



POSTGAME PRESS CONFERENCE

Texas A&M Football Post Game Quotes

No. 3/3 Texas A&M 38, at No. 19/17 Missouri 17

Memorial Stadium/Faurot Field (Columbia, Mo.)

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025

QUESTIONS FOR COACH MIKE ELKO

Opening Statement

"Obviously a good start to November. Finishing up this road swing, I told our guys in the locker room--you can go back and probably look--I don't know how many times someone has gone on the road three straight weeks in this conference and finished that stretch 3-0. It's a credit to the character we have in the locker room. It's a credit to the kids that we have in there and what they're doing to give themselves a chance to be successful. I also thought today, again, we keep talking about how this team just finds ways to play complementary football. In the first half offensively we had our struggles. I thought defensively we were able to hold it down. We got the big turnover. We stretched the lead out.

"Defensively in the second half, we got on our heels a little bit especially toward the end of the game. Offensively we went out and put two critical drives together, the Rueben (Owens II) run and then that last drive to kind of ice the game away. I just think we did the things we needed to do to be successful. We'll be excited to come back home.

"And the last thing I want to say is thank you to all the Aggie fans who are out here today. The 12th Man certainly travels. At the end of that game, it just was Aggies. It's been amazing seeing all the Aggie fans get behind us. So thank you again to the 12th Man. I know they'll be in Kyle Field next week ready to roll. We're excited for that opportunity."

Why was that the right time for the fake punt? And what did you see that made you think it'd be successful?

"The momentum seemed like it had kind of gotten away from us. They had put the drive together. They went out and stopped us. It was 21-7. We've gotten some exotic punt block looks against us. Some people have been overloading things and they're not sound against a fake. They were trying to do it as well. So we felt like we had an opportunity if the right time presented itself, and we took it."

I know it's not finished yet, but 9-0, No. 3 the country. How does this mesh with the vision that maybe you had when you came here?

"From a CEO perspective, obviously, I believe this is what this program is capable of. I think that's why we're here. We're here because we believe the ceiling of this program is really high. It's why we took the job. It's why we came here as a family. It's a really special place when you mix what we have from a university-support standpoint, what we have from a fan-base standpoint, and then what we have from a recruiting-base standpoint. This is what everyone has been talking about with this program for a long time. For nine games, we've lived up to it. Now we've got to go finish."

What's pleased you the most during this last month as you were able to string together these three road wins?

"Again, I just think it's the ability to go into different environments, which is challenging. You have to bring your own energy, you have to bring your own emotion, and you're going to have to overcome swings in the game. You're going to have to overcome emotions in the game. And to do that, you've got to be really, really strong in your core and in your culture, right? If you're not really strong with who you are as a team, then at 21-7 when the momentum stops going your way, or at LSU when the second quarter breaks the way it does, you're not going to be able to respond. It kind of reveals who you really are sometimes. This is a really good group. I don't know what ultimately that means from the results standpoint. But the culture of this group is really strong. The work that they put into this thing is really strong, and they believe in each other and they believe in what we're doing. And I think that shows up a lot on the road in these hostile environments."



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QUESTIONS FOR RUNNING BACK RUEBEN OWENS II

Why do you think that it was so hard to run the football early in the game, and then it just broke open and y'all had so much success in the second?

"I'll say it was hard running in the first half. (Missouri) came out hot. We knew they were a good run defense and just a good defense in general. They came out firing off the ball. So it just slowed us down. Toward the second half we started putting our will on their will. They got tired and fatigued. Coach (Elko) told us at halftime, it's going to come. Just be patient in the second half. That's what happened. It came. We were being patient for it."

What do you think of Dalton Brooks' running abilities (had a 48-yard run on a fake punt and 26-yard fumble return)?

"Real good. I feel like he should have scored on both of them, you know what I'm saying? (laughter) Dalton in high school was crazy, a really good running back. Those plays like that, they changed the momentum in the game."

What's it take to win three straight road games like this?

"It takes brotherhood, chemistry and just preparation. Coach Elko prepares us really well throughout the week to get ready for these games. And he tells us straight forward. He says it's going to be a hard game. They're going to fight, but we're going to fight harder. And that's just what we've been doing."

What's the confidence like in the locker room now after two blowout wins against ranked teams on the road?

"I'd say the confidence is real high. But we've got to stay humble because any given week...it's the SEC. Any given week. So we've got to stay humble and keep preparing throughout the week to continue to get these wins and go on and go on."

QUESTIONS FOR SAFETY DALTON BROOKS

First walk us through the fake punt, just what was like getting the ball in your hands and coming up the field.

"It kind of felt like back in high school. I ran the ball in high school. So that's kind of what it felt like to me."

And then the strip sack, what was it like with the ball going right into your hands?

"It felt like I had to catch that after dropping my pick I almost had last week. It kind of felt like I had to catch that one. So I just made sure I secured it."

So are there any similarities to this 9-0 Aggies team and some of your Shiner High School teams?

"Yeah. The closeness. That's a part of any winning team, you know? No matter what the level is, you have to be close with each other. You have to love one another. This team, we pull for each other. So that's what makes this go."

We talked with you maybe 2 or 3 weeks ago, and you said you were waiting for your time to have a really impactful play. Just what it mean to you to have two today? And just what did each of those plays do for the momentum of the game?

"The second one, it flipped the momentum and then the first one I felt like that was just a redemption from last week, having a free pick that I dropped. Just kind of redemption shot from last week and I just took that opportunity to flip the field. On the punt fake, (it was an opportunity) to flip the field and just give the ball back to offense."



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QUESTIONS FOR LINEBACKER DAYMION SANFORD

Walk us through that forced fumble and were you impressed Dalton Brooks was able to get it in the air?

"Oh, yeah, it was a third-down situation, we were just trying to get the freshman quarterback. On my blitz I tried to beat the tackle and ultimately I hit home. I was surprised that (Brooks) got the ball because I looked up and I saw him running. I didn't know if the ball was on the ground or if it was in the air. I wanted him to go score, but ultimately we got the ball back so the offense could go score."

How do you guys feel like y'all played against that quarterback and him making his first start?

"I feel like we did pretty good disrupting him. I feel like he didn't get a lot of reads that he wanted. I feel like we did a really pretty good job of caging him."