

Temple vs. USF

10/21/16

Matt Rhule

Introduction...

"I appreciate everyone coming. Obviously that was just an extremely tremendous win for us as a team. That was a team win. The offense put up 528 yards, rushing for 319 yards that takes a lot of guys. To throw for 209 yards was great. To not turn the ball over was obviously huge for us. To be 10 of 16 on third down was huge. To possess the ball for almost 40 minutes was huge. That is a tremendous offense USF have. Quinton Flower was like a video game out there. For us to be able to hang in there helped us win. There were some bad moments and early penalties in the first half. Kick off team early was hard but we just kept settling down and growing up. A blocked punt and a blocked PAT were both game changers. We lost a safety and I thought maybe we weren't going to have another. I am really excited and proud for all the guys on the team. It is one thing when one guy does it, but when they all contribute to the win it is awesome. They were a tremendous team. They were a well coached team. Our guys hung in there. We got to half time a regrouped. They held strong through the four quarter and found a way to make a couple more plays. I told the team that this has been a growing process. I hoped as they came into this game that they would learn from their mistakes. They have gotten better each game. I think that we have a group of men in that locker room now. It's not what happens to you or how old you are in your life, it is about how you respond to what happens to you. They just kept responding and that was a great win for us."

On Running Game tonight...

"It was everybody tonight. A couple big runs came back. For Isaiah to be a true freshman and to be running the way that he is running is amazing. To be Ryquell, a sophomore, and be running the way he was. Jahad had big plays too. I thought it was really special. A lot of credit goes to the offensive line. They had some penalties early but they settled down. I give credit to the Tight Ends. I give credit to Nick Sharga, he had a couple big pickups at the full back belly. IT is a bunch of different guys making some plays. To me making big throws and catches in the third down to keep us on the field is essential. The ball to Ventell was huge. We have a chance to catch that last one but he slipped. I think it was patience and balance. Again if you don't turn the ball over or have a lot of penalties in the second half you are able to run the football affectively."

How did you prepare for splitting up the carries...

"I had someone standing next to me the whole time giving me the number of carries for Ryquell, Isaiah and Jahad. They are both different at different things. We don't run Ryquell a lot on all the spread stuff."

We got into that game and saw it was going to be a power football game. There is a way to win every game Bill Parcell said that and I believe it. We got in the game and saw the down field passing game was going to be there, in terms of some of the throws we threw at the end of the half. It looked like the power run game was going to be there so we stayed with it.”

Do the high scoring games affect you...

“No, I think that game makes us 15-0 when we score 28 points in a game. We just tell our offense try to score 28 and run for 154 yards. We have a very simple plan to win. We felt comfortable with the run game and the plan in place. We have done some things we haven’t done before. We just keep playing. Part of trying to stop these offenses is running the football. The possession time is something to notice. In the first half we had two eight minute scoring drives. That keeps a great offense like USF off the field.”

What were you trying to do defensively against Flowers...

“We probably called 20 different defensive calls. At the end of the game when they had to throw we were playing like we did against Greg Ward with a three man rush. Haason is the guy that gets the ball. We were playing coverage where when the quarter back takes off we were ready. Haason is probably the fastest guy on our defense so we utilize him to keep him in the pocket. With the empty stacks that they do we probably had 4 or 5 different calls. Really in that game we were trying to take away the big passing games and try to take away Flowers as best as you can and live with it. Sometimes we did, sometimes we didn’t.”

On Defensive Line...

“I thought as the game went on our D Line settled down and got more aggressive. Sometimes you play these guys and rush a little timidly. I thought they settled down and rushed aggressively. It shows up in the plays that they made.”

How have you seen Ryquell evolve this season...

“When Jahad was out early he was the feature back. He was running hard and well he just wasn’t hitting the long runs. Now he is obviously. That one play was Jahad to Ryquell. Last week we did it with Isaiah and Jahad. I thought that was a great play by Glen Thomas our offensive coordinator. It was great plan by George Deleon. They made a ton of in game adjustments to make sure that we got the right runs. We tried to use both RBs. I don’t want to understate Cole Boozer and Colin Thompson. They were at the point of attack on all those powers. They were winning the battle for us.”

On the play to Thompson...

"It was the same play we scored against Army on. Same play we scored against PSU. It is the same play we ran two weeks ago. You have to get the first down. That is a play Coach DeLeon brought here in 2006. I think Marcus Brown scored on it against Vanderbilt. It is a really tough play to defend because there is multiple options. It was a really smart call."

