

2022-23 Mississippi State Postgame Quotes

Mississippi State at Missouri – February 21, 2023

Mississippi State Head Coach Chris Jans

Q: What was the difference coming down the stretch tonight?

CJ: “They made two three’s in the last two possessions. That’s tough. The second one was pretty deep. The first one was late clock. Two guys that I wouldn’t consider being their main guys. Big time shots for those players and for their team. We made some too. They just made the last one. Time went out, and we had a shot and a tip or two. It didn’t go in for us.”

Q: With 14 turnovers and 11 of them being steals, do you feel your team was careless with the ball, or was Missouri just that good on the defensive end?

CJ: “If you would’ve told me before the game that we would have had 14 in an overtime game, I would’ve taken it. They’re one of the top teams in the country in stealing the basketball. I think [D’Moi] Hodge leads the SEC individually, and they have a bunch of guys that’re up there. As a team, that’s really what they do. They really harass you and deflect the ball. They try and turn it into offense. We had 12 at home, well 13, but one was the last play where we took a shot clock violation. Then, we had 14 in an overtime game. To be honest with you, like always you have to watch the film. That’s what they do, and they’re really good at it.”

Q: Do you think most of the turnovers were in the halfcourt defense not their full court press defense?

CJ: “They didn’t trap as much in the full court. The pressure wasn’t quite as much. I’m not in their meetings so I’m not sure why. We didn’t have to deal with that as much. They didn’t run and jump us either in the half court. They had some poke and pressure, and they switched it up to play quite a bit of zone. They played a lot of zone late in the game. It was a different philosophy that they had tonight.”

Q: Were they doing anything different tonight to keep the ball out of Tolu Smith’s hands?

CJ: “They did a good job of making us run offense further out on the floor than we would’ve liked to. When you do that, it takes away the timing. The length of the post entries become more difficult to be able to throw it where we want to throw it. It’s just extended, and it’s too risky to throw it that way. If you look at the stat sheet, anyone would say that Tolu needed more shots. I agree. It’s easier said than done. I’ve got to do a better job of figuring out a way to get him shots. We did there late. When we really needed it, we ran some good stuff, and they executed it. We scored a couple of those paint baskets.”

Q: Sometimes, fans forget that the other team doesn’t want Tolu Smith to get more shots.

CJ: “I get it, and that just comes with the territory. They played that zone. We ran some sets to try and get it there. It looks like a 1-3-1. So, it’s extended. Even in the zone, they push you out and make it a little more difficult. Certainly, people are going to say we shot too many three’s. At the end of the game, I understand that. We did shoot quite a few three’s. Recently, we haven’t seen shooting as many three’s. Unfortunately, they weren’t going down in a greater clip tonight.”

Q: Were you happy with most of the three’s that were taken tonight?

CJ: “I mean, most of them. We definitely had a couple that we all would like to have a do over with, but that’s typical of most games. We just couldn’t get it going from three. Every time we shot them, we thought they were going to go in. Dashawn Davis was uncharacteristically off a little bit. His misses were rough misses. I’m not sure why. Sometimes, it gets in your head and rhythm etcetera.”

“They made the two last three’s. At the end of the day, that was the difference in the ballgame. We really survived it. They ran an out of bounds play with 2.2 that they hadn’t shown, or at least we hadn’t seen it. It was a heck of a play. We got lucky. I thought that was our break. Normally, when that happens, the team that receives that break ends up winning, but it wasn’t the case tonight.”

Q: Now you go back home and play a really good Texas A&M team on Saturday. You certainly need a lot of people to show up on Saturday and help these guys get back in the win column.

CJ: “I’m pretty disappointed. I obviously will have to get ready, and we have an extra day than normal with the Tuesday game. That was a gigantic game for this year’s team. Everyone that follows us understands what it would have meant if we would’ve won the game. We didn’t. We just didn’t get it done, and they did. I know we will regroup and move on because we have to. It will end up being completely focused on [Texas] A&M and trying to prepare for another unbelievable opportunity that our team has.”