



POSTGAME PRESS CONFERENCE

Texas A&M vs. Notre Dame

September 13, 2025

South Bend, Ind.

QUESTIONS FOR COACH MIKE ELKO

Opening Statement

“Obviously hats off to Notre Dame. That was an unbelievable college football game. Two heavyweight teams throwing punches back and forth at each other from start to finish, all the way down to the wire. I couldn't be more proud of our guys. I don't know that that thing went to script in any way, shape or form to how you would script a win on the road. We just battled. We battled through a blocked punt. We battled through some procedure penalties. We battled through some coverage busts that created some open explosives for them. And we just kept fighting and we just kept fighting and we kept fighting and ultimately made the play we needed to make to win the football game on the road. And so, hopefully you guys won't have to ask me any more questions about whether or not Marcel can throw. That's what I really hope comes out of this win.”

What was going through your mind on the last play, and did you guys get to change the play call since they called the timeout on 4th and goal?

“We had a similar play call before the timeout. We changed the formation presentation of it and ran a very similar play to what we were going to call before the timeout. We wanted to honestly have something where Nate was running on the side because we kind of thought it was gonna be really hard to get it to Mario or KC. They had been kind of bracketing them the two previous plays. We felt like that would give us an option on the sideline if we needed it. And we did. Marcel gave him a ball that he can go up and catch and he made a heck of a play.”

If you could just further expand on the resiliency of your team...

“I think when you want to become a championship-level program, we're not there yet, we have a lot of work to do to become that. There's going to be moments like this though that are going to help springboard it, right? Moments where your guys just find a way to compete and battle through everything that's happening in a game and find a way to come out victorious. It's been well-documented how long it's been since this program has gone on the road and beat a really good team. For us to do that on the road, in South Bend, at night, against a team that was obviously desperate to save their season tonight, I think it's the step that we had to take to move forward. That's what we did, we took one step forward tonight. Now we've got to rest and we've got to get through the bye week. We've got to get a lot better as we head into SEC play with all of our goals in front of us.”

Talk a little bit about Marcel's play in particular and his poise on that last drive...

“I mean, it's the third time in a row. If you now go through this, that's Auburn, that's the bowl game and now this game. It's the third time in a row that he led us on a game-winning drive. I said that all offseason, that that was a big piece of it. For him in those moments he has been really good. It got overshadowed last year, obviously, because we lost those two games. But *he* has been really good in those moments, so we had a lot of confidence in him tonight.”



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What about Marcel has allowed him to be so calm and cool in those moments?

"I just think it's who he is. I think he put in the work that he needed to put in this offseason to feel really confident. He feels really confident because the game has slowed down a little bit. And again, there's still a lot we've got to fix. But I think the game has slowed down. Now he is very confident in where he's going with the football, even down to that last play. You know that's a play that we rep every week. It's a play that we have not run yet this year. It's a play for that moment. And he knew 1, 2, bang, and those are the things that you see him do that we just didn't get last year consistently. That was the step we kept talking about this offseason that we felt like he had made. Obviously, in this environment tonight, he really showed it."



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QUESTIONS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES MARCEL REED, ALBERT REGIS AND NATE BOERKIRCHER

Marcel Reed

On that final drive, especially when you get toward the red zone, what's going through your head?

"Just finish. I mean, we talk about it all the time, and it's been our word of the offseason, finishing. I feel like this season we haven't really played a full four quarters of football. And even though tonight wasn't our best football, I think we fought all the way through, and it went down to the last play offensively, to a fourth down, and we converted."

When you connected on that touchdown, can you describe that feeling?

"Yeah, it felt great. It felt great. Going into that drive we already knew they missed an (extra point). If we score a touchdown and get (an extra point) we win the game. And then that being the last play, I mean, it's win or go home at that point. So, you know, I kind of just threw the ball up to Nate (Boerkircher). It was a one-on-one matchup. They had kind of taken our two double posts that we wanted to get open and so I had faith in him. He has arguably the best hands on the team. So, I threw the ball up to him and he caught it for a touchdown."

Coach Elko said that the conversation about if you can throw the ball or not stopped with this game. Do you feel like that's the case from your performance tonight?

"I never really cared what people said about me throwing the ball. I know I can throw the ball. I didn't have the greatest completion percentage, obviously. But, you know, we got the ball out there. We had a lot of explosive plays. And I told people before, our offense is going to be explosive. That's the name of the game for us. So, I think we did a really good job of that today."

How much did your wide receivers help you get in the flow of the game early?

"They kind of just told me to trust them. They're playing tight coverage. They're playing really good man coverage. Notre Dame is a really good defensive team. So, I kind of had to throw some balls in tight windows and let them go get it. I knew I had some playmakers to do it."

What did you learn about yourself and what did you learn about your team today?

"I feel like I didn't really learn anything new about myself. I know that I've always been a tough guy and a gritty guy. I was going to play through whatever. But I felt like today, our team, just, like I said, fought to the very end. I mean, we played a full four quarters, and we did what we've been talking about all offseason. We finished."



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Albert Regis

Albert, you have been here as long as anybody, and you've had your fair share of heartbreak with games going the other way. What is it like for you to come in here and beat a top 10 team in the final 15 seconds?

"It's a great feeling. I mean, a blessing, truly, to endure all those hardships that I've been through when I first got here in 2021, my freshman year. And to beat a team top ten in their home stadium, their first home game. I mean, it's a blessing."

So after the game, obviously you guys were celebrating, just what did that feel like?

"You know, all week as a D-line, we were saying walk in yo' trap, take over yo' trap. And that's exactly what we did. It wasn't perfect. I mean they're a phenomenal team. They've got athletes. They made plays. But at the end of the day, there's one winner and one loser."

How did you feel like you guys held up against (Jeremiah) Love and (Jadarian) Price tonight?

"We did good. Could have been better. I mean they're athletes. They're going to make plays. That's what they're known for. I had the time of my life playing against them, playing against other great players. As an athlete, that fuels me because every play is going to be their best play. And you got to match the intensity and go above. The whole time I was fueled by that, just knowing they have stars on their team, but we've got stars too. So then it comes down to the execution and the mindset of things."

Nate Boerkircher

When you came here was this the moment you envisioned that would be possible for you to come here and make an impact like this?

"Yeah, when I got in the portal I talked with Coach (Christian) Ellsworth, and we kind of talked about this vision together and what we could become. And I'm just so thankful for the guys in the tight end room and the team as a whole."

Marcel said the play wasn't necessarily for you, what were you looking for and when you see the ball what was your reaction?

"Yeah, on that wheel route, it's always an option versus man, especially if those two posts get covered up. And so, I was just thankful he was able to give me a good ball to give me a chance to go win the game. And it worked."



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Very few athletes would be able to experience what you experienced tonight. Take us through what that felt like. What does it feel like to do something like that at such a time in the game?

“That was so special for me. When I caught that and a little bit after the game, I was just thinking about my journey as a walk on and how special this all is. I'm so thankful for everyone around me that's helped me get to this point. I mean, it's not me. It's everyone who helped me.”