



Mizzou Men's Basketball Postgame Quotes vs. Kansas

Allen Fieldhouse - Lawrence, Kan.

Final Score: Mizzou 64, Kansas 73

Whitten Family Head Men's Basketball Coach Dennis Gates

Opening Statement

"One of basketball's great traditions, great environment. I thought our guys played an unbelievable first half, except the middle 10 of the entire game. Overall, I thought we did some things and we executed the right way. I'll have to watch more of the film. They did a great job getting to the free throw line. We shot zero free throws in the first half. I thought the game was physical enough where at least we could come away with one or two. That would have broke the momentum. In that last five minutes (of the first half) we didn't. Excellent game plan, we just weren't able to put the entire 40 minutes together."

On what he thought went wrong in the middle ten minutes of the game

"That's simple. They scored and we didn't. The other part of it is the majority of their points were in the paint. We fouled some three-point shooters, which are things you can't do, especially on the road against anyone. I thought they were able to get some great looks, but ultimately being able to cut those points in the paint in half. Who would have thought Hunter Dickinson would have two points at halftime? Nobody. I thought our guys did a tremendous job. We had an excellent gameplan. But you take that away and you still give up some points in the paint and I don't think we were able to score in those moments. We knew they would go on a run. We just weren't able to score, no different than in the second half. I thought it was a drought by both teams. We did an excellent job, unlike the last five minutes, of holding them down to no field goals. But more so free throws."

On struggling to turn TOs into points...

"I don't know a team that's going to force Kansas into 16 turnovers and in a game at their home court, but we weren't able to convert. We only had nine points. That's a negative. How can we have nine points off 16 forced turnovers? We have to be able to score in those moments and make them pay for those mistakes. In addition to that, we have to be able to convert better and come away with at least 20 points on 16 turnovers or 16 points on 16 turnovers, and we weren't able to do it. Those things stand out when you look at where you can steal possessions, so we put too much pressure on the half court execution."

Guard Sean East II

On what worked early in the game...

"It was just attacking mismatches. Going into the game you knew that some of their guys weren't as good defenders as other people on the floor. We were trying to get the iso or match up and just exploit it. And that's what we did a little bit. Our defense was leading into our offense."

Guard Nick Honor

On making improvements going forward...

“We can create for one another. We want to use the drag ball screens effectively. I feel we have guys who can create for themselves and others. We played a good 14 minutes but we have to learn how to play for the full forty.”

On adapting to the environment...

“Just the way we practice, Coach Gates makes practice game-like for us, whether that's bad calls or anything like that. But he always tells us not to blink. You know, when it gets loud like that you just got to focus on your team and what you have going on. There's a lot of distractions going on but as long as you're focused with your team and everything, we can do anything.”