

## **2025-26 Mississippi State Men's Basketball Postgame Quotes**

### **Mississippi State at Kentucky – January 10, 2026**

#### **Mississippi State Head Coach Chris Jans**

***Q: Do you think turnovers and a lack of offensive rebounding were the biggest keys to Kentucky coming back from the early deficit?***

**CJ:** “Yeah, turnovers, they had 27 [points] on our turnovers. We had 10 [points] on theirs. Second chance points, 22-to-9. Then, I'll add the fast break points which I never know if they're exactly right, 19-to-6.”

“Those were two of the main keys going into the game. I thought if we were going to win, we couldn't give them a bunch of runouts. They're like most teams, and they run faster at home. Certainly, that was the case tonight. We just couldn't get back quickly enough and set our defense to get in the half court, which is what we wanted to do.”

“Then, we didn't rebound the ball at a high level like we did the last handful of games. We were hoping that that was going to be something we could hang our hat on. At halftime, it was 6-1 offensive rebounds obviously not in our favor. Then, in the second half, they got a bunch more. We actually got some in the second half, but more of ours were when the score wasn't in the balance anymore. So, all those factors definitely led to us being on the wrong end of the score.”

***Q: How tough is it to compete with a team like Kentucky with their size and their length?***

**CJ:** “Well, we knew going in it would be a challenge because of the obvious, their sheer size. Not just around the basket, but they've got really big guards and wings. They're experienced players. The unfortunate thing is we got out to such a great start. I mean, it was almost too good to be true. We were 11-for-13. Certainly, you can't keep that shooting percentage throughout the game, but that was the dream, right? To get off to a great start. They weren't playing great. They were 0-2 [in the SEC], and who knows what's going on behind the scenes? Then, you jump out, and it couldn't have gone any better that way.”

“Then, in the first half, they regrouped. You've got to give them some credit. They regrouped, and they held it together. They made some runs. At halftime, we still felt really good about where we were at. We just couldn't sustain it, and we couldn't really get going in the second half, especially offensively.”

***Q: When it was going well in the first half tonight, what was really clicking for your team?***

**CJ:** “Well, we've been playing, for the most part, decent offense in the recent games. We've been practicing really well, and it kept getting out on the game court. We were sharing it, we were getting paint touches and we were making shots. I mean, 11-of-13 again, but, for whatever reason, they seemed a little on their heels to start the game. I'm not sure how they rallied and how they got together and decided to defend a little bit better and to get after us a little bit more, but they certainly did. Again, I didn't expect us to continue with that clip, but our spacing, our paint touches the lane in the second half waned in comparison to the first.”

***Q: Do you have any update on Jamarion Davis-Fleming after he went down in the second half?***

**CJ:** “Initial update is he tweaked his ankle. I don't have anything other than that. So, we'll have to see once we get out of here and talk to the trainer, but I don't think it's anything serious or anything like that.”

***Q: What's your message to your guys entering the Alabama game at home on Tuesday?***

**CJ:** "We're in one of those stretches where you've got three games in seven days, and they're hard turn arounds. You get home really late tonight and figure out when you're going to meet tomorrow to get a game plan together for Alabama."

"So, it'll be a quick turnaround. That would be the message. It'll be the third game, I think like I said, in seven days. Everyone has those stretches, but these kids will regroup. Hopefully, we will have a great crowd, and we'll regroup. We will get back on the court, and I'm sure we'll be ready to go when we hit the court on Tuesday night."