



AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP POSTGAME PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES

TEMPLE 34, NAVY 10

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016

Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium • Annapolis, Maryland

Most Outstanding Player: Phillip Walker, QB, Temple

TEMPLE HEAD COACH MATT RHULE

Opening Statement

It is an honor to come and play against the United States Naval Academy and Coach (Ken) Niumatalolo. I hope that Will Worth and some of those guys that left the field are healthy and ready for next week. I thought it was a tremendous victory for us. Our defense student-athletes set the tone. They played tremendous defense and didn't waiver when (Navy) got down in the red zone. They just kept playing. Offensively, I thought we were extremely explosive from the start. (Phillip Walker) made some big-time throws. Once we got the lead, we tried to control the clock. It was great to punctuate it with a final (touchdown) at the end.

"It is a tremendous honor. So blessed to be able to coach these kids. They are wonderful, wonderful people. They never faltered this year. They fought through adversity. I think we can say that we are one of the top teams in college football right now based upon the way we played. That was fun to watch them play today..

On bringing a championship trophy to Temple

For me, it means a promise has been fulfilled. Temple University has been unbelievable to my family and I. Ten years we have spent here, and it has been nothing but class. Tremendous people from the Board of Trustees to the administration to the people I work with day-to-day in athletics. The people who have stood by my side. The true thing for me is to have these players who call themselves champions because that is the way they live their lives.

When you win this conference, you have done something special. This is a fantastic conference with great teams from top to bottom. We have tremendous respect for everyone that we play. We can say that we did it. That is the accomplishment.

On Temple's postseason resume

I will never talk down about another team. I think that any team that goes undefeated; I wish them all the best. But we are the sixth power conference. If you win this league, you should go to a New Year's Six Bowl. That is neither here nor there. When you see what the teams in our league have done in those New Year's Six Bowls, you should want to have us there. We have beaten two Top 25 teams this year in South Florida, who I think AP and Coaches Poll had ranked, and we have beaten a Navy ranked team. We should be a ranked team. We had three losses early to the No. 5 team in the country and to a pretty good Memphis team, but over the last half of the year I would say we are as hot as any team in the country. I am not saying anything negative about anyone else, but I think we should be playing in a New Year's Six Bowl.

QUARTERBACK PHILLIP WALKER

His impact on Temple's improvement over the past few years

It means nothing to me, but a lot to the program. I told Coach Rhule it was going to happen before I got here. I just trusted the process and kept doing what I've been doing and go out there every day and bring my effort and

my energy. Hopefully everyone else followed. Going in every day, competing, and playing at a high level. It showed that we have a really good team capable of some great things.

SAFETY SEAN CHANDLER

On adjusting to Navy's offense after QB Will Worth's injury

"We practiced it all week. We knew what the task was going to be. We came out here and played it efficiently. We don't practice for players. We just run to the ball and dominate each and every play one single play at a time. It wasn't a player we were focused on. We just wanted to play good D.

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