

2025-26 Mississippi State Men's Basketball Postgame Quotes Mississippi State vs. Oklahoma – January 7, 2026

Mississippi State Head Coach Chris Jans

Q: Talk us through the moment when Josh Hubbard got the and one pullup where you got pretty excited on the bench.

CJ: “I don't know. I just liked how we were defending. I thought we were a little more grittier on the defensive end than maybe we had been in the past. When that starts running through everybody's bloodstream, it just makes you feel good. It makes you feel good that, hey, that they can continue to buy into that, who knows? And it just, I don't know, the emotions got a little bit, not the best of me. I guess I have ton of them, but I don't always show them like that. Every coach coaches the way they coach, but I just felt really good about where we're at in the game and how we'd been defending up until that point.”

Q: Talk about the development of the team over the past couple of weeks specifically from the frontcourt players.

CJ: “We've got a really good coaching staff. We've got a veteran staff. We're doing a lot of work you in the summer and in the fall. One of my favorite statements, and it's nothing crazy obviously, but the work always shows up. It may not be timely, right? It may not show up the next game or the next week, but if you stick with it, it will come to the surface. It always does. I've never seen it not.”

“So, it's something that we preach to our guys all the time about just sticking with it, and not just here, forever. If you're trying to be a pro for a long, long time, right? The work will get to the surface level, and it just isn't always on time. And so, some of these guys are working really, really hard behind the scenes. Certainly, as a coach, you want to get some positive reinforcement for them individually to make them feel really, really good. That's starting to happen a little bit. Their confidence is getting better.”

“Brandon Walker gave us some really good minutes again. Jamar [Jamarion Davis-Fleming] maybe had one of his better games, if not his best. I thought he was very physical. I thought he was really physical around the basket, and he had some putbacks. He had some shields when they started doubling Josh [Hubbard] in the middle of the court. That puts Quincy [Ballard] and Jamar in a pretty tough spot. Here they are, big dudes and not guys that play in the perimeter and handle the ball, and that's what you have to do is get them in the middle of the court. Then, they've got to make decisions, and they were okay at it. I think with experience, they'll get better at it because we're obviously going to see a bunch of teams trapping us. But, no question about it that all those guys that you mentioned are getting better and better.”

Q: Playing tough defense and having offense in the paint are things that you want that Mississippi State basketball to be. Talk about your players executing those things tonight.

CJ: “If I had my druthers, that's the way we play [all the time]. You've got to mold your team to the pieces that you have. We just finished, and the game was 101-98 I believe. Then, you play in the same week where it's 72-53. So, you just never know how the game is going to unfold, but there's going to be a lot of clips of that grittiness and that defensive identification that we all talk about a lot and what our staples are. Again, without watching the tape, it's at least one of the better defensive games we've had all year long.”

“We've got so much respect for Coach Moser and their team. They're a high potent offensive team. They're field goal percentage wise a top team and their fourth in turnover percentage. That was the

thing. We turned them over more than I could've imagined, and we didn't do anything aggressively in terms of pressing and trapping. It was just more being stingy on the ball and being handy all the ball. Having some pride in your craft when you guard the ball. I don't know what they're normal percentage is, but they turned the ball over more than they have. That's a credit to our guys being able to buy in."

Q: What does it feel like when Josh Hubbard is succeeding in a game during winning time? He seemed to be dancing with the ball on one of those late step back baskets.

CJ: "Well, I don't think any of us in this room can really understand what that feels like. Like, looking around, I just don't think any of you guys understand what that feels like either [laughter]. I was a division 3 player, and I was pretty good, but I don't know what that feels like. It's fun to see it, you know. I don't need to keep talking about how hard he works and all that, but why not? Because he deserves it. He's about the right stuff, he puts the time in and he works on his craft."

"He's developing now as a scorer, right? He's always been a scorer, but the levels of scoring. The finished package that he has with the high releases and the floaters and being able to take more quality shots even if he takes a big number of shots like he's done the last couple games."

"Then, if things aren't going his way, he's 1-for 7 from three. Okay, I'm going to get to the line. I'm going to get to the cup and figure out a way to help my team. But, yeah, I would love to know what that feels like. I'm sure it's a heck of a rush."

Q: What has been your thoughts about Jamarion Davis-Fleming the last few months? Did you expect him to excel?

CJ: "Yeah, the answer is emphatic no. If anyone in our coaching staff is going to tell you off the record or on the record that oh yeah, they're lying to you. Okay? He's been a huge shot in the arm for us. He's come a long way. We're going to have stories to tell about him later. When he first got here in June, and where he was at. He got thrown in the deep end. I'm not sure he was quite ready for this level of basketball in terms of what's required and the conditioning and the focus and the weights and the individual intensity."

"But credit to him, he kept coming back. He had some rough days, but he stuck with it. And then, wow, Guy [Chol] gets hurt. He starts figuring out, and he's had some big games for us. I don't know where we'd be at, to be honest with you, with this team if we didn't have him. I mean, he's been a huge shot in the arm. I'm very happy for him. Certainly for us, that he's been able to give us the quality play as a freshman walking in the door."

Mississippi State Guard Josh Hubbard and Forward Achor Achor

Q: Did Coach Jans want you guys to use size to your advantage with outscoring them in the pain the way you all did?

