

2025-26 Mississippi State Men's Basketball Postgame Quotes

Mississippi State vs. No. 21 Arkansas – February 7, 2026

Mississippi State Head Coach Chris Jans

Q: They had a 20-2 run during the first half. I know you saw it on film leading up to the game, but how big of an issue was Arkansas' length today on both ends of the court?

CJ: "You can talk until you're blue in the face about facing a team like that, but until you get on the court and get a feel for it, it's like walking out in the cold. I said that before, and you've got to adjust to it quickly or not. Obviously, we knew their length, their athleticism, and the quality of players that they have. It was hard to overcome, it was hard to overcome."

Q: What do you think has been the biggest issue for the team defensively, not just today, but this whole season?

CJ: "I would say off the top of my head, and it sounds trite and boring, but just point of attack defense. We're just not doing a good enough job on a consistent basis with just old fashioned guarding of the basketball. There are too many times that the offense is getting where they want to go. They're getting us in rotation whereas this defense is built to not be in rotation. We're just not providing as much resistance that's needed to just keep the offense from where they're trying to get."

"We talk about paint touches offensively all the time, but certainly on the other end, we're trying to limit those if at all possible. Everybody that understands and follows the game knows that if you get that ball in the heart of the defense, you can have all the rotations you want and schemes, but it just breaks the defense down. It gives the offense plenty more options than they would have if you could figure out a way to guard the ball square and keep it in front of you at all times."

Q: With the team's struggles in conference play, how do you keep these guys going in the right direction?

CJ: "That's a good question. We've got to find a way to keep our practices at the level that's required. We've got to instill confidence in them, which is something that we're trying to do every single day. We've played better, right? We played better in some of the wins that we've had in our league at home or even on the road."

"We've just got to keep them together. We've got to keep fighting, keep scratching and keep clawing. I'm confident that we will. I don't feel like this team will be led astray that way or won't come to work and won't work on their individual games. And our team improving and trying to get ready to obviously beat another good basketball team in Tennessee."

Mississippi State Forwards Jamarion Davis-Fleming and Achor Achor

Q: What was Arkansas doing, specifically in the first half that led to the game getting away from you?

JDF: "Well, first of all, credit to them. They had a great game plan coming in. I don't think they really did anything spectacular. We just missed a couple of assignments, like certain stuff on ball screens, assignments that we were supposed to have. I mean, they didn't really doing anything special. They've got great players. They made great shots, and had great sets ran for them. That's really it, they just ran great stuff."

Q: How much of a problem were the turnovers today?

JDF: "They were crucial. If you take away the turnover points, they're the 2nd best team in the country in fast break points. We held them to lower than what their standard. So, we take away the turnovers, it's a whole different game. We would have been right there, probably could have even won the game. So, I just say, we've just got value the ball more. We'll get to practice and work on it."

Q: How do you take advantage of the other team's mistakes and try to capitalize on them moving forward?

AA: "Essentially, we've just got to take care of the ball. I don't know if you all remember, but in the first half I think we had like six turnovers, which led to a lot of buckets. That changed the game a lot. I feel like we don't do that in the first half, it's a much closer game in the second half. We're not really digging us up out of a hole. It puts the whole thing in perspective. It's just sign of the issue we were dealing with at the start of the season with the early games, we turned the ball over. In the middle of the season, we started taking care of the ball. It seems like we've kind of dipped in that hole again."

Q: What does the team need to do to be able to get its confidence back?

JDF: "We've just got to find a way to pick our heads up when it gets bad. Just work through the negatives and try to stay together. Keep the huddles tight. Just keep working and try to get over that hump. Right now, we just got to go to practice. We get tomorrow off, but Monday and Tuesday, get ready for Tennessee. Just trying to work on when it gets bad, just keep going. Even though everything is not going to be cooking, so we've got to keep going."

Q: How much growth have you seen from Jamarion Davis-Fleming throughout the season?

AA: "Yeah, I'm proud of Jamar. I'll tell you that. This dude right here, he's going to be something really, really special in the SEC. Mark my words, I'm saying it now first, I don't know who else said it so far, but this dude is going to be a real player. He is tough, he's physical. You look at him, you don't think he's a freshman. The way he plays, he's going to bang with anybody. So, hats off to him. He worked his ass off. He came in a little bit out of shape, got all the way in shape and got strong enough. Now, he is banging with everyone in the country. Respect to him for sure."