

Illinois Head Coach Bill Cubit Postgame Quotes

Illinois 14, Nebraska 13

Memorial Stadium // Oct. 3, 2015 // Attendance: 40,138

Opening Statement:

"I don't even know what to tell you. All I can do is tell you about the kid's resolve on the sidelines, never believing they were going to lose. They just kept it up the whole time there. You know we used up all our timeouts. The defense got a stop. Offense, you know, we had a pretty tough day up until that big catch there. We tried three different routes with Geronimo down there and figured one of them is going to work. He is a tough guy to follow out there. We really thought he could get himself open. We lost Josh early and a lot of the game plan went out the window, because we were going to use a lot of two-back formations and you know we lose him. Defensive was outstanding, unbelievable. I think he (Teddy Armstrong) only threw for 105 yards and he was 10-of-31. Defensive just played lights out. Offensively, you know we had a lot of yards, but we didn't do real well early. We should have had 10 points right off the bat there, or more. But I'm not stunned because of the type of kids we got. Boy, I'm sure proud of those kids and I'm just happy to be here."

Where this win ranks all-time for him:

"Personally, it might be the best. This team has faced so much adversity. What I like about it is we have that Illini spirit up there and I talk about that all the time. I don't like a lot of different slogans; that's not me. That's what we live by, that Illini Spirit and that's all we live by. So you know today before we went out there I talked to them about visualizing success. I told them to, 'close your eyes and envision what it's going to be like with 0:00 on the clock. When you walk off that field and that bands playing and those fans are cheering you one.' It's unbelievable that that's what happened."

On Nebraska's choice to throw at the end:

"You put it in your best players' hands, Armstrong. We lucked out. On fourth down it wouldn't have made a difference because the clock stopped the one before that. They probably thought they had the knockout punch again. Our kids just refused to get beat."

On Wes Lunt's long pass to Malik Turner on the last drive:

"Malik you got one shot at it big guy, you got to go make the play and he did. What a great throw by Wes. And I'm glad he didn't score as we look back now, because they would've had more time. You know Malik wasn't playing all that well but he got it when it counted. If you watch the sidelines our kids were fired up, they didn't give up. They were fighting, fighting, fighting all the way through, and you really got to tip your hat to those kids."

Illinois Player Postgame Quotes

Illinois 14, Nebraska 13

Memorial Stadium // Oct. 3, 2015 // Attendance: 40,138

QB Wes Lunt

On making the final drive count:

"I think we did a heck of a job moving the ball today. I just don't think we did a good job of putting it in the end zone. That's something we did last week, but this week we never gave up. Our defense didn't give up in that last possession, and the offense never had any doubt going onto the field with that time. It was just an awesome win and I'm really happy for our guys and for the program."

On what was going through his mind in the last minute of the game...

"I was excited that we had 55 seconds. {The clock} could've been down but we estimated about 30 seconds, so that extra 20 seconds was crucial for us. It was an awesome team win. Our defense played well all day, just a great win."

On the pass plays to Geronimo Allison at the goal line...

"Find your playmaker. There's no secret who my go-to guy is. I told Geronimo, 'we have a lot of time and those are the one-on-one's we practice every day.' I have complete trust in Geronimo and he came down with a big play."

LB Mason Monheim

On what changed for him this week...

"We play our game. We're going to set the tempo and they're going to react off of us so we keep it pretty basic. We have great staff to put us in great positions. As players we go out there, we stick together and we get it done."

On what he saw in the defensive line today...

"The same thing I see in practice. They show up, they work and they play. It makes it easy on us in the back end. There are some workhorses out there. All of them: Rob Bain, Jihad Ward, Dawuane Smoot, Chunky Clements; they're unbelievable. They had a great game but we have a few more games left to get it done."

WR Geronimo Allison

On when the play was called in the fourth quarter...

"I visualized the night before, and the whole week, to play your line. I knew he was going to give me a chance and put it up there."

On when he knew he was going to be open:

"I knew I was going to be open when the ball was snapped, even before the snap. I knew I had to get open and that it had to happen."

On having the responsibility in a situation like today...

"I think it just shows that they trust me in those situations. They trust that I could make a big play for the team."

Nebraska Head Coach Mike Riley Postgame Quotes
Illinois 14, Nebraska 13
Memorial Stadium // Oct. 3, 2015 // Attendance: 40,138

Opening statement:

"Obviously today was a tough loss. We take our hats off to Illinois for fighting to the end. It has come down to the wire in the last three of our five games this season, so at some point we are going to have to find the answer."

On continuing to throw the ball even with the bad weather...

"Well I thought earlier in the game our throwing was going good. The first pass of the game was a good throw. Ultimately we were trying to make plays, and we were doing so, for a while."

On the three tough losses this year...

"Well this one was definitely interesting. I'm going to say what I have said before. This loss was similar to other losses that we have had this year, and I've given them the same speech. Each time the reaction is the same and then we go out and have a good week of practice. We just have to finish the job."

On his thoughts of the final drive...

"Well I was surprised somebody got that far behind us in quarters coverage. I thought they competed the whole game. It took them some plays to finally get that rhythm they wanted, and they showed us when it was all on the line."

Confusing series of downs after halftime...

"We knew what had happened. They lost track. That was actually the fifth down of the drive. We knew that before the refs confirmed it."

On the loss...

"I don't ever remember losing a game like this. I hope we don't have to weather any more games like this. It's very tough for them {the team}. To lose three close games on the last couple plays is rough for anyone."

Nebraska Player Postgame Quotes

Illinois 14, Nebraska 13

Memorial Stadium // October 3, 2015 // Attendance: 40,138

Nebraska DE Jack Gangwish

On how the defense played as a whole:

"Any time you can shut a team out for three quarters, obviously that's a positive. We did hold them to 14 points, again that's a positive. I think we grew as far as our pass pressure is concerned. The goal is for the opponent to score zero points so that's our attitude right now."

On his involvement in today's game after his elbow injury:

"I'm still in the recovery process for my injury so I was somewhat limited. The idea was to give me some important snaps but for me not to take all the snaps. Pretty much the whole game I was fighting to get out there."

On Illinois' performance this season compared to last season

"Those boys are a good opponent. They went out there, they executed well and they played a hell of a game."

Nebraska FB Andy Janovich

On how the team plans on coming back from this loss:

"We've just got to keep our heads up, keep working and that's really all we can do. Just go into next week ready, prepared as a team."

On what he has to do as a senior leader to keep young players' morale up:

"We've just got to let them know it doesn't matter what happens we just go to keep going out there, we've got to play. It's all about pride now. We just got to keep going."

On the team's overall attitude after three losses this season:

"We just got to stay strong, really. There's nothing else we can do. We're all we got."

Nebraska LB Chris Weber

On his comfort level on the field and how it has increased:

"I feel more comfortable out there. I've had a couple games under my belt. You can always get better and that's what I'm trying to do."

On the loss in general:

"Every loss hurts. It was a gut punch. We need to come together and start winning some games. It's a long season and didn't exactly go how we wanted it to starting off, but we've got to come together, play for each other, play for these coaches. We'll be all right."

On the team's biggest strengths during the game:

"As a defense I thought we played our best complete game. At Southern Miss we played a good half. Against these guys we really played a complete game but we can always get better. I think the coverage would be the biggest improvement."