HEAD COACH BILL SELF

On the down-to-the-wire finish of the game:

“Some people may look at the score and say, ‘Kansas must not have played very well or they labored’ but K-State was really good today. (If) You look at the stats, both teams shot 49 percent. There were only 52 rebounds total in the game, so people were efficient and both teams tried to guard. I thought they did a great job of driving us in the second half; especially when Devonte’ (Graham) got three fouls. They did a great job of scoring it at the end of the clock. They made some hard shots at the end of the clock. Of course, we did some good things, but we did not do a ton. Udoka (Azubuike) was fabulous; Devonte’ was solid; of course, Malik (Newman) made some big plays; Svi (Sviatoslav Mykhailiuk) was really good, especially the first half; Marcus (Garrett) made a couple of plays, but the difference in our team is when Lagerald (Vick) has energy and Lagerald made a couple of shots late. Then, after he made his shot, he was into the game. He was not a factor for the first 25 or 30 minutes (of the game), but he was a huge factor down the stretch. We should not apologize for winning the game, but what our fans should know is this how all our games are going to be; probably (on the) road and (at) home. We need to get used to playing some close games and fortunately we had some guys be really big for us down the stretch. Our defensive stop down there at the end was terrific.”

On K-State’s Dean Wade and Cartier Diarra’s play as well as Lagerald Vick’s two huge 3-pointers down the stretch:

“I think we were down three (points) both times that he made the three. Dean Wade made a big three at the end of the clock when he faced Udoka up, who played great defense on him. Udoka guarded him better than anyone else, we had no answers for him with Svi or any of our other guys. He (Wade) was great and always plays great against us. Diarra, God was he good. I mean he was great. He made a lot of shots at the end of the clock and he is so athletic. We actually did a decent job on Brown (Barry Brown Jr.) and he still gets 12 (points). It was a heck of a win. If we would have lost the game we would all be crushed. Eleven o’clock games are hard; if you win, you win it and at least you can watch some other people at least sweat a little bit.”

On Udoka Azubuike’s terrific game and big offensive rebound late in the game:

“We do not rebound the ball great on the offensive end but, I think we got two big offensive rebounds in that one possession. Malik ends up making a 15 footer. That was good. It was a great team win. It was a rivalry game and felt like a rivalry game. Certainly, I know it means a lot to the people in this state. You do not ever want to give your rival too much credit, but I thought they played great. I thought we were fortunate and you know round two will be just as intense.”

On the upcoming game against West Virginia in Morgantown on Monday night:

“They are terrific. They are putting it on Texas Tech right now pretty early in the game. That will be a hard game. I do not think we have ever not played them on Big Monday, at least that I can remember. Of course, if you play them Big Monday, you practice their style for 30 minutes. We usually do not execute very well at home against their style, but it seems like, to me, we usually do a little bit better. With last year being the exception, of course. We are going to have to be focused and go up there and kind of let it go. We will need to rebound the ball, (we’ve) got to be physical and, of course, you (have) got to have a presence in everything we do.”

KANSAS SOPHOMORE G MALIK NEWMAN

On if K-State calling a timeout before his last free throw shot made him nervous:

“No, not at all. I just wanted to go out there and focus, like I did on the first one.”

On how he kept himself calm and composed during the extra time before the last free throw:

“I’ve shot free throws a million times in my life so I just looked at it as two more ‘normal’ free throws that I was shooting, trying not to put any pressure on myself.”

On the final moments of the game, first throwing in the ball on offense for KU and then guarding K-State’s Barry Brown Jr., on the defensive end:

“The play was drawn up for Devonte’ (Graham) to come off and make a play with Udoka (Azubuike) or Svi (Sviatoslav Mykhailiuk) but I thought they (K-State) did a great job of guarding. He handed off to me and I just saw an opening, so I just tried to take it downhill and get a bucket in. I ended up going to the (free throw) line and making those two. We knew in the huddle that make or miss, we had to get a stop regardless. We just had to buckle down on defense and I think big fella right here (Azubuike) did a great job of hitting the ball screen and contesting high.”

KANSAS SENIOR G DEVONTE’ GRAHAM

On what was going through his mind as K-State had the final possession of the game:

“Just to get a stop. We just had to ‘lock in’ and that’s what we said in the huddle. It was crunch time; we just had to get a stop and we did.”

On if he saw K-State’s final shot go up or if he had a feeling about it going in:

“Once it got about halfway (to the basket), I could tell that it was going toward the left.”
GRAHAM (CONTINUED)

On playing so well against K-State when in the final stretches of the game in Allen Fieldhouse:
“Definitely, I've got that confidence in my teammates and myself, knowing that in crunch time we can get that last stop or that we can execute that last-second play on offense. Coach (Self) does a good job of putting us in those game-type situations in practice, where we've either got to make the play or get a big stop. It just translates over into a real game.”

