

Washington State at Arizona
Arizona Stadium | Sat., Nov. 16, 2013
Postgame Quotes

Arizona head coach Rich Rodriguez

On the game:

"It was just poor execution. I thought we had a good week of practice but we didn't play well or coach well. We had way too many unforced errors, dropped snaps and easy field goals missed. There were some third downs that we should've made plays on. Our margin for error is very slim and if we play poorly, it will be hard for us to win. I don't think we played well in any phase of the game but I give them credit."

On changing the defensive rotation:

"We were trying to get more guys fresh to pass rush. We had a few sacks but our pressure wasn't what we need to be. We don't have a scary off-the-edge pass rush guy right now, and we let them convert third downs too many times."

On receiver Trey Griffey:

"I think he played pretty well. I need to watch the film and see how all the players graded out. From my vantage point, he competed well. He has been getting better in practice and we were trying to get some of the other guys a break."

Arizona senior linebacker Jake Fischer

On feeling coming into game this week:

"We practiced very well all week but we didn't do what we needed to do. That's entirely on us and I take blame."

On special teams missed cues:

"We need to focus on doing what's right. Little stuff like that happens all the time but we have to come out of there with a win. We didn't play as well as we needed to today and if we would have done better on the defensive side of the ball, we would have won."

On impact of the crowd:

"The crowd shouldn't hurt us or help us. Our job is to go out there and play and we didn't make enough plays to win today."

Arizona senior receiver Terrence Miller

On the last play of the game:

"I just saw a team trying to stay in it; it just didn't go our way. They played pretty good defense. If you're short, you're supposed to go deep and if you're deep, you're supposed to come back. Just get open. Everybody fought until the last minute. It should have never gotten to that point. We left a lot out there as an offense."

On the smaller crowd:

"It didn't matter. We have to play whether it's packed or there are two people here. We have to execute regardless and we didn't do that."

Arizona junior defensive lineman Reggie Gilbert

On what they saw from Washington State's offense:

"For the most part it was pretty standard (offense). They ran the ball more than usual. But we knew they were going to pass the ball a lot and that's what they did today but we weren't able to stop it."

Washington State head coach Mike Leach

On the win:

"Arizona is a good team. They were on a roll for significant portions of the season this year. We finished the game well. We had big contributions in all phases so it was a good win."

On Washington State's defensive performance:

"I thought it was good and they've been doing some good things, considering the teams that we've played. We played three teams that were really tough on them, and we gave up some explosive plays. Youth contributes to it, a little bit, but they're getting older, they're getting better. They never lost focus and came out and played well today."

On the offensive line:

"They played well for the most part, and any problems on the offensive line were more about one guy opposed to the group. From start to finish, they did a lot of good things."

On not blitzing in Arizona's final drive:

"He was throwing it every snap so that was part of it. I think early in that drive, we were a little too anxious to drop because we knew (B.J.) Denker was going to throw it. We got too deep and overran their routes a little bit."

Washington State senior safety Deone Bucannon

On the timeout during the last drive:

"It was just looking into eachothers' eyes and understanding that the guy next to you wants it just as much as you do. The coaches understand that as well. They understand that we have worked so hard so why not put everything you have into these last few plays. Whether a win or loss, you should just go 100 percent regardless."

Washington State sophomore linebacker Darryl Monroe

On the victory:

"It feels a lot like the USC game but more intense. No one wants to see a blowout win."

On the amount of confidence the win gives the team:

"It gives us a lot of confidence. Sometimes teams come out with too much hype or too much confidence. I felt like we didn't come out with too much hype. We came out and executed our plan. "

On being one win away from bowl eligibility:

"We aren't thinking about that. We just have to focus on the next game."

On winning so many games on the road:

"I feel like, ever since I've been here, everyone has always been against us. With that, you have to step on the field every time with this swagger or a chip on your shoulder. Wherever we go it feels like home because we love playing on the road. We like playing on the road because we like to silence the crowds."

Washington State junior wide receiver Isiah Myers

On the final touchdown play:

"It was just one of our regular plays. We probably ran that play about 30 times throughout the game. We just ran the same plays that we ran all game. Coach (Mike) Leach harps on getting the ball up field after making the catch and I felt him coming so I just made my move and got by him. "

On Connor Halliday passing Drew Bledsoe:

"Connor plays his heart out every game and this one was no different. He played well and it just happened to be that this game was his record breaking game."

On his relationship with Trey Griffey:

"I'm trying to meet up with Trey after the game. We grew up and played Pop Warner together and his family has helped me out a lot since I was a kid. I've kept contact with him over the years. I didn't know this game was his career first start. He has worked hard all throughout high school and here (at Arizona) as well and it showed today."

Washington State junior quarterback Connor Halliday

On the win:

"It was a huge game by the offensive line. To be able to run the ball for more than 100 yards and the sacks that we had were coverage sacks. They gave me all day to throw and it's tough when Arizona is dropping eight, it's going to take a little while for our guys to get open, so huge ups to the offensive line."

On defensive performance :

"It was great. Until the fourth quarter, nothing past five yards was really open. Arizona did a great job playing that soft Cover Two, and they gave us nothing on the outsides. Gabe (Marks) didn't have a catch, so Arizona took him away. It was a heck of a job by the receivers to stay in the game and be patient. They stayed in it mentally, and when the time came, everybody made plays."

On Washington State's last touchdown:

"We got down the field on the last drive and missed the field goal but we moved the ball pretty well there and made big plays. I had a feeling that we were going to be able to put something together and the boys up front really helped out on that."