

2023-24 Mississippi State Men's Basketball Postgame Quotes
No. 21 Mississippi State at Georgia Tech – November 28, 2023

Mississippi State Head Coach Chris Jans

Q: Can you talk about what lesson you said on your postgame radio interview that you wanted your players to learn from their first true road game of the season?

CJ: “First and foremost, tip of the cap to Coach Stoudamire and his staff and their players. As coaches, we know how this goes. They lost two in a row. They’re not happy, and their practices I’m sure were rally the troops type of situations. They got a team that hadn’t lost yet coming into their barn. We talked until we were blue in the face about ‘What would we feel like? What would our practices be like if we were in the same situation?’ But now, we’ve got to go on the road for the first time in a true road test. So, that’s what I was talking about.”

“I asked them after the game, ‘What did you notice out there? With any average guy that understands basketball and competition, what would they say about us [comparing the] first half and second half?’ We play way harder in the second half. That’s my point, why?”

“We dug ourselves such a hole, and we played much harder in the second half. We played much more on the defensive end than we were accustomed to and anticipated playing tonight, but I’m not sure we got off to the start that we did. Certainly, no disrespect to their players and their coaches because they did an excellent job. But we didn’t play with the same intensity. We played harder, but first 11 possessions, you get 5 turnovers. It’s hard to overcome when you’ve got that big of a deficit.”

Q: Do you feel Georgia Tech was getting a lot of the loose balls and loose rebounds? Do you feel that played a big role tonight?

CJ: “Absolutely, especially in the second half. We had a little momentum, at least I felt like we did on our bench. We were battling back and playing with a little more intensity like I said. I think we had a couple, and I’m not into this bad breaks, where the ball ricocheted off and the bounce didn’t go our way. I believe you make your own breaks that way. We had a couple of them like that where we had the ball and just didn’t squeeze it with two hands. That could have led to some runouts, and turning the tide if you will. But definitely that stretch in the second half when we’re trying to mount a comeback, and then they basically stiff-armed us. The loose balls had a big difference in why.”

Q: Do you think the guys were a little gassed trying to make the big comeback after digging that big of a hole?

CJ: “Yeah, that happens. That happens. You work your tail off on the other end and rebound and run. Then, you’ve got to jump up and shoot the basketball. We definitely didn’t have a very good shooting night. [Going] 7-of-30 [on three-pointers] isn’t going to win you a lot of games on the road. We had to take a high number of three’s especially down the stretch to try to give ourselves a chance.”

“But listen, I thought Georgia Tech played really, really well. They were well-prepared. They took away some things that hadn’t been taken away up until this point and made us search for some different offensive looks. They just had a great start. They had momentum. Their confidence grew, and we weren’t able to mount that comeback that we wanted to.”