

Arizona at Washington Post-Game Quotes

Husky Stadium

Sept. 28, 2013

Arizona Head Coach Rich Rodriguez

Opening Statement:

The effort seemed like it was pretty good, but the execution wasn't there all day in certain areas. That was disappointing because we thought our guys were ready to play. I thought they would handle the environment, the weather and all that. We just didn't play well at times and our guys understand that. We'll watch the film and as I told the team, everyone has to get better. That includes them and the coaches, myself included.

On how much the conditions affected the game:

The conditions probably affected both teams offensively. The wind wasn't as bad as we thought, but it was raining so hard that the ball was wet. I think both teams were struggling in the passing game with that. Both teams actually held onto the ball well because usually you'd see more fumbles with weather like this. I know when we watch the film there are going to be things we are disappointed with.

On what he thought of quarterback B.J. Denker:

Some good and some bad. There were times he competed really well and there were some egregious errors that he knows better than. It's pretty obvious when you see things and you are like – gosh, you shouldn't do that. He's a smart guy though, he'll learn from that. To beat a pretty good football team at their place, you have to play a clean game at every position, but especially at quarterback.

On what he thought of the defensive performance:

I thought we played pretty well in the first half. In the second half, I didn't think we tackled as well and we didn't get off blocks well. I think that was a big part of it, getting off blocks. They broke more tackles in the second half than we had given up all season, I think.

On whether there was a part in the game when he was encouraged with what he is seeing:

There were moments, I think. The effort and the focus was there whole time. It wasn't like our guys ever panicked. It would have been nice when we got the momentum going to get a stop on defense or another big play on offense to get the lead. We never really made them face any adversity. You have to give them credit for that.

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Arizona Players

QB B.J. Denker

Were the conditions as difficult as they seemed from the stands?

Yeah, definitely in the first half. The rain was coming down hard. It was cold. The ball was slippery. First half was the worst. The second half wasn't too bad, but the first quarter and definitely throughout the whole second quarter was pretty bad.

Have you ever played in anything like that before?

No, not really. No, not with the rain being as strong as it was, with the wind being as strong as it was, and it being cold at the same time. No, that's the first experience.

Did the crowd atmosphere have anything to do with it?

Honestly, I didn't think they were as loud as I thought they were going to be, probably because of the rain, there just probably wasn't as many people that were here. I don't know if they sold out or not. No, it wasn't a factor really. We worked on it all practice all week, just getting the call to the line and doing our silent count. It wasn't really that big of an issue.

Did you feel like you were able to adjust to the weather at all in the first half?

You can only do so much. You've got to keep the dry as possible. My hand was constantly wet. Stay moving on the sidelines. You can try. At the end of the day, it was pretty tough. But that's not an excuse of how I played. [I've] still got to get the job done no matter what. Keith Price was playing in the same conditions, so I don't have an excuse.

How do you make sure you adhere to Coach Rodriguez' 24-hour policy and come back to practice positive and ready to go?

Once we start practicing, I'm not going to be thinking about how terrible I played tonight. I don't know if I can really respect the 24-hour policy personally. It was just a terrible individual performance on my part, but when I cross the white lines for practice, my head's going to be clear. But when I go home and lay my head down at night, it's probably going to be a little bit of different story.

Did the weather play into the lack of execution for you or was it just a rough game?

The first half was pretty rough. Nerves. First time playing on the road. In this atmosphere. My execution part, mentally, was probably not as sharp as I wanted it to be. That's my fault.

Did [the Huskies] do anything in particular to take the deep throw away?

They were just pressing our outside guys, not giving us easy throws. So I had to hang in the pocket a little longer, but they didn't do anything out of the ordinary crazy. They weren't blitzing very often. It was on me, just not taking what they gave me and not making the right decision on a right play.

Could you tell they were bigger, stronger, faster than the guys you played in the first three weeks?

Yeah, I mean, obviously, they're a Pac-12 opponent. That's why you play in the Pac-12, because you have bigger, faster athletes. But I don't think it was anything we couldn't handle. Our offensive line was fine. Ka'deem ran the ball well. When I got hit, it wasn't like my whole body broke. It hurt like every other hit. These guys weren't superhuman out there.

You talked about nerves, was your poise about what you wanted it to be?

I'm nervous before every game. That first quarter, first couple drives, you want to try to move the football so you can get rid of those nerves, and when you go three-and-out three or four times in a row, you can't really get in a rhythm and the nerves are still there. You've got to play through it. You've got to perform, and that's why we play at an elite level and I didn't do that tonight.

Offensive Lineman Chris Putton

What do you take away from that?

I just think the offense didn't execute as well as we should have. I don't think it was anything about the rain or the noise. We practiced with noise all week. We practiced with dunking the footballs in a bucket of water all week, so I don't think it was any of that. We just didn't execute our plays.

Getting off to the five straight three-and-outs to start the game, did that just seem like something weird?

We just started off sluggish. We didn't come out to play. It was just not how our offense usually comes out and plays.

As his teammate, how do you make sure you keep B.J. [Denker] positive and moving forward?

He still had a great game overall, just a few mistakes. We stand behind our quarterback no matter what happens in the game.

When you go into halftime and you're only down 5 points despite the slow start, were you guys feeling pretty good at that point?

We were definitely confident in our defense. I knew the offense was going to come out the second half and definitely improve on our first half performance, but I don't know. I don't know what happened.

Was their defensive front notably harder to deal with?

Honestly, not. I think our coach did a great job getting us prepared for all of their defensive fronts. Like I said, I just don't think we executed as well as we should have.