

Northern Arizona at Arizona
Arizona Stadium | Fri., Aug. 30, 2013
Postgame Quotes

Arizona head coach Rich Rodriguez

Opening statement:

"It was a solid performance tonight. We had some issues execution-wise offensively but the defense was good and they played hard. NAU played hard today, as well, and they have a good team. Our guys were tuned in tonight. It was nice to get a win and see some of the new guys play for the first time."

On senior quarterback B.J. Denker:

"He was pretty solid tonight and he made some good decisions. He made lots of plays in the running game and made some good reads. He had some throws that I'm sure he would like to have back, but he had his eyes in the right places."

On the freshmen:

"We had a lot of freshmen play. Scooby Wright, Devin Holiday and Derek Turituri played a lot. All of the special teams had true freshmen on them. The crowd was nice and the Zona Zoo was terrific so it made a nice atmosphere, and I'm sure some of the freshmen were nervous, so that helped. I'm excited that they got their first action as a Division I player."

On what the team needs to do better:

"We need to throw the ball better and convert more third downs. We had a lot of third and shorts that we didn't execute. NAU did well to stop us but there was a lot of lack of execution that got us off the field after third downs. We should have had more first downs because once we get a few, we start to roll."

Arizona senior quarterback B.J. Denker

On the game:

"We got the victory so that's all I was hoping for. The stats weren't off the charts but we got the win and I'm happy about that."

On earning the start:

"My job isn't safe because I got this win. I have to work hard every week and watch film. I can't be relaxed and I'm not going to be."

On NAU's defensive adjustments:

"There were some reads I missed on my part. I'll take the blame for that. There were a couple throws I should have made. That's not going to happen again. We're going to get into the film room and fix that."

Arizona senior running back Daniel Jenkins

On the 91-yard run:

"The offensive line did a great job. The hole opened up like the Red Sea and I just took it."

On being back in the program:

"In warm-ups, I took half a lap around the field in excitement. It was great being back out there in the stadium."

Arizona junior safety Tra'Mayne Bondurant

On his interceptions:

"I just read the quarterback's eyes. I dropped back into my zone, he looked at me once so I tried to bait him but he looked away. When he looked back I knew the ball was coming so I made sure I didn't drop it. I helped my defense get off the field so it's always good to do that. Getting a touchdown on defense is always good. I got the interception just off of playing hard so my coach will be happy for that."

On his interceptions:

"We always knew those guys could play. We have confidence in our young players. We have young guys ready to step up and we're proud of them."

Arizona senior linebacker Jake Fischer

On the win:

"It's always good to get a win; it's even better to get a shutout. We played a little sloppy at times but they're a pretty good offensive team. Tra'Mayne (Bondurant) is always around the ball. The ball gravitates to him and he makes plays for us. He's a ball player and he makes a ton of plays for us."

On freshman linebacker Scooby Wright

"He's always going 100 miles an hour. Sometimes it gets him into trouble but other times it helps him make plays. Once he learns all the little details, he'll probably be an All-Pac-12 linebacker."

Arizona senior defensive lineman Sione Tuihalamaka

On having more experience with the defense:

"We've been under the defense for another year so we're a bit more experienced. We're a little more physical and smarter. We just go out there and play."

Northern Arizona head coach Jerome Sours

Opening Statement:

"Obviously, I'm disappointed in the outcome. To play a game like this when you play up a division, you've got to bring your best. Our team came in well-prepared. A couple of things happened that kind of let the game away from us. I thought Arizona executed very well on the opening drive. Took us a while to get used to the speed and tempo of their offense but we got better as the game went. The back-break was when we had them pinned inside the five-yard line and we had a particular defense on that required a perfect gap cancellation. We didn't have it and Arizona exploited it. We didn't have a player in a gap and Daniel Jenkins went untouched and went the whole way. That's what can happen with that kind of offense. You have to be really disciplined with your approach. That and the tipped interception to start the second half really took any momentum that we had out of the game. Our guys stayed through it and fought through it. We had a few injuries and a few guys who were dinged. I just sensed that it was a sloppy game. Some of the tipped balls, fumbled punts-- it occurred to me that it was a sloppy game. For us, I know that we can improve and I like to think that we could play a lot better. We need to give credit to our opponents. Some positives that I saw there were some of our young guys stepped up to make plays in place of some injured guys and they got better as the game went."

On quarterback Kyren Poe:

"I'm proud of Kyren and his first start. He showed great poise for a young guy. He made some nice throws and managed our offense well. A couple of critical penalties hurts us as we tried to score, especially the one time that we were inside the five, and the penalty took us out was tough. The timing of the penalties was difficult. We've just got to get better next week."

On Arizona's offense:

"As for defense, it was really trying to match the speed that Arizona's offense runs. With that type of offense, it takes time to adjust to it. Our coaches and players didn't panic. We decided what we tried to do and we got better. We read better, we made tackles better and started to make some plays."

NAU sophomore quarterback Kyren Poe

Thoughts on the game:

"As an offense, we moved the ball pretty well. The way we started off the second half was not ideal. When you are playing against a good defense like that, they are going to be making plays on the ball."

Thoughts entering the second half:

"I don't think I entered the second half with any more confidence than the first half, I approached both of the halves the same way."

On the interception in the second half:

"The first one was just a good play, the guy blitzing off the edge, that was the read of the game plan we were trying to do. We knew there was going to be a void in the defense. I just need to change my arm angle; he just made a good play on it and tipped it up in the air. Fast defense like that is going to make plays. The second one sailed on me a little bit. The ball got tipped in the air again and they made a play on it."

NAU senior running back Zach Bauman

On being back in Tucson:

"The feeling when I come into an atmosphere like this is great, especially getting the opportunity to play a Pac-12 team."

On what NAU did well:

"I think we moved the ball well, we got down to the red zone and had a couple opportunities. But we kind of killed ourselves on some drives."