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Guard Silas Demary Jr. #2 of the UConn Huskies and forward Flory Bidunga #40 of the Kansas Jayhawks compete for a loose ball during the first half game at Allen Fieldhouse on December 2 in Lawrence.

# KU basketball loses to No. 5 UConn at Allen Fieldhouse. Here are 3 takeaways

BY SHREYAS LADDHA  
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## LAWRENCE

The decibel reader inside Allen Fieldhouse read 119.2.

The packed crowd inside Kansas basketball’s home venue gave the Jayhawks every advantage possible — from explicit chants toward UConn coach Dan Hurley to barking whenever KU guard Melvin Council had the ball.

It wasn’t enough. In a game that felt like a March Madness contest, Kansas fell just short.

No. 5 UConn defeated No. 21 Kansas 61-56 on Tuesday.

The Jayhawks had a chance to tie the score late, trailing 59-56 with 23.2 seconds left. But Jamari McDowell elected to go for a layup and was blocked by UConn forward Alex Karaban. After a quick KU foul, the Huskies sealed the game when Braylon Mullins hit both free throws.

Coach Bill Self said

postgame that the first look on the play was for a 3, but that if it wasn’t there McDowell should drive to the basket.

“We didn’t have a lot of options, and we didn’t run it great,” Self said. “... He did what I asked him to do, it was just ... a really good defensive play.”

Tuesday night’s contest was a low-scoring defensive slugfest. Lead guard Melvin Council led KU in scoring with 12 points, adding three assists. Forward Flory Bidunga posted 11 points and 12 rebounds.

The Jayhawks (6-3) suffered their first ever loss to the Huskies — they’re 4-1 in the all-time series.

Kansas played Tuesday without freshman phenom Darryn Peterson (hamstring strain), while UConn didn’t have leading scorer Tarris Reed Jr.

For the second straight game, redshirt-sophomore guard Jamari McDowell joined the starting lineup, replacing usual starter Kohl Rosario.

The first half was a

back-and-forth affair. Kansas led 33-29 at the half, thanks to 10 points off the bench (eight from Elmarko Jackson). UConn finally regained the lead when Karaban hit a layup to put the Huskies up 45-44 with 10:47 left.

The Jayhawks never led again, but they did briefly roar back with a 5-0 run to cut the margin to 55-54 with 4:37 to play.

**Up next for KU:** The Jayhawks travel to Kansas City to play rival Missouri on Sunday.

*Until then, here are three takeaways from Tuesday’s game:*

## ELMARKO JACKSON AND JAMARI MCDOWELL ARE TRENDING UP

Since participating in the Players Era tournament last week, KU red-shirt-sophomore guards Jamari McDowell and Elmarko Jackson look like entirely different players.

They’re playing with a new level of confidence.

McDowell hit two consecutive 3-pointers early, which was enormous for a

Jayhawks squad that has struggled to shoot from deep all season.

Shortly after Jackson came off the bench, he provided instant offense. First, he hit a 3-pointer, then on KU’s next possession made a difficult layup through contact. Finally, he hit another 3-pointer right after.

Jackson scored all eight points in an 8-1 KU run. The pair combined for 14 points on 5-for-8 (62.5%) shooting from the floor in the first half — and for 19 points (4-for-10 from 3) for the game.

One of the small benefits of Peterson not playing is that it has forced other Kansas players to step up. Jackson and McDowell have answered the call.

If both can provide instant bench offense when Peterson returns, it raises this team’s ceiling.

## KU’S OFFENSE MISSES DARRYN PETERSON

It’s clear to see that KU’s offense is built around the freshman phenom.

KU’s half-court offense without Darryn Peterson can be ugly. The Jayhawks are prone to long scoring droughts. It happened in both halves, but it was particularly evident in the second half, when Kansas went four minutes without scoring.

In fact, the Jayhawks didn’t hit their second field goal in the second half until there was a little over nine minutes left. That field goal was a floater by guard Melvin Council.

The scoring drought allowed UConn to take the lead.

