University of Texas Football Media Conference

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Connor Williams

Q. Connor, how huge is this game on senior night, to win this for your seniors and to send them out on top?
CONNOR WILLIAMS: You know, of course it's a big game. We're trying to get the seniors to a bowl game still, so we've got to win out the next two, so Tech is a good team and we're all focusing on getting ready to play.

Q. The offensive line has always been one of the toughest positions to play as a freshman coming out of high school because you have so much development to do. How have you been able to be successful in that position this year?
CONNOR WILLIAMS: Well, Coach Wickline is a great coach. He teaches me very good fundamentals, and I just try to listen and be a sponge and take care of everything.

Q. How important has Patrick been to that line, and what do you see that line missing when he's not there?
CONNOR WILLIAMS: He brings a lot of energy to practice, of course. He's got a big mouth, ain't afraid to use it. He's a great leader and role model, and he's a great contributor to the line, and we're definitely missing him.

Q. You talk about getting the seniors to a bowl game. Do you think you guys have been playing with the sense of urgency that you needed to the past couple of weeks?
CONNOR WILLIAMS: You know, I think we've been playing well, and I think we've been playing hard. I think now it's just a reality check that we need to get them to a bowl game, and that's like -- as a freshman that's our responsibility, to get the seniors to a bowl game.

Q. Outside of just personality in terms of how he affects the offense and the run game, not having Patrick there on Thursday, where do you see you guys being deficient?
CONNOR WILLIAMS: We have some great people stepping up, and I think, of course, we're going to miss Patrick, but we also have good people stepping up and taking his place.

Q. How tough is it to hear outside rumors of the Charlie Strong to Miami rumors and your coach could be leaving, whatever, and then he obviously comes to you and tells you he's not, but how tough is it to go through that as a player?
CONNOR WILLIAMS: Well, he's reassured us he's not going anywhere, and we're confident in him. We have trust in him. We have a good relationship with Coach, and of course rumors are always tough. But it's always false.

Q. You talk about guys stepping up, but how bad does it hurt you guys if J-Gray can't go, Foreman is not going?
CONNOR WILLIAMS: Well, Chris Warren is a great running back. He's striving on the

opportunity, and he's having a great week of practice, and he's ready to play.

Q. What can you say the toughest disappointment has been with the offense this year and the greatest thing about the offense this year?
CONNOR WILLIAMS: I think we just were really young and we need that click, and we showed that the in the OU game. We've showed that in a few games, but we just need to keep that click going throughout the season.

Taylor Doyle

Q. Taylor, this is it; last home game ever wearing the burnt orange. What are your emotions and feelings?
TAYLOR DOYLE: Obviously there are a lot of emotions surrounding this game, and you know, my time here, and how special it's been to be able to wear the burnt orange. But going into Thursday night, it's all about the football game. We're focusing on playing our game and doing that to the best of our ability, and we're going to treat it like any other game. And so we look forward to the opportunity to play there, and you know, every night we have an opportunity to play in DKR is a special one.

Q. When you were in high school watching this program, they were winning championships, playing for National Championships. I'm sure you envisioned your four years would have the same, and it hasn't worked out like that. How tough and how difficult has this four years been?
TAYLOR DOYLE: The past four years weren't what I expected to walk into. We've had a lot of change, a lot of ups and downs, but I can't imagine playing college football anywhere else. You know, when you talk about the great places to play, you think of Texas, and the relationships I've built and the teams and the teammates I've been able to play with, it's truly been a blessing. I can't imagine doing it anywhere else. When you look back, obviously you want to win all your games, but as far as the relationships I've made and the teammates I've been fortunate enough to have and the coaches, I can't imagine it any other way.

Q. Do you think you'll cry?
TAYLOR DOYLE: Maybe after the game, you know. It's all football on Thursday night. After the game I may get home and just get a half gallon of Blue Bell and tear up.

Q. How difficult have the last two weeks been with the rumors about Charlie, and I know he's told you guys that he's reassured you he's staying, but how tough is that as a team to have to go through that?
TAYLOR DOYLE: As a team, you just can't let that distract you from the ultimate goal. Right now nearing the end of the season you just have to be your best week in and week out, and we're all focused on just being the best team we can be. All those distractions, we just try to keep them outside of the house. Coach Strong has reiterated time and time again that he's in it for the long haul and he's behind us, and so it's all about just focusing on what we need to do to win some games.

Q. In the football game, what does Patrick Vahe bring to that offensive line?
TAYLOR DOYLE: Vahe played great football all season. He is a tenacious, tough guy, and you could see that in the way he played on every play. And so hopefully he can get healthy and continue to contribute. But he's been a great player, and you know, usually when you see an offensive line with true freshmen out there, it's pretty easy to spot him out, but I feel like with our offensive line, when you look at them, you have no idea where the freshmen are playing. Vahe and Connor Williams really did an outstanding job.