Is it safe to say you're comfortable with sending our Bomerhi for any situation...

"Yes obviously today. It was on the 35 yard line I said get him five and we are going to kick him. He was nailing kicking. I think you can see what his kick off future is going to look like as he gets more and more comfortable."

On Bomerhi:

"He is unbelievable. He literally just acts like it's not a big deal and goes out and kicks it. I think when he makes a kick the kids get so excited for him. We had one of the best kickers in the league with Austin. To replace him with a freshman walk on from two towns over from where I am from is crazy. He is a special kid and it has been great to have him step in and replace someone who we love in Austin so much."

On Jarred Alwan...

"Alwan really stepped up today. In more ways than just the tackles he made. With Avery Williams down and beat up Alwan really helped. I wish I could explain to you guys how much Avery Williams means to this football team. No other human I know would be out there but he is out there. He is playing extremely well through multiple injuries. I think Alwan stepped up because he was able to get us lined up. On some of those early drives no one was lined up the way we wanted to be lined up. They were going fast and giving all these crazy formations. Jarred settled us down and got us in the right spot. I thought it was tremendous effort by him."

Did the blocked punt let you establish the lead...

"Yes I thought that was crucial. Obviously down the stretch when it was seven point game. I gambled on the one. I thought that the penalty was in the end zone. It was either fourth and four or put them back there and go for it again. I gambled on our D line. I thought the QB had to leave the game. We said lets let out defensive line go. I think those were all crucial situations. The game goes fast for me after the game trying to remember everything. I thought we responded when they scored and that's what was

important this game. USF is a great football team. They have scored over 35 points for 11 straight games. In my mind I kept saying get to 36. I know how explosive they are, but we ended up making more plays.”

Does the momentum carry over...

“I think every time you win its great. Sometimes I think you learn more when you lose. When we lose I know they will be locked in this week. When we win I worry they won’t be ready. I have to give a lot of credit to our coaches. We got in at four am on Sunday. This is a Friday night game. I have coaches working 19 hours a week. No one has really slept this week. They work their tails off to get this game plan ready. Our kids really worked hard. Its more than momentum. I really believe that last year’s success we had as a team was built on the year we went 2-10 and 6-6. I know that sounds corny to your guys, but when you lose games you learn all these lessons and you learn how to win. Towards the end of last year we had some success that didn’t end the way we wanted it to. We come back this year and this kids have been doing a great job of learning from their losses. Memphis taught us to not let up. Last week we learned to not have a rough slow start. The penalties have got to stop.”

How important was Nate Smith...

“Khiry went down and is on crutches now. We already knew we were banged up. Nate was sort of a last minute game time decision. He said he could go. We played him a little. We also played Jyquis Thomas and had Benny Walls ready to go. There were a lot of guys that stepped up. Jeremiah Atoki obviously had a scary injury out there. Avery was hurt. Chapelle Russell, and Stephan Marshal both stepped up. We had a lot of young kids that stepped up and played well tonight.”

Was this the biggest AAC win...

“I mean there have been some others. Beating East Carolina when they were ranked was awesome. Last year beating UConn was huge too. I would say this was team that mirrored us. They line up and try to pound you. They are so athletic and physical. This was a huge win for us. As I told them in there, whatever you did tonight won’t matter if you lose next week. We have to get right back on the process that we do. It was a huge moment for us with Army, Memphis, and last week. To play as physical and as hard as we did, with everyone making up for each other was really awesome. Kickoff return got better as the game went on. Crump a true freshman runs the returner down and tackles him. There were just so many guys that contributed and had big plays and that’s what makes it a huge win for me. Obviously it gives us some leeway but that can all change in the blink of an eye so they better stay focused.”

On Ventell...

"He made some big plays. Marshal Ellick was out tonight and Ventell stepped up. I thought some of the plays PJ made from under center getting him the ball were huge. The catch he made on the sideline was a big time catch. Obviously Ventell is a special player. He is getting back to being healthy and not wearing the special pads anymore. He is going to ascend because he is really starting to figure out how to be a great player and a great teammate. He is really growing up in front of us."

On this being a similar position you were in last year...

"I am just proud that they have learned from those mistakes. I am proud that the young guys are growing up. I was proud that we played the way we played tonight. We played real Temple Football. It was physical. It was hard-nosed. We had some big plays. I told them you come to Temple because you want to get a great education, you want to go to school, you want to be coached by these guys, you want to be developed, but you also want to be playing in big time college football games. That was big time college football game. They have a dynamic quarter back, running back, and wide out. It was big time national TV football game. Temple is front an center. They need to go out and make the plays they were supposed to make and they did. I am very happy for the players."