Without Peterson, KU lacks players who can create their own shot, and that’s badly needed when the half-court offense breaks down. Ideally, that’s when Bidunga could get some easy points in the post, but UConn did an excellent job of moving him away from his spots and denying entry passes.

If Peterson continues to miss time, the Jayhawks need to figure out how to score without just relying on transition points.

KU shot 18-for-51 (35.3%), including 27.8% on 3-pointers, for the game. Even so, Kansas led for more than 25 minutes of game time.

“I feel like just some opportunities we had to put up shots, we just didn’t hit them,” Jackson said. “Unfortunately, just

how the game is, just ebbs and flows. It’s something that we’ll definitely work on this next practice that we have and getting ready for Missouri.”

## FLORY BIDUNGA HAS TO STEP UP

This is the second straight game in which Bidunga has underwhelmed on offense.

Similar to the game against Tennessee, the big man never looked comfortable Tuesday. Despite matching up against freshman big man Eric Reibe, who came into the matchup playing about 17 minutes per game, Bidunga didn’t take advantage of his matchup.

Even when Reibe had three fouls, Bidunga wasn’t the aggressor. UConn didn’t let Bidunga get comfortable in the post, and every time he got the ball, it seemed like he was struggling to finish at the rim.

He finished with 11 points, but shot 4-for-9 from the floor. To his credit, he had 12 rebounds, but the Jayhawks need a more assertive and efficient post player.

As a team, the Jayhawks were outscored 30-20 in the paint and shot 5-for-13 on layups, 1-for-1 on dunks.

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#### Abandoned property at 9202 W. 73rd Street #307, Merriam, KS 66204

Lamyria Lewis and Jhadeya Lewis' items will be disposed of on January 2nd, 2025 if unclaimed. Items include a toilet brush and plunger, cleaning supplies, cord, plants, hangers, apron, a bag, and paint.  
IPL0295726  
Dec 4 2025

#### ADVERTISEMENT/NOTICE

The Blue Valley School District and McCownGordon Construction will be accepting sealed bids for facade replacement and renovations to Stilwell Elementary School.  
Bids will be accepted by McCownGordon Construction on December 18th, 2024, at 2:00PM electronically through Building Connected. This project is tax exempt and does NOT have prevailing wage requirements. Sub-contractors may obtain bidding documents after December 1st, 2024, by emailing: aahal@mccowngordon.com  
The Blue Valley Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids and reserves the right to be the sole judge of what it considers the lowest responsible bid. McCownGordon Construction and the Blue Valley School District are Equal Opportunity Employers.  
IPL0290842  
Dec 4,11 2025

#### NOTICE OF BID

Bids for HVAC Improvements for Infection Control, Project No. U2301-01 will be received by FMDC, State of MO, UNTIL 1:30 PM, January 6, 2026. Project information available at: <http://oa.mo.gov/facilities>  
IPL0291944  
Nov 26-28,30-Dec 5,7 2025

#### Abandoned property at 7233 Eby Drive #104, Merriam, KS 66204

Angel Eduardo Chacon Varela's items will be disposed of on January 2nd, 2026 if unclaimed. Items include medicine, a plant, mail, foodstuff, trash, metal chair, cleaning supplies, paper plates, food storage containers, packing tape, dishes, charging block, hangers, solar lights, pet food bowl, stuffed animal, boots, air mattress, trash bin, electronic smoking devices, portable speaker, faux flowers, pillowcase, candles, lotion, shower curtains, towels, red plastic crates, luggage, photo frames, and a mirror.  
IPL0295530  
Dec 4 2025

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING FISCAL YEAR 2026 - 2030 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM CITY OF LENEXA, KANSAS

The City of Lenexa, Kansas (the "City"), hereby provides notice that at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at the Community Forum at City Hall, 17101 W. 87th Street Parkway, Lenexa, Kansas, the City will accept public comments regarding the proposed fiscal year 2026 - 2030 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The proposed 2026 - 2030 CIP will be available for viewing on the City's official website prior to the scheduled hearing date. All persons having an interest in this matter will have an opportunity to provide comments at the time and place specified above.

