

Postgame Quotes

Texas 24, No. 10 Oklahoma 17

Saturday, October 10, 2015

Oklahoma Quotes

Oklahoma Head Coach Bob Stoops

COACH BOB STOOPS: Yeah, compliments to Coach Strong, Texas team. Played a really good football game, hard fought, and certainly made the plays to win the football game.

Obviously disappointed and feel like we talk about making improvement as we go through the year and didn't feel -- you know, again, give Texas credit, they ran through some of our tackles and out-leveraged us at different points on defense.

Offensively got pressure to us really all day, whether they were blitzing or not, and we weren't able to run the football very effectively, so all in all they kicked us. And one football game, there is not much else to say about it. The one-third over in the game I believe was just the one fumble off the kickoff return, so there wasn't a lot of flukey plays that could really change the game, and they won a good, hard-fought game.

Q. Bob, one of the biggest problems, it looked like today, was trying to control the line of scrimmage. Baker was on the run and sacked a lot today. Can you talk about what happened at the line of scrimmage today on the other side of the ball?

COACH BOB STOOPS: Yeah, just got beat. Like you said, offensively, a lot of pressure, a lot of sacks, really couldn't run the football. And defense, early on, I wouldn't say the line of scrimmage. It was more we lost leverage from a couple of the early touchdowns and missed tackles. We had four I think missed tackles, and that was a big issue, or they ran through the tackles, however you want to put it. And then we really, I thought, got control for a while defensively until the sprint draw. The sprint draw broke on us and went for a long run and, again, we missed tackles. So I think missed tackles were a big part of it defensively.

Q. Bob, the 77-yard touchdown drive followed by a fumble at the next kickoff and then a 41-yard touchdown drive, did you feel like you guys were ready? It was 14-0 before you knew it.

COACH BOB STOOPS: Why did I feel like we were ready?

Q. Yeah, it got away early --

COACH BOB STOOPS: It didn't get away. I mean 14 points isn't away. It surely didn't start off great, but in the end I do feel like we were ready. We got out-leveraged, missed some tackles. I don't think it was because we were not ready. So I don't look at it that way. They had been in some really tight, tough games, and we knew what they were capable of.

Q. Their opponents, their schedule, you talked about it on Monday, the good teams that they play. But their defensive rates were all under 100, 119, 127 on some of 'em. Can you

tell me about what the plan was to exploit that and why didn't it work?

COACH BOB STOOPS: Yeah, didn't work because they covered us and they pressured us. They controlled the line of scrimmage, you know, and talked about trying to run it. Did I miss anything? They covered us. I think I said that.

Q. Coach, given the fact that UT played so many close games and especially flat last week against TCU. (Away from mic.)

COACH BOB STOOPS: We had planned -- we knew we would. We prepared that way.

Q. Bob, had you picked up positive yards in your mind, would you have gone for it on fourth down? There was about three and a half to go. You took a 17-yard sack and then punted. Did you determine what you would have had to do?

COACH BOB STOOPS: We had two timeouts, so if it was fourth and short, I had it in my mind we would have went for it. If it was fourth and long, I was going to punt it and use the timeouts and hope we would get the ball back.

Q. (Away from mic.)

BAKER MAYFIELD: What we had was there. We just didn't execute well. So plays that we did string up and bust it loose, those were just basic plays. It was nothing unusual in their game plan. It was just they were doing the basic things that they needed to do, and we weren't doing that early on today.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Like Baker said, it wasn't anything unusual. We did the same thing that we have been practicing and how we've been playing. They just did a great job covering us, like Coach said, and they just flat-out beat us. They were the more physical team today.

Q. Baker, they brought more corner blitzes today than I think they have all season long and offered up some different looks and schemes. What was it like from where you sat and what did you think of all the different things they were sending your way?

BAKER MAYFIELD: It wasn't like they were outmanning us. They were bringing five-man pressures inside. It wasn't like they were just completely zero blitzing us. They were dropping back in the coverage scheme. They would just bring a different guy here and there and their mixup this week was their (indiscernible) and early on it got us. Later we made an adjustment to it and at that point it was a little bit too late.

Q. Bob, the sprint draw looked like something straight out of Kevin Wilson's playbook. Did that catch you guys by surprise?

COACH BOB STOOPS: No. We were aware of the sprint draw for sure, and defended it really well. All it takes is one time. That's what mattered.

Q. Just to clarify, you had seen it on film against Texas?

COACH BOB STOOPS: Texas had run it, yeah.