What did you see in Armstead when he was in High School...

"I laugh because it was Franis Brown who saw everything in him. He was a fullback. He wasn't their starting tailback his junior year. They kept saying he is a good player. Phil said he can come here and play safety. He came to camp and he ran fast. I kept saying he was going to play safety here. His senior year tape said he was a running back. I said he doesn't look like a running back. I watched the film and I was like oh my goodness he is a running back. We had recruited some other guys that year and everyone was talking a lot about the other recruits. I kept saying this kids really going to be a good player. The thing with Ryquell is he is just learning to really handle himself. He was banged up this time last year but he is learning to take care of his body. He is learning to be a really great teammate. He is just really a good kid. Him and Jahad being able to play off each other is opening up so much."

How important is Nick Shargas role in these type of games...

"He is the key. Him, Colin Thompson, and Cole Boozer make the whole thing go. Obviously the offensive line does too. To me Sharga is a really big physical athletic tough kid. It is hard for teams to want to hit him that many times."

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Dion Dawkins

Talking about Ryquell he finds the extra bursts?

Yes he is extremely fast and as us lineman we just get to our land mark on the player that Ryquell is just going to bursts through

Can you talk about the tight end? Blocking -wise Coach Rhule was really praising them for the work they did?

They are hands down the most athletic people on the field and they are just as big as the offensive linemen and they move quick, with them on the line blocking it is extremely helpful and they just focus in on doing their job every play and it is very helpful.

How much pride do you take as a lineman when you see that your team had three hundred plus yards rushing?

It feels great as long as we keep doing what we are coached, the sky is the limit. We had a lot of penalties which is bad, but if we didn't have all of them imagine how many more yards we would have had.

Is it difficult to get the thought out of your mind that you guys are doing well?

Our thought for every week is one and zero, regardless if we are in last place or like where we are now. We are going to take it by week and continue to push forward.

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Aaron Boumerhi

Have most of your kicks been down the middle pretty much?

I try not to think about it. The form with kicking is to keep your head down so I doesn't mess your kick up. But after I finish my kick I look and rely on the guys up front.

In high school were you as automatic as you are now?

No I wasn't. In high school my team didn't have as many opportunities to kick. But I would say that I wasn't as automatic. Just this last nine months or so I really started to master my craft and focus on it more.

What is your longest kick?

My longest in a game UCF was my longest at 46 yards.

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Phillip Snow

Coach Rhule said that it's kind of obvious that Avery is huge to the defense and when he goes down how is it for someone like Chapellel to step up?

It was big. We had a lot of young guys step up today we just have to keep coaching them. We play really well, then we will let a drive slip by. We have to keep coaching them every week and watch them improve.

Your eight games in now how has this defense evolved from the dud against army?

The army offense is different and now we are playing against offenses we are used to facing. We are getting better every week and we hate to give up thirty, but we will regroup and get ready for Cincinnati.

How do you think you guys did against flower tonight?

We did a good job against him at times. They are always going to make plays it's just the touch down ones you want to stop. The late run that they got for a touchdown we told them it would bounce sideways, but that's something's that we have to correct and be better at.

What is the key to stopping them when they stack all those revivers wide?

They run two or three formations and early in the season they didn't run those and as the season went on nobody knew how to line up to them and they have been killing everybody with formations. Today

they ran a full house today and they have never shown that. We have a full house defense and we haven't run it for eight weeks and our guys just went right to it.

So what is the key?

We had two concepts we were going to cover them then blitz them. Like late in the first half we sacked him and got after the quarter back pretty good and then we blitzed him so we just tried to mix it up.

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Ventell Bryant

When did you feel like you took the next step to really become a leading receiver?

I defiantly felt like have been playing to the level that I know I could as the season has gone on, I never doubted myself and I always kept my spirits up to do whatever I could for the team.

It seemed especially early when picked up on that slant play. Was that something you picked up on?

Yes, their defensive backs played way off so we thought of a way to executed on a coverage like that

Did you know that you had that one on the side line that was originally called?

Yes, I knew I was stumbling a little bit but I'm glad I kept my composure and came down with it.

Will you guys build on this coming into Cincinnati and the rest of your conference schedule?

Yes this is a big win. But moving on to Cincinnati we need to take it one game at a time to accomplish what we need to accomplish.

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Ryquell Armstead

On how it felt to win the game...

"It felt great to go out there tonight and get a win for Temple and possible have a chance to be a conference champion again."