Dated: December 4, 2025

Jennifer Martin  
Lenexa City Clerk  
IPL0295531  
Dec 4 2025

#### EBI Project 250055486PR

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) is proposing to build a 42-foot Light Pole replacing a 35-foot light pole located at 4419 Northwest 52nd Street, Kansas City, Platte County, Missouri 64150. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Project 250055486PR, EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, EBIPNReplies@ebiconsulting.com or at (617) 715-1822.  
IPL0295592  
Dec 4 2025

#### Misc. Legals

##### Abandoned property of Jason & Sasha Olcott

Abandoned property of Jason Olcott & Sasha Olcott, 1199 E Santa Fe St. #298, Gardner, KS. 66030: Beds, couches, tables, dressers, shelving, washer & dryer, & other misc. items will be disposed of if not claimed by 12/19/2025.  
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Dec 4 2025

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#### Misc. Legals

##### NOTICE OF LAWSUIT

To: Josue Lopez Rivera, Wyandotte County, Kansas  
You are hereby notified that a civil complaint has been filed against you in the District Court of Wyandotte County, Kansas, by Tommia Jones, praying for judgment against you as follows: monetary damages as the result of a personal injury. You are hereby required to answer the petition on or before the 3rd day of January 2026, in said court at 710 N 7th Street Trfy #210, Kansas City, Kansas 66101, or judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.  
This notice shall be published once each week for three consecutive weeks in the Kansas City Star.  
Garrett B. Logan  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
Double Eagle Injury Law  
710 South 7th Street  
Las Vegas, NV 89101  
888-245-0505  
IPL0292351  
Nov 20,27,Dec 4 2025

## Animals

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### Dogs



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### Auctions

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Mike Williams 1 816-797-5450  
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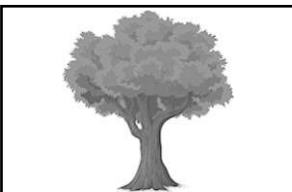
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DOMINICK WILLIAMS dowilliams@kcstar.com

Kansas Jayhawks head coach Bill Self yells out instructions to his team in the second half vs. the UConn Huskies on December 2 at Allen Fieldhouse.

## FROM PAGE 1B

# GREGORIAN

For all that, though, this wasn’t a seething Self after Kansas fell to 6-3 as it awaits the return of the generational sort of talent embodied in freshman Darryn Peterson — who missed his seventh straight game with a hamstring strain.

(Self continues to say he’s close to returning, and perhaps he’ll at last be back on Sunday against Missouri at the T-Mobile Center. If not, the notion that he’s right on the verge is going to start sounding like Chiefs coach Andy Reid calling former safety Eric Berry “literally day-to-day” for

months before he finally returned in 2018.)

Instead, Self at least outwardly continues to embrace something he hasn’t had much time for in the past: patience.

Because he sees a lot to like in this team.

Because he gets that it’s just different with Peterson, a transformative force in the making.

And because this group is in its embryonic phase of playing together with only one man back (Fiory Bidunga) from the nine-deep rotation last season.

Considering the raucous atmosphere at Allen for their first blue-blood game

here this season, Self reckoned that part of what stifled KU stemmed from the atmosphere and “trying too hard, that kind of stuff.”

“You’ve got to be at that magic level where your energy and your enthusiasm and concentration and attention to details is all at a crossroads,” he said.

In this case, the enthusiasm and energy were obscured by the absence of concentration and attention to detail.

All stuff that didn’t seem to so much dismay Self as make him look toward the big picture.

It’s all about how KU finishes, not the way it starts. A point Self has been conscious of given the last few postseasons:

Since winning the 2022 national title, KU is just 2-3 in NCAA Tournament play — including a first-round loss last season after Self thought the team peaked in ... November.

Not that winning now and winning later are mutually exclusive.

But Self figures playing the rugged schedule — now including losses at current No. 16 North Carolina and against fourth-ranked Duke at Madison Square Garden — is going to gird this team for the long run.

And not just as some sort of hope or guess.

But because he knows

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