Q. Earlier you talked about the memories of 2013 and making sure you guys came to this game focused and yet you did get off to a bad start and struggled all day. Any explanation for why things went the same way they did in 2013?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I definitely don't think it was a lack of focus, and we definitely did not underestimate them at all. We talked about it as a group on Monday and we addressed it all week. They were a much more talented and capable team on the record. (Away from mic.) We just didn't execute early. They brought some different stuff, and we needed to do a better job picking it up. They just physically beat us in the run game. We came into it with the mentality that we could either run the ball and control the line of scrimmage, and obviously we didn't do that, and that's where our problems came from, not being able to control the line of scrimmage and getting in second and third and longs and the linemen would tee off on us.

Q. Ty, you talked about the offensive line needing to improve. Baker was sacked six times and had trouble running the ball. What needs to happen for you guys to make that jump?

TY DARLINGTON: It's consistency. A lot of times we have four guys do a good job and then one guy make a mistake, and it's a different guy every time. We'll see on film what happened. We've got to be more physical not just Saturday but have to be more physical every day of the week and have a much better mentality. When we take the field, we can't wait until -- in the second half we started getting some drives, started doing a little bit better, and we can't wait until the second half. We have to start fast. Whatever we did, it will be on the tape and see exactly what we need to do technically better, but our mentality and physicality has to improve a lot.

Q. Jordan and Eric, could you guys comment on the difficulty of running around trying to corral Jerrod Heard, and then they bring in Tyrone Swoopes, a much bigger physical player, just the difficulty of dealing with those two different type of quarterbacks?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, there really wasn't much to think about. We knew we had to contain him all day, really both of them, really moving around and running around, so that's how we practiced all week, keeping him in the pocket and not lose him, contain him, but we didn't do a good job of that today. I thought we executed well in practice, just come down to Saturday...

Q. Kind of a follow-up to both of you, because that seemed to be the difference in the game, and I know you were missing one guy defensively, but Heard was just too much for you. Was it -- was it he was just too good? Was it execution? What was the difference?

COACH BOB STOOPS: Well, some of it -- it's a little bit of everything. Some of it where we lost leverage. Some of it early on, they executed with blocks and blocked us. Other times we missed tackles, lost our leverage in missed tackles a time or two, so it's a little bit of everything.

Q. Eric, the nature of rivalries is always crazy, and this one seems especially intense. In two of the last three years, looks like what was an inferior Texas team beat you guys, surprised you guys. Can you kind of describe what it's like out there when that's happening and maybe you didn't expect it?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No. We expected them to give us their best. We know it's a rival game. Everyone would play their best each year no matter what the circumstances, so we knew what they were capable of. It's just about being the better team on Saturday and executing the calls and doing everything that you're supposed to do, so we really wasn't shocked. No surprise at all, because we knew they had the talent as a team; and they had a lot of close games, couple plays, they would in a different position. So we knew what time it was. We just wasn't the better football team today.

Associate Head Coach and Defensive Coordinator Mike Stoops:

On what he thought the biggest thing defensively was this game: Well obviously the quarterback running game kept us at bay. It kept us off balance really all night. I thought Jay did a great job setting the quarterback run game. We tried to make some adjustments to the run game. There was a lot of plays we didn't see but there's a lot, the sprint draw that went for 80 late in the third quarter, is a play that we've worked on. We just didn't play, we didn't execute. They played great all day. They blocked us. Any time you rush for 300 yards, that's tough. That was unfortunate.

On Texas being quicker or more prepared: Well, they played hard. They showed a lot of pride and toughness, and that's still a big part of the game, as you know. You have to walk on the field with that. Thought our kids had a great week, but again we kind of walked into a lion's den today and that's what happens. So, people get backed into a corner and they came out fighting. That's a prideful program; you'd be foolish to think they wouldn't. We kind of got setup for this and just couldn't respond in a more positive way. That's the disappointing part. Still, we had our chances; even in the fourth quarter we couldn't stop them. Got the ball back, we did one time. But then they get two first downs to end the game was probably the most disappointing part of it, because we fought our way through the entirety of the game

On struggling early and the play in the third quarter: The fly sweep brought Texas down at the beginning of the game. We worked that. That should be a no gain play. They outplayed us, they out-executed us and there's no reason for that. And that's to their credit. We just didn't play as good as we needed to against a team that was very focused and very prepared to play. They executed very well. The quarterback is a handful. It's like playing 'wildcat' all day with the quarterback. Any time the quarterback has his hands on the ball you have an extra blocker and we had to make adjustments to compensate. I think they rushed for 60 rushes throughout the course of the game. So, we tried our best. Our kids kind of fought their way through it, just couldn't make enough plays to win.

Oklahoma Offensive Coordinator/Quarterback Coach Lincoln Riley

On how countering the Longhorn defense: It was a little bit of everybody; it wasn't just the offensive line. I had a couple of bad calls that put us in bad places, didn't get the ball out a few times. Everyone contributed to that, and obviously the first part of the game we were behind the chains so much because of it. We were just playing catch up until the end.

