



2022-23
KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL
POSTGAME QUOTES

5/5 **KANSAS vs. OMAHA**
LAWRENCE, KAN. // ALLEN FIELDHOUSE
NOVEMBER 7, 2022



Kansas Acting Head Coach Norm Roberts:

On the pressure to continue the 50th consecutive home-opener winning streak...

"We knew first game of the year that our guys would be jacked up and ready to play. Obviously, not having Coach Self and Coach Townsend here, those guys wanted to play well. We did play well in spurts. We had some spurts that we didn't, but we shot the ball really well when we needed to in the second half."

On Jalen Wilson...

"He was terrific. The one thing we tell J-Will is to let the game come to him a little bit. We want him to be aggressive and he was that to start the game."

On Gradey Dick...

"It does seem like it's kind of easy to him. He has such a quick release. Our guys do a great job of finding him. He did a great job of being prepared to shoot, but he also made some shots in transition, attacking the hoop and those things. We need him to do that. He's getting better defensively. He has to make sure that he keeps his head on a swivel because people are trying to back-door him and they do try to slide by him, but he's getting better everyday."

On what improvements he wants to see...

"Obviously our defensive awareness needs to get better. We got beat on bad cuts. We got beat on a play with a back-screen lob, which we have run over ten times in practice. We have to do a better job scouting and with the scouting report. I thought we did a decent job of contesting threes and not giving that up, but we gave up way too many layups. I think they had 16 points on layups in the first half. We have to protect the rim better than what we're doing."

Kansas Freshman Gradey Dick:

On what his first start at Kansas was like...

"I just had a ton of adrenaline. My voice is gone from yelling during the game. I grew up dreaming of this night and watching these guys before me wanting to be in their shoes. So, the fact I got the opportunity to do that is a dream come true."

On how much emphasis was there to have a faster start and have more energy from the jump...

"The start set us back but we trusted our coach, we trusted our playing style, and we were going to get it back. There was obviously an emphasis on coming into this game with a faster start and even after half time getting back into it."

Kansas Redshirt Junior Jalen Wilson:

On Jalen's emotions going into this game...

"It was great. It felt really good to get the season going now, now these games count. We always take care of business at home, just trying to set the tone for the year. That was so exciting getting everyone involved and just seeing the crowds energy. I am so happy to get the season going."

Omaha Head Coach Chris Crutchfield:

On getting within seven points in the second half...

"We realize that we're a young basketball team, and on the road in this kind of atmosphere it will catch up to you. You hope it doesn't catch up to you in long periods of time and it didn't, it caught up to us in about three minute periods where they went on a 15-0 run on us, so I think our shot selection, we need to improve on that. I thought we took care of the ball in the second half. We didn't have turnovers, but sometimes your bad shots end up being like turnovers and that caught up to us. We're a young basketball team, in a place like this and it kind of caught up to us, the pace kind of caught up to us and no doubt about it the physicality caught up to us."

On what he thinks changed after the first half leading into the second half...

"I think our point guard play has something to do with it. JJ settled down a little bit, we had four turnovers in the first four minutes in the first half. Then, we come back and don't turn it over for a while, but those are the things we need to get better at and we talked to them about that in the locker room. If we can sustain those good parts and cut down those bad parts then we have a good chance of having a good season."

On what can be learned from playing a team like Kansas...

"The physicality, we have to get back to it. We cut harder, we cut to get open. In practice we can kind of simulate it but you really can't and we tried for the last three days to simulate their pace and simulate the physicality. When we are trying to cut and get open and their just bigger stronger bodies, but we will learn from it and we'll get a lot better."