Q. How much is it going to affect the offensive game plan not having Patrick in this one?
TAYLOR DOYLE: Well, fortunately we have a lot of depth at this position. You know, we have guys who can step up and play, so we're excited that we have guys like Tristan Nickelson and Marcus Hutchins and all those guys who can come in and do an outstanding job.

Q. How has Chris Warren looked in practice this week?
TAYLOR DOYLE: He's looked really strong. This University has always had a lot of depth at running back, and when you look at Chris Warren, he's a big guy who plays hard every play, and so he's worked hard all season.

Q. I know it seems like every week is a sense of urgency and you guys feel you're fighting for your bowl game lives, but two games guaranteed left, where is this team's confidence and big-picture attitude in terms of reaching that goal?
TAYLOR DOYLE: We're focused on this game, on this upcoming Thursday. Obviously we all have the same goal and going to a bowl game, and we want to have success these last two weeks, but right now it's all about finishing strong, and in order to do that, we have to focus on practice today. We have to focus on practice for the rest of the week leading into Thursday. But it's all about the game on Thanksgiving.

Q. Speaking of Thanksgiving, what's it like to play on Thanksgiving day, and growing up in Texas, Cowboys and Texas, what does it mean to be playing on this day when it's such a football-important day?
TAYLOR DOYLE: I mean, it's an incredible opportunity and experience, and we're really fortunate to be able to play on Thanksgiving. I know the team is excited. I'm fired up. It's really going to be a special night. Whenever you have the opportunity to play on Thanksgiving in DKR, it's a really cool experience.

Q. You've talked about finishing strong. What makes you think this team can finish strong?
TAYLOR DOYLE: I mean, this team is so close. You watch the game film, you see how far we've come and how we've progressed, we're right there. We have guys playing at really high levels. It's all about bringing it all together and executing play in and play out and just being consistent, and that's something we've fought for all season, and if we can do that, we can have some success.

Q. Going back to Thanksgiving, you're from the area; what does Thanksgiving look like at your house because you play on Thursday, and do you ever invite your teammates over

since a lot of them don't live as close?
TAYLOR DOYLE: So we as a family had to push Thanksgiving back a couple days with the game on Thursday. So we'll be out there, and we typically go out to Elgin with my grandparents on Saturday, so that'll be a special deal. Teammates are always welcome.

You know, it's been nice having my parents and family so close, and it's been fun bringing my teammates out there, and they hang out with my family, and it's been special.

Q. Who will eat the most at Thanksgiving dinner from this team?
TAYLOR DOYLE: Hassan Ridgeway. I think he may be the only one without an invitation because we'll have to get an extra turkey.

Q. What do you see from these Red Raiders defensively? It seems like everyone can score on them. Do they still play pretty good defense over there and people shouldn't overlook them?
TAYLOR DOYLE: You can't overlook their defense. I mean, those guys can play. They have a lot of talent. You know, we're going into it with the mentality that we expect these guys to fight, and we know they're going to play hard. It's all about us making sure we're in a position to have success, and that's focusing on what we do rather than what they're doing.

It's all about making sure we can execute and we can do that consistently.

Q. How do you want this senior class to be remembered?
TAYLOR DOYLE: You know, just hopefully we can finish this season strong and continue to improve throughout the end of it and play hard, tough Texas football.

John Bonney

Q. John, we always hear about people who do well on the football field and the accolades. What does it mean for a guy like you to be a First-Team All-Academic Big 12 guy?
JOHN BONNEY: That's really big for me, and the main thing with that is my family have always been tough on me about academics. That's a big reason I came here, because I knew how great this institution was academically. It's a real big honor for me. I was real excited. I told my parents, and they were real excited, too.

It feels real good making the All-Academic Big 12 First Team.

Q. We hear about guys that know when the All-American teams are coming out and think about it. Did you know it was coming down soon, the All-Academic Big 12 things? Were you hoping it was going to be like that?
JOHN BONNEY: Well, it sort of came as a surprise to me. I know I worked hard this semester and everything like that and in past semesters, but I was just so excited when I heard the news. But it's definitely a testament to student-athletes here, that we have to be on top of things on the field and off the field.

Q. Senior night, how important is it to win for these seniors, send guys out like Duke and J-Gray out as winners and pass the torch to you guys so you don't have the experience they've had in terms of wins and losses?
JOHN BONNEY: It's real big for us. Coach Strong always tells us young guys to play for the seniors, and that's one thing that we really want to do, especially in the secondary with what's been such a young secondary. Duke has been such a great mentor. He's like a coach on the field almost. I know for myself, I'm going to really do as much as I can to make sure to send him off right, the right way.

