



MEN'S BASKETBALL POSTGAME CONFERENCE

K-State 83, Bellarmine 75 | November 10, 2023

HEAD COACH JEROME TANG

Opening Statement...

"First of all, I want to thank our fans. They were incredible tonight our student body, my people, they're just the best man. I always say, when you have a home court advantage, it's a 10 point plus on your side, and we needed all 10 of them tonight from them, so [I'm] thankful for that. I'm blessed to be able to be here and coach this group and man, just everything that's going on around our athletic program. Volleyball with the sweep of Texas the other night like man, how great is that, and football tomorrow? I'm just so fired up to be here. Thankful for the win tonight. I thought we played about 12 minutes, the way we are capable of playing, and how we want to play. It was eight in the first half and four in the second half. And so now we can grow from there. And so you know, just a lot of work that we still have to do but we're gonna look forward."

On the offensive performance...

"Well, we got paint touches, we reversed the ball quickly and we were able to drive. They [Bellarmine] do a terrific job of guarding blocks and elbows, but if you can make them go side to side quickly, there are driving lanes, and when we got there we were able to make plays for people. So we did that in the first half for the most part. There were 19 possessions where we got a paint touch and a bucket, or a pass for a bucket, 19 possessions. Problem is, we had 15 possessions where we never got a paint touch at all, and sometimes when you start making shots, you start thinking 'oh well, I can take this shot' and they'll give you that first shot because they have rebounding position. So we had to stay away from that. We didn't stay away from it enough in the second half."

On the amount of three pointers that have been attempted in the last two games...

"Okay, it's not necessarily about the number. It's just the quality of shots. Every team is gonna be a little bit different that you play against, and it's basically [about] what the defense is going to give you. And in the second half, I think at the first media [timeout], we had taken seven shots, and six of them were threes, and none of them were a paint touch. And so those are the things we have to stay away from, but it's the kind of shots we're getting rather than whether it's a three or two."

On playing against teams that play with different styles...

"You know, the great thing about these guys [Bellarmine] is that they're so well coached, [they're] veterans, and they've got a toughness and physicality about them that they deliver both on offense and defense. Extremely physical on offense, and so you can't relax. They will grind you for 25 seconds, and as soon as you relax, then the last five seconds they're gonna get a shot, and get a back door. And so it makes you have to focus for the whole possession, which then, if you can do that possession on possession on possession, you're going to grow as a team and become better. It's when we relax. I said we [focused] for eight minutes in the first half, and we did it for four minutes in the second half. And so we got a lot of growth to do from there, but this was a terrific game. They're a great team, and their coach does an unbelievable job. And it was a big win for us."

On Taj Colbert and Macaleab Rich not getting playing time...

"You know, every guy on our roster can play in the Big 12, but it's hard. Like [in] the USC game we played 25 lineups, and you just can't get any continuity or consistency with that, and guys can't get into a rhythm. So it was just a decision by the coaching staff that we were gonna play these certain guys and see what kind of rhythm we can get. Then we'll come back and practice and get after it. It's nothing that any of those guys did wrong. It's just what we feel we had to do to give us an opportunity to win right now."

SENIOR GUARD TYLOR PERRY

On the offense tonight...

"Getting back to the drawing board, like we said in Vegas. We wanted to get that bad taste out of our mouths. We had a plan coming in and I think we executed that."





On the defensive struggles...

"Bellarmine is a very fast-moving team. It was good that we've seen a couple of different looks in the preseason now, which I think is gonna be very good for us when we get to the [Big] 12. Hats off to them [Bellarmine], the way they moved the ball, the way they pushed the ball. You got to give them all the credit and the good thing is we got the win."

On his second-half success...

"I think my teammates continuing to find me, continuing to tell me to keep shooting, and not to worry about what was going on in the first half. Not to worry about the last miss. That's one of the biggest things Coach Tang is always talking about. Shooters don't remember how much they miss. So the biggest thing for me is just putting all the things that go wrong in the first half behind me and continuing to push forward."

FRESHMAN GUARD DAI DAI AMES

On what was working tonight...

"My three-ball was working for me and getting my teammates involved. Playing here [Bramlage] for my first game, it was really exciting. Without God, my teammates, and my coaches I wouldn't be able to perform as well as I did so I appreciate them for that."

On the environment in Bramlage...

"It was real fun. Being engaged with the crowd. The crowd getting loud when I hit a three. That was really exciting. It was really fun being out there."

On his connection with R.J. Jones...

"That's my roommate so you know we talk every day. We are on the [video] game together. We do everything together, so we're close friends for real."

