

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

### **Mississippi State vs. SMU – November 28, 2025**

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

***Q: You guys were up by 9 points eight and change what changed within the team down the stretch especially on the offensive end?***

**CJ:** "That's a great question. I remember it well: subbing at the free throw, and we didn't get a great look. Then, on the other end, we fouled a three-point shooter, and he made the free throw. Then, on the next possession, we took a not very good shot. They got our get back behind the play from offense to defense. We left someone wide open, and he made that three too. So, we gave up seven points in two possessions. I think I called a timeout if I'm not mistaken at that point. As the game unfolded, we obviously had a little time to reset a little bit, and I think we got it up to six, maybe once or twice, but not any further than that. At the end, they seemed like they made the key plays, they made the key baskets and we didn't."

***Q: Second straight overtime game coach, what did you see different in this overtime as opposed to Monday night?***

**CJ:** "They won, that's what I saw. The way the overtime started, I was like you've got to be kidding me with the tip and the fumble. They get the ball, and trick off the layup. I couldn't believe it when that happened. I never dreamt that they wouldn't make that basket. It felt like we were playing from behind from the opening tip off the overtime. We just never got solid."

"Josh had four fouls down the stretch of the game, and then in overtime. So, we were trying to hit and miss with him a little bit to get him on defense and try to sub him for offense as much as we could. Our rhythm wasn't very good in overtime. There's was better. They got some separation on us and closed it out."

***Q: Jayden Epps returned from injury for this game and gave you 21 points. What difference do you see in this team when Jayden's on the court opposed to when he's not?***

**CJ:** "I mean, the obvious is that he gives us a scoring punch that is very much needed. I'm excited that he had got cleared to play. He makes a big difference for us. He spreads the court for us and gives us another option. He's been all in about what we're trying to do, and how he needs to play for us. Hopefully, his confidence is through the roof. I know he hates losing just as much as the next guy, but he definitely is a welcomed addition to having him available."

***Q: How does Josh Hubbard having an off night on offense effect the looks you get from your opponent late in the games?***

**CJ:** "Josh is going to have to continue to get used to that big, dark red circle that's around him on every scouting report. Certainly, he's already had that kind of attention, but this year it's different. He's not on the court with maybe quite as many other scoring options at times. So, they're going to do what they got to do to limit his looks and be very physical with him – try to get two on the ball and shut out his vision and make him give it up and try to put him in as many awkward situations as they can."

"It's been mixed results. He had 16 points, like you said, but 19 shots isn't very efficient that way. He's got to understand that some nights, he's going to have to facilitate more. He's going to have to understand that he's drawn so much attention, and it makes it easier for everybody else. But, when I say that, when it's everybody else and they're open, they got they got to knock those down too otherwise it's a tough situation for all of us. He'll continue to get better. He'll continue to figure out different defenses and how he needs to react to him."

***Q: How do you feel like the guys have responded to adversity throughout the season and before the next game on Wednesday?***

**CJ:** “Well, we’ve got some time now. We don’t play until Wednesday. It’s our first loss that we’ve had at home. I know we haven’t been having stellar performances at home, but we’ve found a way to win, which is obviously the main goal.”

“This one, not taking any credit away from SMU, but it got away from us. I’m to the best of my ability, I tell my guys the truth every single day – good, bad, ugly, doesn’t matter. That’s what I told them after the game. We did this to ourselves. We had this game in the balance. We played well enough to win. We had some great stretches, and the game changed when I talked earlier, it changed then. Then, down the stretch, we just didn’t come up with enough balls in the air, balls on the ground, hit first, floor first. When you’re playing at this level and playing against other teams that are trying to win as much as you are, you’ve got to figure out a way to make the plays.”

“We’ve got awesome kids on our team. I love being around them. I love coaching them, but we’ve got to continue to work on our playing personality being a little more edgier. A little more whatever I got to do to get it done. It may not look pretty. I got to be a little more grimy, and that doesn’t mean that they’re not that way off the court because, again, we’ve got too many guys that haven’t totally jumped into the playing personality part that our team has to play with for us to be successful.”

