



# BASKETBALL

WVU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

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## WEST VIRGINIA vs. KANSAS// POSTGAME QUOTES WVU Coliseum // January 12, 2016

### West Virginia coach Bob Huggins

#### On the value of each possession tonight as opposed to the rest of the season

You guys keep asking me to look backwards and I don't have a rearview mirror. I don't know whether it was or not. I thought we did a pretty good job. We've been trying to be around 10 turnovers; no more than that. We had 11 today. I don't know the answer to that question.

#### On the key to defending Kansas' shooting

We tried to run them off the line. We didn't do a very good job early. It's hard to come out of pressure and find people. I thought we did a better job as the game wore on. We gave some at the end. It's hard when you end up with your power forward on a point guard a lot of times, your point guard on the center and all that. That's why we've got to have ball pressure and make them scramble a little bit so we can get back to the guys we're supposed to be guarding.

#### On the emphasis of driving to the basket

I thought it gave us the best chance to win. I think, the way the game's being called, it's hard to guard the ball. We tried to kind of revamp some things and keep them spread to try to be able to get guys to the basket.

#### On Jaysean Paige and the rest of the team driving to the basket

I think Daxter (Miles Jr.) could be the best if we can get him to stop shooting jump shots every time. I think he can get it at the basket. JC (Jevon Carter) gets it at the basket. I think as Esa (Ahmad) continues to improve, he'll be able to get it at the basket. We did a very good job of screening for him. We're supposed to be screening for him. I think Devin (Williams) wanted to stay a little close where he could make sure we had a chance to rebound whenever we missed. We put Jon (Holton) and Nate (Adrian) out at the corner. They shot it really well in practice. I think one of these games they'll start to make some shots and then we'll really be able to get people spread.

#### On doing a better job of keeping the ball away from (Perry) Ellis at the end

We did a better job and they stopped trying to isolate him as much. We had better pressure on the ball. We didn't have any pressure on the ball when they isolated him early in the half.

#### On the emotions after the game

Let me start by saying that for 12,000 people to show up here, on this night, is unbelievable. That's fighting through some things. I know there were people still coming in the second half, and I know it's hard for you guys to get here. It was hard for me to get here. It would have been very easy for people to just go watch it on TV and I'm very appreciative of those 12,000. I think we had maybe a 1,000 people that didn't make it or couldn't make it. We had 12 of 13,000 tickets sold. And the students were great. The PRT broke down, but a bunch of them walked from downtown. To my recollection, that's never happened.

### **Kansas coach Bill Self**

#### **On Kansas' Losing Streak in Morgantown**

West Virginia is a really good team, and they're aggressive and well coached. There's nothing about Morgantown, it's more about how their team played against our team.

#### **On the inability for Kansas to generate sustained offense**

The game in a nutshell is that they were so much more aggressive and quicker. They were way more athletic than we were and played above the rim. We didn't do any of that. They beat us off the bounce whenever they wanted to and exposed our perimeter defense. There were a lot of things that we didn't do well, but if we just talk about how poorly we played it takes away the credit that West Virginia deserves for really getting after us and causing us to play that way.

#### **On how the WVU press disrupts the rhythm of an offense**

It was fool's gold when we were up 13-9. We made some three-pointers and had a few lucky breaks at that point. I bet you if you go back when we were up 13-9, we did not get three 50-50 balls we should of gotten. How many times did we have the ball only to have (WVU sophomore guard) (Jevon) Carter come from behind and steal it? It happened to everybody, they have got active hands. We talked so much about how they are so much more dangerous from behind than they are when they're in front of you.

#### **On Kansas Junior Guard Frank Mason III's struggles to develop offense against WVU**

He just seemed like he wasn't engaged emotionally tonight. I was so nervous about the weather, and I know you guys gripe at this... but Frank (Mason III) had about 25 family members coming. He was worried about them getting here and stuff and we were trying to let him know when they got here. I don't think that was it, but that kind of stuff bothers me. This is the only chance his family has to see him play, so I don't think that was it but he wasn't himself.