On his performance...

"I believe I played well today, but that speaks on the performance of the offensive line. Everything I achieved tonight should be credited to them. The holes were wide open at times and anyone could have run through, so I thank the offensive line for the opportunities they gave me."

On Nick Sharga...

"Nick Sharga is amazing. By the end of the third quarter he had USF players falling to their knees out of fear of making contact with him. To have a full back like him that blocks every play and gives his all is something that just does not happen often in college football."

On his development as a player...

"I am excelling. I get better every week. A main factor is making sure I take care of my body because last year I was injured. I make sure I pay attention to small detail and apply all the advice Jahad Thomas and the coaches give me."

On what has pushed his evolution...

"I am able to power players in the first and second quarter. My strategy is head-hunting; I don't run or shy away from contact. That way, by the end of the third quarter players do not want to tackle me."

On mindset in tonight's game...

"I wanted to work hard for my team and it showed. I am appreciative of my teammates. I want to apologize to the coaching staff and my team because I let my emotions get the best of me when I scored my second touchdown today and got a 15-yard penalty for it, which really could have hurt us. That is something that we do not condone."

On how Temple was able to control possession in first half...

"We just kept running the ball. We did not get tired, and if we did we subbed out the game. Jahad Thomas, Isaiah Wright, and I ran well. Nick Sharga and the offensive line continued to block fantastically. Ventell Bryant made great catches; Keith Kirkwood also made crucial catches. We were able to open up our run-game and our pass-game."

On milestones reached...

"It means a lot to me. I have worked very hard this entire season and it is really starting to show. Guys like Jahad Thomas and our whole coaching staff have put me in the right position to succeed. I think Jahad Thomas's leadership has really helped my game."

On healthy competition between himself and Jahad Thomas...

"I guess it would be healthy competition. That is something that we never talk about. We do not talk about yards or carries or anything like that. I love to compete with him. If I get into the game and score a touchdown, he wants to score a touchdown and vice versa. We really feed off of each other's energy."

On offers coming out of high school...

"I had about four offers coming out of high school, but Francis Brown believing in my ability gave me the edge I needed to come to Temple. Know that my coaches believe in me is special and I just want to compete and show them why they believe in me."

On experience as a track & field athlete...

"Track & Field has helped me tremendously. I have a very fast 40, which a lot of people do not believe. However, if I kick in my second gear it is evident that I have the speed. Being able to finish a run is very special to me."

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Praise Martin-Oguike

On the defensive line's performance...

"We had played really well our last few games, but we also understood the kind of competition we were up against. We went in with the mindset that we had to play through the whole game and that is just what we did tonight despite the difficulty."

On any adjustments made over the course of the game...

"We did not make any adjustments at all. We talked about what was going on in the game at that particular time. Our confidence really helped us and we knew eventually we would take control of the game."

On his block and secret to specializing in blocks...

"We practice that every day and really place emphasis on it. We know that realistically you will only get one or two blocks on a kick per season, but you never know when it is going to happen and how it could help the team. Last year, we blocked one that contributed to us winning that game. So we try to keep that mindset every time we compete. Usually those happen after a touchdown, so I try to think to myself 'no matter what happens you have to keep going.' It comes down to making that extra effort, but I believe there is some luck to it too."

On Romond Deloatch's development as a player...

"Deloatch is a tremendous athlete. He is very fast and has a knack for the ball. He played defensive end a little bit his freshman year at Temple. Additionally he got a lot of sacks in the spring game, so we've seen that ability before from him. He is a good pass rusher that looks like an NFL pass rusher. He has that edge and all of the tools you need to pass rush, so it is good to get him in situations like that. He always makes a play."

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Delvon Randall

On covering USF slot Rodney Adams...

"He was very, very quick. I just trusted the technique that I was taught and stayed on him. He's a good player, real good."

On what the team worked on leading up to the USF game...

"The biggest thing we worked on was details and communication. That's what helped us win tonight."

On playing defensive back against USF quarterback Quinton Flowers...

"It is very challenging, but we're taught to stay in coverage when he starts scrambling. We knew he was quick, he's a great player."

On tonight being his best game...

"I feel like tonight was my best game. I was very locked in and was concentrating on the details and did everything the coaches told us to do. So, yes, I felt like tonight was my best game."

On Temple football now being favorites...

"Maybe, but we can't let that effect our play. We just have to stay humble and come and do what we do."

On the emotion in the locker room compared to last week...

