

Illinois Player Quotes

Illinois 23, North Carolina 48

Memorial Stadium // 9/10/2016 // Attendance 60,670

Senior Quarterback Wes Lunt

On his thoughts about the game:

“You know we were pretty confident coming in. I think you could see that from the start of the game just how we played with energy. I think our biggest thing as a team is once things go wrong how do we respond. I think that’s something that we need to continue to work on. We’re one and one after tonight. That’s not how we wanted it to go, but we’ve got to get better at responding to adversity.”

Senior Linebacker Hardy Nickerson

On how to respond to the loss:

“You know its always tough to lose games. But we have an older group that knows how to respond. The first thing is we have to watch the film. We have to swallow it. There’s no pointing fingers. Everybody on the defense made a mistake. We can only get better from here, and we take that attitude into practice. Really drill down on the fundamentals. Really drill down on the technique. Really drill down on what everyone is supposed to do, and make sure we keep everybody accountable.”

Running Back Kendrick Foster

On what went wrong for the offense:

“We were in the game. We scored quick and were up. But those penalties shot us in the foot. They hindered us, and shifted the momentum back to North Carolina. The defense made great stops, and we had good field position but we just couldn’t execute which is a momentum killer.”

Senior Offensive Lineman Joe Spencer

On his run:

“Its just another threat on film for the other teams to think about. It was surreal. Obviously we don’t want that hit on Wes, but I saw the ball on the ground and thought with Coach Smith it’s scoop and score. So I just started running.”