“In the end, I’m responsible for it. How we practice and what we do. How I teach and how I coach them. I’ve got to figure out how I can get them to believe in it and then for our team to play like that. If we had that tonight, the narrative would be a lot different.”

**Guard Jayden Epps and Center Quincy Ballard**

***Q: Jayden, you guys had a pretty good lead in the second half. What was it that they were doing to kind of get back in the game and cause your team’s offensive struggles?***

**JE:** “They’ve got good players. I’ll say that we made a lot of mistakes on our end, not executing at times and not running our offense the way that we run it. I would say down the stretch we made a lot of mistakes. We got to go back to the drawing board and try to get that right.”

***Q: Quincy, what did you think of the overtime and what went wrong in that period?***

**QB:** “Obviously, overtime happens. I feel like we just kind of lost our energy that we had throughout the game up to like the mid part of the second half.”

***Q: Jayden, your game was going pretty good today after missing a couple of games over the season. Talk about how you felt out there tonight.***

**JE:** “I felt good out there. I felt good to be back out there with my boys with the teammates fighting for a win. That’s our next goal. Man, we just trying to do whatever we can do to get a win. Whether that’s me scoring, whether that’s anybody scoring, whether that’s anybody rebounding and whether that’s anybody getting a stop. We just got to try to do whatever we can to win.”

***Q: Quincy, you had one of your better games tonight especially offensively. What was working for you on the offense end of the court?***

**QB:** “Coach was emphasizing in the locker room, they don’t really box out. Our offense was flowing pretty much throughout the first half and most of the second half. Guys got some pretty good open looks.”

***Q: Jayden, kind of to add to that last question. How do you feel like you've been able to contribute and add to a team that's been put together?***

**JE:** "I feel like I'm just able to contribute with my leadership coming in as an older guy and as a senior. We've got a lot of young guys coming off the bench. So, I just feel like me being a leader, me helping the guys and showing them the way. Leading by my talk and by example and doing the right thing on and off the court. That's how I feel like I gel, and I connect and what I'm adding to the team."

***Q: Jayden, you guys would learn these lessons in a win. Overall, do you feel like this is the best you all have played so far?***

**JE:** "No, I don't think so. I've seen this team all summer. I've seen this team as long as I've been here, and I know what we are capable of. So, I'll probably say maybe you guys can say this is the best that you all seen us play, but I've seen us play way better. I know we're way better, and I know we're capable of way more."

***Q: Jayden, you mentioned being a leader on this team. What is it like being a new face on this roster and still trying to be a leader?***

**JE:** "I feel like it's how college basketball is now. Coming here at first, it's all newness but spending a whole summer – grinding and going through the hard work with these boys. They've become like brothers, and you build your connections. So, I feel like they respect me. They respect what I've got to say, and I respect what they've got to say so it's mutual. I feel like when you've got brothers, and you're all trying to achieve the same goal it can all come together."

**SMU Head Coach Andy Enfield**

***Q: Hard fought win, talk about the decision to run with your starters down the stretch.***

**AE:** "Yeah, Boopie [Miller] was big time. Down nine late in the game and all the guys played really well. We fought hard defensively. We stuck in spots. Then, Boopie [Miller] made some big shots, but it was all the guys. The starting five played a ton of minutes tonight. We just went with them the last 10/11 minutes of the game because there's something about those guys ... We're still a work in progress, now. We'll get back after a tough and hard-fought road win."

***Q: Talk about the defense toward the end of regulation especially that last possession executing the rotation play and the momentum that gave you going into overtime.***

**AE:** "Well, that's how we should've played the ball screen the play before ... Luckily, we had a chance to go over that during the timeout [before the final possession]. We executed perfectly and got the big stop and gave us a chance to win in overtime. They played great defense the last 10 minutes of the game to get back into it. That one play was big, but we also did a great job the whole overtime."

***Q: 8-0 start now to the season. Your team has two tight wins over Butler and now this one on the road. Do you like the way your team is stepping up?***

**AE:** "Yeah, we've won two really hard games that went down to the last possession. I'm proud of our guys. They stuck together, and they stuck tough. We were down in both of those games including the Butler game big. Then, tonight, we were able to come back from down nine with seven or eight minutes left."