"Similar, but last week was a great game, a nail-biting game, but we enjoyed this one. A win is a win."

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Haason Reddick (DE)

On how the defense played tonight...

"Good, we held them to less points then we scored so it was the outcome we wanted. The defense did its job and the offense did its job and we came out with of good team win."

On building off this win...

"Do the same thing we did this week, next week. It's a process. We keep trusting the process and keep getting better."

On having to contain USF quarterback Quinton Flowers...

"I had to make sure he wasn't running all over the field like crazy. Tonight my job was spy him and make sure he wasn't doing that. That was my job and for the most part I feel like I did and the defense did and we had a great result. When the d-line flushed him out I knew I had to be right there in his face."

On the trust the coaches have in him...

"If they believe in me then I believe in myself. The defense believed in me to get the job done. If they didn't think I could do it they wouldn't have asked me. The fact that they asked me to (contain Flowers) I knew that everybody believed in me to do the job."

On the pace of the USF offense...

"Once the defense got used to the tempo and the pace it became much easier and then it just became about doing our job."

On playing stand-up defensive end and how that might attract NFL scouts...

"It shows my versatility. That I can do multiple things on the football field. And that I can do things without my hand on the ground."

On what the team gets out of this win...

“The thing that we get out of this, now that we are in the number one spot, is that people are going to keep coming after us and we cant relax. The big thing is that we must continue to play good football and win every game and get to that conference championship game.”

On how hard the road has been this year...

“Every year is different. Last season was last season. We had different players. But this year different guys had to step up and that is different. We didn’t expect everything to be same, but the goal was the same, to get back to the conference championship. So we got to continue to do what we’re doing and know that we’ll get there. We are treating every game like a conference championship game.

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Willie Taggart

We got physically dominated on both sides of the ball. We got outcoached. We didn’t do anything right as a football team, offensively, defensively, or special teams, piss poor. We just have to play better overall. First down is where it starts, were bad on first down. We can’t get off the field on third down, we can’t get off blocks, we can’t tackle, we have to do everything better. It’s just football 101, we need to put our kids in good positions to make plays.

On if tackling problems can be rectified...

It can be. First we have to put guys in a position to make the plays. If the guys can't do it then we'll have to put in someone else that can do it. Some of those missed tackles today are by some of the guys that we count on the most. The problem with this game is that some of our best players did not play their best when we needed them to. That's what hurts on both sides of the ball.

On penalty problems...

We had some selfish penalties in there that killed us in the game, then it goes back to just being fundamentally and technically sound when it comes to blocking so you don't get holding calls. The personal fouls are just selfish, we can't have selfish penalties, that kills your whole football team.

On the rushing defense's problems throughout the season...

It's a problem because it happened tonight. It's only happened twice this year where somebody ran on us like that. Again, we have to do a better job of tackling and putting our guys in the position to make plays, and making sure we have the right guys in there that will make the plays. It all goes back on me, I have to make sure that our defensive coaches are putting our guys in position to make the plays.

On the message to the team...

We will go home watch the film, and let them think about what we want to be and what we want to do. When they watch the film they need to be honest with themselves and see if the effort they put out was good enough. We have to regroup. We're not going to sit around and complain or cry, nobody is going to feel sorry for us, we have to get ready for Navy next week.

On what Temple did to your team...

They just ran the power. They kept running the power and we didn't stop them. They held the ball and we didn't get off the field defensively. Their plan worked."

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Nigel Harris

Mood in the locker room after the loss...

"We have to go and watch film and be hard on ourselves. We have a good game coming up next week against Navy. We have to find a way to come together and get the job done."

On the play calling of the Coach...

"We believe Coach is going to give us the right play calls. We have to change our mentality, especially when it comes to the run. We have to find some kind of motivation to stop that run because that is what's killing us. "

On remaining positive for the season...

"We always want to keep things positive. We have to keep things positive, continue to work hard, and keep getting better as far as schemes that Coach dials up for us. We have to make sure as a team to get the job done and make sure everyone knows their responsibilities. "

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Marlon Mack

On Temple's long drives...

"It wasn't frustrating, just got to be patient. We have to let our defense do the work; just have to be patient with it and know when we get our chance we have to take advantage of it."

On the status of starting QB Quinton Flowers...

"Quinton is going to be okay, he's an up attitude guy. He got a little banged up, but he'll be alright."

On the pressure to always score when on Offense...

"I wouldn't say we feel pressure, we just go and do our offense. In our offense, the goal is to score every time anyway, even when we do have to score. We just do what we have to do and that is to go and score points."