

**Illinois Head Coach Bill Cubit Postgame Quotes**  
**Illinois 52, Kent State 3**  
**Memorial Stadium // Sept. 5, 2015 // Attendance: 36,693**

*Opening statement:*

"The last 24 hours have been a little unique with the game. First of all, I'd like to really credit Tim Knox and the rest of the football operation guys, making it so easy on us. There were a lot of logistics going on with the cancelation of the game. Jason Lener and the administration, the staff, they did an outstanding job; they helped our student-athletes as best as they possibly could. Our student-athletes getting back out there, knowing what they have to do to play the game in a quick turnaround. And, our coaches did a fabulous job of keeping them focused, keeping them on the task, and they came out and they played. I was really impressed early. I thought our defense came out and set a tone. The defensive staff, with Coach Banks and Coach Phair leading them, they played with pretty good swagger. Offensively, we scored quickly. I thought we did some really good things there and [Wes] Lunt played under control. One thing we have to do is catch the ball a little better, but we'll get that thing done. Everybody played and everyone became a part of it, so there were a lot of happy faces out there. Guys who had never been in a college football game got to play, and now they can go out there after the game and give a big hug to mom and dad. That's what's so special about college football."

*On the mentality of the team:*

"I just really enjoy these kids. To see them go out there and play with such physicality, giving everything they've got. It was just something special to see. I keep telling them it's all about the team, and I must have repeated it 20 times. We talk about togetherness, and just to see them react and respect {each other}, where everyone was pulling for each other, the offense, the defense, and the special teams. That's what is rewarding to me. The score is great, but to see how the kids react in such a unique situation is really comforting. We've got a chance to be pretty good. I know we have a lot to work on, but they're having fun in the locker room right now."

*On Fedejelem's tackle on Kent State's 50-yard pass play:*

"The play of the game to me was Fedejelem. They had a fifty-some yard play and Fedejelem gave it everything he got and stopped the guy, and then we ended up blocking the field goal. To me, that's what togetherness and teamwork is all about."

*On the defense's performance:*

"I noticed the difference from where I was standing because I saw guys flying around. There was a lot of good speed out there, a lot of physicality, and that was great to see. I told our staff that when they get a three-and-out, I want every staff member out there congratulating them. I want them to feel like when they're coming off, that they did an unbelievable job."

*On the progression of the team since he got to Illinois:*

"We look like a Big Ten team. This might be the first year since I've been here that all around, offensive and, defensive line that we look like those type of teams we play against."

## **Illinois Player Postgame Quotes**

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### **Illinois QB West Lunt**

*On the impact of the defense today:*

“It was a complete team effort, and our field position was incredible”

*On his touchdown catch in the second quarter:*

“It’s been a really smooth transition. Coach Cubit has been a head coach before. He brought some things that Coach Beckman didn’t, but he kept a lot of the things the same just to keep the players and coaches comfortable. He just did a good job of smoothing things over for us.”

*On the game plan:*

“We had a really good game plan. Everything we thought they were going to do, they did. The coaches did a really good job of preparing us.”

### **Illinois LB Mason Monheim**

*On difference in the defense from the last couple years:*

“The savvy we had, and just flying around, and I think there were hats everywhere, playing down hill, and making plays in the secondary. I think we had the most depth we had, but I think the biggest thing is we set a standard. We set a standard early, and us leaders, and even the younger guys, are making us uphold to that standard.”

*On the defense gaining confidence:*

“We gain confidence from our coaches. They’re the ones calling the plays and we’re all in this together. There are three minutes left in the game and Coach Banks is over there yelling what offensive play they’re running. He didn’t stop and that’s the kind of things we like to see.”

*On his interception:*

“I was just doing my normal drop in that coverage and the ball presented itself. It’s funny because last year, week one, about the same pass was thrown to me in the same coverage and I dropped it, so it was nice to get the catch. I wish we had scored, but it was fun.”

### **Illinois WR Geronimo Allison**

*On the versatility this offense has with the weapons:*

“It helps the offense a lot because coming up with all the different opponents, they aren’t going to be able to key one guy. He’s going to move the ball around and, if the guys are prepared and are making plays, it’s going to continue to be like that. It just makes it tougher on our opponent and tougher for us, if everybody is holding themselves accountable and playing their role.”

**Kent State Head Coach Paul Haynes Postgame Quotes**  
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*Opening statement:*

“Again, you know, not how we wanted to come out and play. You know, when you play against a team that is more athletic than you, you turn the ball over, you don’t play well with special teams, you give up big plays, those things, it’s going to get lopsided real fast. But there are a lot of young guys out there that got experience for us in the first game, there are a lot of things that we can look at the film and say ‘this is what we did well, this is what we have to get better at’ and that’s what we will do. You go into the locker room {and see} a lot of guys hanging their heads. Yeah we’re disappointed that we got beat, but this is a long process and journey and we will continue to grind it out and keep fighting.”

*On the fast start to the game...*

“The first five minutes of the game are so important and that was the case. Anytime you go and play a Power Five conference or a Big Ten school that’s it. If the first five minutes of the game you get down 21-0 real fast, it’s tough to climb out of. This was a team that was playing with a lot of emotion, playing with a lot of energy, had a lot of things to prove.”

*On the effect delaying the game had on the team...*

“I have no idea. I don’t want to sit there and say that there is. They made plays and we didn’t, and we made mistakes.”

*On finding aspects to build on...*

“There are a lot of young guys out there, we probably played six to seven freshmen, true freshmen, that are going to be good football players for us down the road. Those are the things off the top of the head that you sit there and look at. We knew that this game was going to be tough, we knew that this was going to be a tough opponent for us matchup-wise, but the things that we want to accomplish and the style of play that we want to play, we want to make sure that we did that and we got that accomplished in that game”

*On Kent State’s female kicker...*

“April. Yeah, oh yeah, I would love to get April in a game sometime. Not just because she’s a female, she earns it. She works her tail off. She’s the first one out there in practice and the last one off the field. So, I would love for her to get an opportunity her senior year to get in the game. Probably from the ten yard line in is her automatic distance. It’s always team first; I’m not going to put the team in a bad situation for her to go in the game. But like I said, before the year is out she’ll get out there. I promise you that.”