

Illinois Head Coach Bill Cubit Postgame Quotes

Wisconsin 24, Illinois 13

Memorial Stadium // October 24, 2015 // Attendance: 45,438

Opening Statement:

"First, I'd like to give credit to Wisconsin. I think they're a pretty good football team. I think defensively, they played a lot of man-to-man this game, a lot more than we had seen on tape. I think the third downs, you know, just seems like the third and one we tried so many different things and we keep on coming up short there. We drop a third and two, which could have helped us out. I think we give up more than what we should in third and long. But we still kept fighting. I mean we had the touch down by Ke'Shawn {Vaughn} and we get them down there in the kickoff team and then they break off a 56 yarder. I thought that gave them a lot more momentum.

We just didn't make the plays. They did, we didn't. I thought our kids fought, even until the very end. I give those guys a lot of credit. They kept on fighting, but we just weren't good enough today. That's not lack of passion. There's a lot of season left. I think there's a lot of good things that could really happen with this football team and we'll just get back to work on Monday and get these kids ready for the next one."

On the Pressure Placed On Wes Lunt Amidst Player Injuries:

"He's got to be great. He's got to be great every single game. That's what we mention at the end. The kid is back there, and we've kept him clean for the most part. Today was probably the most pressure he's faced but he's handling it great. He's got to get us in a good place. Sometimes it gets a little frustrating, I understand that, you've got makeshift {lineups} and you've got to play the game close to perfect."

On Wisconsin Quarterback, Bart Houston:

"I thought he played well, I thought he played really well. He had a couple picks down in the red zone, but he didn't seem phased as much on the other side. Sometimes a second-string guy comes in and they don't have as much confidence because they're not as used to it, but I thought the kid played really well and I give the kid a lot of credit."

On How the Team Plans to Come Back From Today's Loss:

"I told them in there, I think the true measure of a man is not that you get knocked down. It that when you get knocked down, you've got to get back up. I think that's what we've got to do. We've got to realize, we've got to go in there, and we've got to watch the tape. Everybody's got to man up, coaches, players, and we've got to fix it."

Illinois Player Postgame Quotes

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Illinois WR Geronimo Allison

On today's game:

"I am disappointed. I feel like we kind of let this one slip away. I feel like we have to watch film, learn from our mistakes, and just move on and not dwell on it."

On moving forward:

"We did not give up. We continued to fight through it and tried to give ourselves opportunities to win. I think that speaks a lot for our team. We just have to stay strong and play together and good things will happen."

Illinois QB Wes Lunt

How tough is it to get things going against a defense of that caliber?

"They're a good defense. There were times when we moved the ball well. We can't take one play for granted because it can change the game. The third and one was huge; it changed the momentum. We just have to keep fighting."

On Vaughn's touchdown:

"That was huge. It was a great run by him. I checked run and he made things happen and it really got our sideline going. But, then they [Wisconsin] drove down and scored and that kind of knocked the wind out of us."

On what is expected of him:

"Coach Ryan Cubit came up to me and said, 'We are expecting perfection,' so they expect me to be perfect. I think that is a good challenge to have, but it's hard."

Illinois DB Caleb Day

On playing both ways

"Maybe in practice I'm a little tired, but that is the way it is going to be. I feel like this is getting me really in shape, playing on special teams, offense and defense; I am ready for it."

Wisconsin Head Coach Paul Chryst Postgame Quotes
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Opening statement

It's a good win against a good Illinois team. I'm proud of the way the guys kept playing. You never know how each game goes. That's why you play the game. Guys stepped in, guys stepped up and found a way to win it and you appreciate that from this group.

On the condition of injured QB Joel Stave

He says he's feeling alright now, which is good. He went out and doctors went through the protocol. He went back in for that one drive. You could tell the way he wasn't getting the plays. Thought, 'you know what, you just don't know.' He was cleared but we thought Bart [Houston] was going to be our best chance on it. I thought Bart did some good things. Two plays in the red zone we'd like to have back.

On QB Bart Houston

He enjoyed getting the chance to go play. It didn't seem too big for him. I thought he competed. I thought he stood in there. He made some throws and that was good. Certainly a couple he would like back. I thought he competed and he played and that's fun to see.

On WR Alex Erickson

I thought Alex [Erickson] owned his performance today. I thought Alex was big on third down. They were blocked well but I thought he ran extremely well. I think when you have a situation like what happened today guys need to step in. I thought Alex did that in a big way.

On the injury situation

I think you have to react positively. Whether it's football or whatever, life's about making choices and how you choose to respond to something. To give our team the best chance, members of the team need to respond positively. That can challenge you, but it's opportunity and you have to seize the opportunity.

The players are responding to the opportunities and the challenges. We were talking about Alex Erickson, what a huge contribution. Defensively we had a lot of guys do some really good things. You don't have everyone, but you still got enough and that's the beauty of it.

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RB Alec Ingold:

On QB Bart Houston's play:

"It's a little bit different not having Joel (Stave) in there to lead us, but Bart stepped in great. We take two reps all the time, so he was comfortable with the guys."

On his touchdown run:

"There was a clear path. The game plan was there was going to be a backside safety. I just had to score, and that's what happened."

NT Olive Sagapolu:

On stopping the offense:

"Coming in we wanted to match the offensive lines physicality, and I felt like we did that. We got pressure and created some turnovers."

FS Tanner McEvoy:

On overcoming injuries:

"It's part of the game. Luckily we've got guys that can step up and fill in their role. It's part of the game like I said. We've just got to roll with the punches."

LT Tyler Marz:

On if he was surprised they ran the ball to his side for the touchdown:

"No that's a play that we pride ourselves in. We were on the three-yard line. When you're a Wisconsin lineman you want to run the ball behind you and stuff it in the end zone."

OLB Joe Schobert:

On the defensive performance:

"I think we did good. The wind was really gusting in one direction. We really put that in the back of our mind, knowing that they wouldn't take that many deep shots going that way on the field and playing against the things that you know are going to come because of that. On the flip side, when they do have the wind you know that they could take shots. I don't think we had any sacks today, but we were able to affect him a little bit, make him rush some decisions, throw some balls that weren't the best decisions and limit the run game."