



2022-23
KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL
POSTGAME QUOTES
5/5 **KANSAS vs. NORTH DAKOTA STATE**
LAWRENCE, KAN. // ALLEN FIELDHOUSE
NOVEMBER 10, 2022



Kansas Acting Head Coach Norm Roberts:

On the game in general...

"I thought the guys were terrific in the first half. We worked on some trapping and some things that Coach wanted us to do, like attacking their big guys. It seemed like Dajuan, Joe, when he was in, Kevin and Jalen got their hands on a ton of balls. Made it really hard for them. We never let them get comfortable in the first half and I think that really helped us."

On the fast start from Jalen Wilson...

"He was on fire early. He was taking good shots in rhythm and our guys were finding him. I thought the ball was moving pretty good in the first half, which allowed us to get easy points."

On Bobby Pettiford Jr....

"He was terrific and was getting down the lane. We knew they were going to be in drop coverage, and we told our point guards to get in the lane and to keep attacking downhill. I think they all did a good job with that."

Kansas Freshman Guard Gradey Dick:

On the importance of Jalen Wilson's aggressive play and leadership...

"It's extremely important. He's our leader and we've seen what him and Dajuan (Harris Jr.) did last year with finishing a championship. He's the guy we look to when things are getting tough. We need him to be aggressive and make plays, and we know he can do that."

Kansas Freshman Guard MJ Rice:

On his Jayhawk debut...

"I've been dreaming about this for a long time. When I finally got the opportunity, it was like 'wow', just going out there and trying to do what I can to help us win. I felt a lot better physically and am going to keep working hard as the season goes on. Getting the win was my favorite part of the night."

Freshman Center Ernest Udeh Jr.:

On his early connection with Bobby Pettiford Jr...

"Bobby is my guy. Coming into the summer he told me that him and Dave (McCormack) were good buddies. Bobby was just letting me know that he has that connection with the big men he plays with. Throughout the summer we just clicked, going out to get a bite, movies and just hanging in our room. Our connection will keep growing and the fans will see that on the floor."

North Dakota State Head Coach Chris Crutchfield:

Opening Statement...

"Our mentality, our mindset out of the gates, for the first 20 minutes I thought we were soft, tentative, passive. But louder and clearer shame on me if I don't recognize what success looks like and that is a product of success. Coach Self has done a tremendous job of setting an identity and a culture. Coach

Roberts is steering this thing for a little bit. That's what we talked to our guys about. These guys come in here and here's the big secret, there are no secrets. Those guys played their tails off, they looked like men, unselfish. That's a fun group to watch as you're scouting them, not a very fun group for us to play tonight but we have a better version of ourselves in us and that looks like identifying some things that KU did to us."

On if it's any different with Coach Roberts...

"I think that's the sign of it right there, it doesn't seem much different at all. Those young men are playing their tails off. They look like they're having fun. We were stressing to our guys, there's a lot of talent in college basketball, these guys continue to win because they're doing things the right way."

On if he thinks KU played up to his expectations...

"They played pretty well. (Jalen) Wilson, clearly you could tell a little bit more of the guy mentality. He's being aggressive. He made shots against us. I thought we let him get a little comfortable. We let him get out in transition based on our poor offense. But they run at a really good pace. They start on their rolls and played really hard. It's a not very fun team for us to play against tonight, but a fun team to challenge our guys to compete and be that version."

Omaha Junior Forward Grant Nelson:

On the tempo of the first half...

"We knew they were coming out jumping passing lanes, so we had to do a better job just slowing it down and not playing to them but making them play to us. It started with us putting up long shots and they got out in transition and we weren't getting back. We tried doing better in the second half. It was a little bit better, but we just have to be better moving forward."

On the better second half of the game...

"We just knew what we had to do. Coach talked to us in the locker room and we came out and did better but not good enough."

On what they can build upon from these tough opening games...

"It's good for all of us to get out there against some of the highest competition in college basketball. It gives us a look at the whole season and what we have to look forward to. It gives the freshman and transfers a good look at what they're going to see the whole season. It was just good for all of us."