On Lagerald Vick being in a rut, but coming up clutch in big moments of games lately:
“Definitely. Coach told us after the game that he (Lagerald) came up big time and made a couple shots. He definitely did it on the defensive end too.”

On Coach Self’s demeanor late, in tight ballgames. He knows exactly what he wants to say and says it:
“He’s a Hall of Famer. That’s what he do.”

On the Jayhawks getting out to big leads in games, then surrendering to their opponents:
“It’s just basketball. It’s going to be ups and downs. The good, the bad. It’s a game of runs; we go on a run, they (the opponent) goes back on a run, we’ve just got to respond with another run. I feel like we do a good job either up 11 (points) or down 11 (points); we keep the same composure and just play each possession.”

On Svi’s two 3-pointers before halftime, especially the buzzer beater, momentum-wise:
“That was huge, because we would have went in (the locker room at half) down six (points), but instead, we went in tied. We had all the momentum on our side. We came out (after half) and pushed it to 11 (points lead) but, like you said, they came and made a run, but those two threes were definitely huge.

On Silvio De Sousa being cleared to play prior to the game and his potential impact:
“It’s definitely going to help. It’s going to take him a little time to get adjusted to the college level. Coming out of high school in the middle of the season is tough. It’s going to take him a little while. I’m sure it felt different out there (Allen Fieldhouse) than playing at IMG (Academy), but he’s definitely going to help us out in the upcoming weeks.

On keeping the energy level high for the quick turnaround between now and Monday’s game:
“We just have to get our rest tonight and refuel. We’ll go over West Virginia stuff tomorrow with a little light practice. That’s all we got to do. Just focus in and get ready to play on Monday.

KANSAS SOPHOMORE C UDOKA AZUBUIKE

On what made K-State’s Dean Wade so hard to defend tonight:
“He’s a skilled four-man. He can shoot the ball. I think Svi did a good job of trying to hold him, but he was way taller than Svi, so he could just shoot over Svi. He’s skilled.”

On if doubling Dean Wade in the post tonight was the game plan:
“Yeah, that was the plan. In the second half, we started playing more four-man and five, so I got him (Wade) one-on-one.”

On working on his footwork:
“I’ve been working on it in practice and working with my coaches and all that. So yes, it’s really improving.”

On his passing improvement:
“A lot of teams double team me because they know I’m a force in the paint. When they double team me I just try to pass it to my guys, whoever is open.”

On if he was surprised Dean Wade didn’t get the ball on the last play:
“I mean, yeah. We knew they were going to try to run a play for either Dean Wade or the point guard (Diarra). Malik was guarding and when he set the screen and went to the other side I knew that he was going to pass the ball to him. I tried to deny the ball as fast as I could. We knew they were going to try to go for a 3-pointer or try to drive the ball. Our talk was to guard the ball and whoever had the ball just to try and deny it without fouling.”

On if this felt like a rivalry game:
“To me, it felt just like a game, but to the crowd, you can see the intensity that this is a real rivalry.”
KANSAS STATE HEAD COACH BRUCE WEBER

Opening Statement:

On the final play of the game and what Barry Brown Jr., did not execute:
“Throw it to Dean (Wade). We went small, hoping they couldn’t sub with (Udoka) Azubuike. (It was the) Same play as last year, but we were small and they left Azubuike in there. They cleared out the side and Barry, he has been unbelievable. He’s been our leader, he wants to win and he cares so much. (On) His timing, we talked about making the right play, easy play, whether Dean makes it or not. He missed it last year, but (we wanted to) get the best shot. We also had a foul to give on that last timeout when they had the play; we said, ‘(If) anyone gets by you, foul them, get reset on the defensive end.’ Cartier (Diarra), as good as he was, he’s still young, new and this is only his second start. (This was a) Tough environment against a very good team, you’ve got to give him a lot of credit.”

On K-State’s timing of the game’s last play:
“I thought Barry went a little slow. I didn’t want to wait that long to be honest. I literally pushed Brian Patrick and Xavier (Sneed) and I said, ‘Get to the other side.’ Barry was slow at the end of the first half too. Barry’s unbelievable, he saved our team. He had a practice Sunday on his own. (He) Cares so much. (He) Was in the gym Sunday, without practice, at least six or seven hours. Again, our guys played their hearts out. I was really disappointed in some of the calls, but we were all here last year, (and it was the) same thing. A technical (foul) shouldn’t make a difference in the game.”