On how the Texas coverage affected OU QB Baker Mayfield: There were some opportunities there. We failed on a route there the first drive, dropped an easy quick screen out there, we had some things. They did a good job of bringing pressure; Baker was a little unsettled early in the game and missed some things that we normally make pretty routine. We didn't do it, and we gave them some confidence by not getting off to a fast start, and then it became a barnburner from there. There were some big holes out there, there were some opportunities, and we could

not match up getting it protected and making the play to take advantage of it until the end of the game.

On the rushing game: We tried to establish something, but we weren't great at it. The problem was we would have a couple of good runs, and then you get sacked and you get behind the chains and it's tough. You're not able to do as much, and obviously running better will help you stay in front of it, but we just physically got beat.... they beat us up front, they beat us in coverage. We didn't establish the run like we wanted to, so we have to give them credit.

Oklahoma Safety Steven Parker

On the defensive struggles: It was definitely a disappointing loss and even more disappointing on the defensive side. We gave up over 300 rushing yards, and they didn't have that many passing yards, but still it wasn't smooth. It wasn't Oklahoma football.

On the early 14-0 deficit in the first quarter: Honestly, it wasn't a bad feeling. We just knew that we needed to wake up. It wasn't that we underestimated them; we knew exactly who they were. We knew that they were going to come in with an edge; they were going to come in hungry. We were down 17-0 to Tennessee so it was nothing to be scared of. It was just one of those things we needed to muscle up and get ready.

On the 81-yard run by Texas RB D'Onta Foreman: Basically, it was a palms read and I just had to go chase it down any kind of way. It was a missed tackle, and I tried to chase it down just to save a touchdown.

On if this was his toughest loss: I would say so. This is one of the toughest losses I've had since I've been at OU, and probably in my career period playing football. It's one of those things where you just live and you learn, and we're just going to go to the next game.

Oklahoma Tackle Josiah St. John

On the Texas defensive front: I have to give credit to them; they did a great job. We've got to play better more than anything. It wasn't anything we hadn't seen or didn't know was coming, it was us not being in tune and disappointing. We need to get back on Monday and do a better job than we have all year. Oklahoma prides itself in being great and winning games like this, and we dropped the ball today. It's something we can't allow to happen again.

On the broadcast saying he was tipping off passes: That's on me. I'm a senior, and that's something I can't do. Nothing else really to say about it, I have to get it fixed and I have to make sure that my stance doesn't change in the future.

On any surprises Texas presented: There were slight differences. We saw the corner blitz on film. They just brought it out at different situations than when we were expecting it, but for the most part we should have known it was coming.

Oklahoma LB Dominique Alexander:

On Texas' rushing success: Yeah, we should have played better against that run game. It is kind of disappointing that we gave up that many rushing yards. As a defense we are pretty hot about that.

On Texas' offensive success despite being one-dimensional: Its like they were doing it the whole game and we didn't do anything to stop them. We tried during the third, we put up some stands and things like that, but at the end of the day they were successful running the ball when they wanted to. It is a tough lose for all of us.

On missed tackles: There is just a lot of things we could have done better, we just got to get back on the drawing board.

On not being able to gain momentum in the second half: That was tough; we wanted to come out in the third. We've been really good in the third quarter this year. We wanted to come out and really dominate the third and when they came out they were just moving the ball the way that they wanted to. It was tough, but we bounced back throughout the third and a little bit of the fourth. But, they were just able to come out on top.

Oklahoma Dmitri Flowers, FB, So.

On loss to Texas: Nothing really surprised us. They came out strong and ready to play. They had a better mentality this time. They just wanted it more and it showed. We came out and wanted to play, but it was one of those things that they had the edge on us.

On Baker Mayfield in Red River Rivalry: He was confident. He was the same person he is every week. He knew the importance because of the Red River Rivalry, but he was ready to play.

On losing a game and chance for national championship: As soon as it happened, I was ecstatic and even though we were losing the ball game, it felt like it could be a spark that we needed. We have to get ready to play K-State. Ohio State won the national championship after losing to an unranked Virginia team, so we need to focus and keep our mentality.

Oklahoma PL Lindley, LB, Senior

On covering Jerrod Heard: He's a great player. We did the best we could with our assignments. There wasn't anything bad on our part, he just made some good plays.

On losing to Texas after being in Top 10: Every Saturday you have to come out and play your best game. From here on out, we need to keep working and trying to get better.

On not being prepared for Texas run game: We had a great week of practice, it just came down to us not making the plays or being out of our gap. If something goes wrong, then someone can run right up the gap. He [Jerrod Heard] is a special player and he made plays.