

**2024-25 Mississippi State Men's Basketball Postgame Quotes**  
**No. 25 Mississippi State vs. Butler– November 29, 2024**

**Head Coach Chris Jans**

***Q: It was just one of those nights where the other team was hitting shots, what did you see in this game from your vantage point?***

**CJ:** “It was just very disappointing. We could never get our defense going, in my opinion. We had a few possessions here and there, but we never really established ourselves on that end of the floor. The easy thing to say is, they outshot us. You look at the numbers, they shot 53 percent from the field, we shot 38 percent. They shot 54 percent from three, we shot 26 percent, but that’s not how I look at it.”

“We gave them a lot of good looks to get to the basket. We struggled guarding the basketball. We had multiple guys that just weren’t in the right spot defensively. It came back to guarding the ball, like it always does. In the rebounding numbers, it looks worse than it is. It wasn’t nearly as bad as it looks raw data-wise. Offensively, in the first half, I felt like we weren’t getting enough paint touches on those inside-out shots. All game long, we were just really frustrated with our defensive effort.”

***Q: What was Butler doing to get so many open three-point shots tonight?***

**CJ:** “I’m not going to take any credit away from Butler. They obviously are well-coached and are a good basketball team. They made some shots, which happens, but I’m into making them miss. I’m not into just saying that they made shots, because that doesn’t happen if you really look at the game. We gave up penetration when we weren’t in a scoring area. If there’s the ball screen out front and the big leaves, the guard wouldn’t square the ball back up. You stay on the side of him just for him to drive the ball ... We just couldn’t string together stops. It looked like we were going to get the lead and get a stop in some crucial possessions, but we weren’t able to get the stop in those situations.”

***Q: How did Butler attack your defensive philosophy differently than other teams have?***

**CJ:** “We knew they would flash someone. They’ve done that with teams that play a similar defense to ours. Our traps were actually very good in the first half. That wasn’t what was hurting us. In the second half, they started cutting two people instead of just one. So, that gave us some problems. They certainly game-planned for us, and we saw that. We just didn’t do a very good job of adjusting to that.”

***Q: We talked about the schedule gauntlet the team is going through right now. Talk about the Pittsburgh game coming up, a big home game at Humphrey Coliseum on Wednesday night.***

**CJ:** “It doesn’t [get any easier]. I can’t share with you how disappointed I am with myself, our team and how we performed. I made plenty of mistakes that I’m not going to get into. I’m sure by next Wednesday we’re going to be riled up, lathered up and ready to play a Pitt team that will be ranked by the time we play them come Wednesday night. They’re a really good basketball team.”

“I felt really good all day about our plan. Even as the first five to ten minutes unfolded, I felt good about us winning tonight. In the end, we just never got enough stops in a row to be able to overtake their lead. So, that was a disappointing loss to say the least.”