



## **Mizzou Men's Basketball Postgame Quotes**

### **Missouri vs. South Carolina - Columbia, Mo.**

**Final Score:** Mizzou 83, South Carolina 74

#### **Whitten Family Head Men's Basketball Coach Dennis Gates**

##### *Opening Statement*

"Lamont Paris does a great job and his staff, being able to play the style of ball that they played, those guys were prepared to play. Without a doubt tonight, no different than they were prepared to play at Kentucky. That was the focus of my scouting. That team, I wanted to look and dissect that Texas game, look and dissect the Clemson game that they were able to win earlier in the year and that was the identical team that we played tonight. I'm proud of my guys, proud of our staff. You know, it's not easy being able to win games in February, it's not. You have to be able to have a detailed level of focus about you. You have to be able to continue to do the small things. I thought on occasions, we focused on the small things. South Carolina were able to make shots and I thought our ability to do the right thing but South Carolina's ability to make shots dove into a little frustration in our personalities that wouldn't normally be there, but that's what February is about. Those are the dog days. You can do everything you can do right, but still feel, FEEL like you are wrong. So, I want my guys to continue to protect their spirit. Because that's what connects each and every last one of us and I thought we did that enough to come out with a victory"

##### *On Kobe's starting performance...*

"I was not pleased with Kobe's start, and I challenged him. I looked him in the eye several times and challenged him because I thought he was passing the ball too much and passed up on some open shots that he had normally taken. Even in the last five, six games. And at that point I saw him click back and accept that challenge in the right way. He didn't pout about it after his head coach got after him. He was able to focus on my words and deliver what I asked him to deliver and that's what I'm proud about with that stat line tonight. You don't see that. You don't know what my words were. But he and I shared words, some that my mom wouldn't be proud of hearing, but he responded. He responded in a way that I thought a top-50 player in the country should respond, a potential Conference Player of the Year should respond. And as the season goes, his job's going to get a lot harder. It's going to continue to get difficult and he has to understand how frustrating being that one person that's the identity of our program, but has teammates that believe in him. But he has to understand his role in that. He can never have a bad day. I can never have a bad day. And I thought he started the game having a bad day. And he corrected that. He corrected that and got through that frustration."

##### *Emphasis on the defensive front...*

"We just try to play as hard as we can. I think ultimately, the big picture, if you purposely try to force turnovers you end up, at this level, getting burned and teams are able to exploit us. So, we want to stay as solid as possible, but also discipline in what we do. And then that by nature allows us to get some of those turnovers because guys are in the right spot. And as long as we're in the right spot, great. I'll never overreact if teams make great plays."

**Guard Nick Honor**

*On staying focused in a close game...*

"It's definitely a little bit harder. This is a great conference. Everybody's going to fight regardless of their record. We're just focused on doing our thing and eventually we will come out on top."

*On his three-pointer that capped a 7-0 run...*

"I just felt like we needed a bucket at that time. Sean threw me a great pass and I'm not really surprised by it. Ever since he stepped on campus, he's been able to throw passes like that. I just had to make sure that I did my job and was ready to shoot."

**Forward Kobe Brown**

*On tallying a game-high six assists...*

"I felt like I would just give that credit to my teammates just making shots and making whatever the pass was. I feel like that's where most of that came from."

*On rebounding mentality and strength...*

"I feel like it's 50/50. You got to want it more than the other guy, but at the same time, you got to be smart about it. You don't want to pick up too many fouls trying to chase after rebounds. So, you just got to know when to go and when to get back on the defensive."