JH: "These guys did a tremendous job. All our three, four and fives; Achor [Achor], Shawn [Jones Jr.], Jamar [Jamarion Davis-Fleming] and Quincy [Ballard]. They just did a tremendous job crashing off our three's, which we didn't shoot greatly, but they helped us out tonight."

Q: What adjustments did you make as they tried to take you out of your rhythm?

JH: "Yeah, they chopped off ball screens and downed our ball screens on the side. And so, we just adjusted to it. It didn't really change us. We prepared for it in case they did. And so, that just shows the type of coaches that we have. They put us in the right spots for game day. And so, we just attacked off of it. We used it to our advantage."

Q: What did you see defensively that helped that the team out offensively to get the team going?

AA: "Being physical. I think being physical and like that really set the standards, get defensive rebounds, push the pace. That was really the main thing we tried to focus on, carrying it from last game for this game."

Q: What has helped you as of late to have four straight really good games?

AA: "Just staying down, man. I was a little bit unhealthy. Hurt my ankle in the summer, and it kind of lingered. The Christmas break really helped me. So after the Christmas break, I started to feel more like myself."

Q: Did you guys talk about shooting less three-pointers in the second half, or did that happen naturally?

JH: "Yeah, we didn't really have a conversation about taking away the three-ball. But we did adjust to what they were throwing at us on the ball concerns. Because of what they did, it just opened up so much inside."

Q: What did your team see at the end of the game to finish in the way you did?

JH: "Yeah, I just felt the momentum. We were doing a tremendous [job]] on both ends of the court, and we just fed off the energy. I just felt the momentum. Shot felt great. It just took off."

Q: Whenever you guys get into one-on-one situations you all seem excited. Is that something that you read into and try to seize in the moment?

JH: "I think that just goes back to when I'm playing my brothers one-on-one. I think everybody has that one-on-one game in them, but you've got to get on the court here and there. Just taking advantage of it, just having that confidence to go one on one."

Q: Achor, your rebounding has been consistent throughout the year. How much have you focused on that?

AA: "I feel like with this team, I've been given a role. I felt like for us to get to where we need to get, I need to fully buy into my role. If it's like scoring zero points and getting 15 rebounds a game. I'm going to have to buy in and do that. As long as we keep winning. I don't have a problem with doing it."

Q: This was your third 30-point game of the season. What has been working right for you as you've been on this scoring run?

JH: "I think that just goes to the game plan offensively and defensively. Coach [Jans] talks about the extremes that we've got to play and how we've got to play for us to be in a successful position. Guys like him [Achor Achor] and the rest of my teammates, I can't take all the credit for the scoring. They helped me with ball screens. The decisions they make, the off-ball, and so I can't take all the credit."

Q: Coach Jans was seen pumping his fist and stomping the floor with about five minutes left in the game. What is he like when he get really excited like that?

JH: "Yeah, he's a character, but he fires us up. That's the type of person he is. He's really competitive. When he does that, it just fires us up even more. So, I'm super happy for him. He's put a lot of work in his career, in his coaching career. So, we just want we just want to give him the best."

Oklahoma Head Coach Porter Moser

Q: What did you see from your team tonight?

PM: “Down eight late in the second half, we miss the front end of a 1-and-1. Then, we gave up a three-pointer. That’s a five-point swing, but it could have cut it to 6 when it goes to 11. Then, it just kind of went from there. The offensive rebounds, obviously, the most offensive rebounds that you’ve given up since Gonzaga. We gave up 17 [offensive rebounds].”

“I thought we were, I thought we made [Josh] Hubbard work for it. He still had 30 [points]. He made tough shots. He’s an elite scorer. Then, when he gets his 30 [points], and then they got all those second chance points.”

“We struggled with scoring. X [Xzayvier Brown] was the only one that had an assist. I thought we had too many tough shots. They’re elite defensively. They really got up into a couple of our guys. I told them that this is what SEC is going to be.”

“We’ve got to learn from this because a couple of them were, they were so physical into the bodies and it just affected them. Their defense on Nijel [Pack] and a couple of them, they were just sticking to them. So, we didn’t play well, obviously, offensively down the stretch with that.”

Q: What did you see from Mississippi State when they gave up from three and went to the paint in the second half?

PM: “Yeah, we were, I thought, we were really doing it well in those three-point shooters [Josh Hubbard, Jayden Epps and Ja’Borri McGhee. Epps, he was 2-for-7. He got six points, and he thought we did a good job on him. The freshman [Jamarion Davis-Fleming] and the two big guys they’ve got, the freshman came in and got 10 rebounds. He had four offensive rebounds in the first half.”

“We’ve got to get more production rebounding in the trenches. We’re going to see this kind of size and physicality. When you’re going to have low assists, we were just talking about, we would have low assists when we don’t make shots. We’ve got to grow from some of the guys that have got to realize this, that when they’re physically up on it ...”

“We’ve got to turn around quick, A&M played yesterday. They had today off. We’ve got to regroup. We’re going to get back late tonight, and we’ve got to bounce back to Texas A&M. Another opportunity for a quad one win, but we’ve got to grow from these last eight minutes, man. It was the rebounding, the physicality, Hubbard, and then it was a combination of like four things in those last 12 minutes.”

Q: What do you think is different between this team and Texas A&M in terms of play style?

PM: “This was absolute physicality. This was a rock fight. There, it’s going to be a track meet potentially on Saturday. That’s why we’ve got to bounce back. We’ve got to prepare for it, a totally different style.”