On an explanation of the technical foul:
“I asked, and he said he would get me later. But, obviously, the game was a little intense.”

On Barry Brown Jr.’s play this season:
“Barry has saved us. He helped us win the other night (against Oklahoma State). He helped us be in the game (today). We had a nice comeback (in) both halves, gave ourselves a chance to win.”

On how calls impacted the game today:
“No, I didn’t say that (calls deciding the game). I’m disappointed in some of the calls, and I hope you guys are too.”

On Cartier Diarra’s performance:
“He got to the basket. We went small ball. We were actually trying to get Dean (in) on some action, get him out on the floor with Azubuike chasing him. Azubuike was so worried about Dean, Cartier got down the lane and made big plays, made a big three. He played really well. He casually makes some mistakes, but you couldn’t ask for more from a guy who has started two games.”

On K-State’s offense without Kamau Stokes:
“If Cartier plays like that, he had 17 the other night and 18 this game, that’s more than Kam averaged. They’ve all stepped up. We’ve talked about playing with a lot of pride and playing our butts off. I thought we took some quick shots early, that’s why they got the lead, they got (into) transition. Then we settled down, we got the ball in the paint and made the right plays. Then we kept them out of transition, (and played) our half-court defense, I thought we were pretty good (at) for the most part. We turned them over a little bit, Svi (Sviatoslav Mykhailiuk) was very good the first half, (but) didn’t get quite as much done the second half. (Devonte’) Graham still gets to the free-throw line a lot, he’s averaging nine a game, I think, and is in the lead.”

On putting the frustration of today’s loss behind and moving forward:
“We just talked to the guys about that, it’s the most important thing. We’ve talked about surviving in this league every game, and you’ve got to go (on) to the next game. Coach Lowery (associate head coach Chris Lowery) talked about it, I talked about it after (the game); we’ve got Oklahoma (next), (we) can’t go to a pity party. We could’ve quit after Kam went down. The guys didn’t; they’ve probably gotten closer, tougher, stronger. And this is another game, (in which) we had a chance, and now we’ve got to come back with more on Tuesday.”

On Dean Wade’s game and performance:
“I thought Dean was very under control. We started going through Dean when we got back in the game. He made good plays, he’s a good passer. He had some turnovers I thought he might’ve gotten fouled on a couple of the turnovers, but they weren’t called. Dean’s grown up a lot. Obviously, he’s a really good player, one of the best in the league and hopefully he has that drive to push himself to be one of the best players.”
KANSAS STATE JUNIOR G BARRY BROWN JR.

On last possession:
“‘It was a four-pop and I don’t know why, I got kind of confused when he popped the other way, I don’t know what was going through my mind, then I just looked at the time and tried to make a play.”

On slow pace of last play:
“I don’t know why I did that either.”

On defensive attention today:
“Yeah I felt a little bit. I just tried to get my teammates the ball a little, I was trying to move the ball a little more.”

On bouncing back and moving ahead:
“We’re going to be fine. It’s just a tough loss. We’re going to bounce back after this like we did our last loss, get in the gym and focus on the next game we got. We’ve dealt with some tough losses and we’ve bounced back. It’s not going to be like anything different.

On feeling of last shot:
“It felt fine, it felt like a shot I’ve shot before. I shot with confidence hoping that I would make it.”

KANSAS STATE REDSHIRT FRESHMAN G CARTIER DIARRA

On explanation of technical foul call:
“No, I took it and dealt with it and moved on.”

On emphasis of forcing Graham to defend hard:
“He got fouls pretty quick, so just wanted to try to get him in foul trouble. He wanted to stay in the game, he didn’t want to foul.”

On planning to get Graham in foul trouble:
“I guess so. He picked up two quick ones, so I guess it was just try to get him more fouls, and that opened up drives for me, because he didn’t want to foul, he wanted to stay in the game. I made plays and that was that.”

On mindset coming into this game:
“To try to win. We haven’t done it in a long time and we had a chance, next time we have to execute better and hopefully come out with a W.”

On playing with confidence:
“I feel like that all the time, I just need to be more aggressive, throughout the whole game, all 40 minutes and then I’ll have games like this a lot.”

KANSAS STATE JUNIOR F DEAN WADE

On frustration level of close loss:
“You know, with any game, pretty frustrated, pretty disappointed. You’ve just got to move on, we’ve got a lot of more big games to play, and we just have to move on a make the most of the rest of the season.”

On surprised if he did not receive the ball the final play:
“No. I ride with Barry, whatever he does, I trust him. If it didn’t look like I was open, then I trust that I wasn’t. Whatever he decides, I’m going with.”