim because it should have been the game plan was to get them more scores to feed in the paint facing the goal and we didn't execute that part of it. "

On the team's energy during the game...

Not very good, not very good. Even when we were up I didn't think we had great energy. I thought we allowed them to run their offense. Not what I feel like we used to, now part of that is what we've gone through the last few days having multiple guys sick now, you know with the flu or whatever it is they've had would have to miss practice or not be able to practice as much and stuff. So, you know, that can be part of it. You know, part of it is human nature. Maybe they were thinking about the islands before it came and you know, but it's always good to learn from a win. So we're gonna we're gonna learn some stuff from this."

On Markquis Nowell's style of play...

"I think Markquis has a knack for the flair for the flashy play. You know, obviously the fans like it, all of that, but it's still two points. Right? And you know I'm glad the fans like it.

On Cam Carter and his hard work...

"Cam Carter worked really hard, right? Like, I mean, he is relentless in the gym. And, and he knew he had to improve his shooting right? And the fact that he's being rewarded for that hard work it's a joy as a coach to see. And, you know, he probably could have made eight tonight if we had gotten them enough looks and so we got to we got to figure that figure that out. I just want to see him keep getting better, right and keep getting better. And they'll tell you guys this, you know, winning allows everyone to achieve what they want to achieve. Right? And so let's focus on winning and then all the other things has potential, all those things will come."

On the number of perfect minutes during the game...

"No, no, it didn't even feel like it. I had to like keep reminding myself like stay positive, stay up, because it just wasn't there, I mean, I think y'all saw it right there was we didn't have as many hustle plays, there was the main deflections just just wasn't there for whatever reason, right? And maybe we practice too long. Maybe you know, we're gonna go look at everything to figure out how to get around the 5:30 game instead of the 7:00 o'clock game, you know, just there could be a bunch of variables, but we didn't have the energy we needed to have today. I don't think we improved in our minutes today."

On struggles Kansas City gave...





"They run this tricky zone thing and when we ran, when executed our play right, Keyontae got a three in the corner and we got to drive on the baseline. And then I think we got another drive. It would have been a wide open three if we reversed the ball one more time. So you know, I mean, we could pretty much get what we wanted from it, we had to execute it."

On winning in this college basketball environment...

"I mean, just think about this. I think Coach Menzies has 11 new guys on his team. And I mean, they're not babies. Those are grown men out there. Right. And so this game was scheduled before I got here and I mean just think about some of the other games like the PAC-12 schools going on the road to SWAC schools. And I mean, you see it all this, there's such parity now because of the transfer portal. Right? And so it's so you don't know what you're running into when you schedule the game a year out or two years. So you know, you have to enjoy these wins man. I mean, A&M just got ranked 24th in the country and they go out to Myrtle Beach and lose to Murray State. I mean, you got to enjoy the wins and then learn from what you can."

SOPHOMORE CAM CARTER

On the differences in this team from others...

"The difference is, you know, teams got scouting reports so you know whoever gets off in the first half, you know, they're gonna make adjustments in the second half. First half you know, my team, they gave me great looks. And I was able to knock them down."

On his performance tonight...

"I couldn't do it without my team. I mean, it got me going, I figured I got us going and you know, we was able to get on top, get some momentum and you know, go up by a lot."

On traveling to the Cayman Islands...

"I'm really excited. It's my second time going out of the country. So I know it's different out there. A different type of weather and different type of water, everything."

SENIOR KEYONTAE JOHNSON

On having a point guard like Markquis Nowel...

"Just a blessing to have a point guard like that to be able to pass and see me transition, just thankful for him to make the passes that was one of the best parts."

On learning the zone defense...

"Just practice we've been practicing all week, close by and preaching Dr. Gates to defendants on Amazon I was trying to go when he's trying to gauge to look out Cam and he had confidence trying to set the screen for you got it."

On going to the Cayman Islands...

"Very excited. Why don't we try to make a statement. Just keep playing basketball we are playing as a team, getting better every day. So I feel like it's a great opportunity for us to challenge ourselves and play against different competition."

SENIOR DESI SILLS

On his performance tonight...

"You guys couldn't do nothing without God. I just felt like my teammates just knew that I had to bring energy to the table and they knew on the defensive end I'm gonna bring it each and every night and they looked out when I was leaked out and they just found me for the open layoffs and stuff so gave me a good run."

On the condition of his ankle...

"In the first half by accident stepped on number 11's foot trying to get during his first bucket you know he didn't score yet but I want to see him get his first college bucket was real special. I knew he was in a corner so I penetrated and I landed on it but as of right now it's real good. I don't want to say it's real good, but I got a lot of tape on right now. So the momentum just carried over."

On his leadership role on the team...





"I've been through the fire, been through the wind, I got guys around me to trust me each and every night and my abilities and stuff like that. So at the end of the day, I'm gonna try to do whatever I can to help the team when my teammates believe me so they keep feeding me and I'm gonna keep on trying to find open spots and try to go get us going into a way even though I'm an older guy, I know what it takes to win and I'm just trying to continue to win and carry my legacy here and try to show why K-State one the best teams in the country."