Q. In this Big 12 there's a lot of teams where people focus on the defensive backfield. What's really important for your group this week?
JOHN BONNEY: We're just going to have to listen to what our coaches tell us. Tech's offense is a high potent offense. They're high scoring, and they like to throw the ball. So us in the secondary, we're going to have to really be focused and do our job well and be where we're supposed to be.

Q. You guys obviously are fighting for your bowl lives. How much does that creep into your mind these last two games to try and get these seniors to a bowl, and get this team to a bowl game to accomplish something?
JOHN BONNEY: Really just have to take it one game at a time, and that's the biggest thing right now, especially with the situation we're in. We really have to take it one game at a time. Right now we have Tech coming up, and we know what we have to do. We can't really look too far ahead. I know there's only two weeks left, but really right now it's really important that we take it one game at a time.

Q. What's the biggest part of controlling Tech's offense?
JOHN BONNEY: Biggest part of controlling Tech's offense? I mean, it would be great if we could get them to 3rd and long and get them in a situations like that to make them have to pass it or make it a tough decision for them and stuff like that.

Q. You guys have taken your hits and shots this year. How difficult and tough has this season been for you back there, a bunch of young guys?
JOHN BONNEY: Well, as far as the secondary, we are young. We've had bumps and bruises, but I really do think that with this coaching staff, they have us on the right path. And the good thing about this secondary that we haven't had in the past is we do have depth, and that's something we didn't have I know for sure last year. It could really work out for us.

Dylan Haines

Q. How bad do y'all want to send these seniors out -- you've had a crazy career here at Texas, send them off with that one final shining moment?
DYLAN HAINES: Well, if you're talking about bowl game, that's still the goal.

Q. Home game, home game.
DYLAN HAINES: Yeah, you know, to get -- their last game at home, I know that's a big deal for them. I think it's a big deal for a lot of people, just being the last home game of the season. Just kind of with the season we've had, all the ups and downs, it's a big deal for them. So I think it's a big deal for the younger players to just go out there and play for them.

At the end of the day, that's all you have is your teammates, and you guys are the ones on the field. You know, we obviously want to get a win here at home, and like I said, a bowl game is still the goal, so we've got to get these next two to do that.

So we've got to go out there on Thursday, Thanksgiving night, and just play a great game against a great team, send these seniors out with a win.

Q. What have the last two weeks been like with all the rumors flying around with Charlie?
DYLAN HAINES: I mean, no one really says anything about it in the locker room. It's not something that's talked about a lot. He made it clear that he's not going anywhere, and that's what he's told us. That's as far as we know. He's here, and we have two games left.

You know, that's the mentality right now is just to win these two games, so we're not worried about that.

Q. You talked about the ups and downs of this season. Is it because of the ups you feel like you have a chance for these last two?
DYLAN HAINES: Well, like I said, you're still in a position to make a bowl, and I know that's a thing that a lot of people are going to write us off to not be able to do. People say there's no way the Texas Longhorns are going to make a bowl. But if it's possible, then we're going to give it everything we have, and that's the mentality right now, so I think if there's anyone on the team or anyone that thinks we can't make a bowl, then you just get out of the way because if it's possible, then we're going to go ahead and try and do it.

Obviously looking back at the way the season has gone, a lot of things did not go our way, and there's a lot of things that I wish I could take back, and I wish there was these opportunities that we've had that we could have capitalized on. But this is where we're at, so like I say, two games left, so we've got to go out with two wins.

Q. You grew up a Texas fan. When you think about the rivalry with Texas Tech, what goes through your mind?
DYLAN HAINES: I mean, you know, obviously a lot of memories. The one I think vivid memory I have as a kid is watching the year that we could have went to the National Championship, and they get the ball back with a number of seconds and they throw a couple passes downfield and then they throw that touchdown to Crabtree there, and he kind of just walks in the end zone. That's really the only memory I have from them.

So after that I kind of did not like Texas Tech because the way I thought of them was they were always known for just wrecking someone's season. They were never very competitive, but they always came in and played like one great game and they always beat a No. 1 or 2 team.

You know, just having the in-state rivalry kind of like this and having them at home here on Thanksgiving, I think that's such a cool thing we do now is we're playing on Thanksgiving. I think we're the only team that does that. It's going to be a great atmosphere, it's going to be a great game, and I know going up there last year, they have a crazy fan base, just like West Virginia. They've got like tortillas, they're throwing tortillas on the field and stuff, so I know it's going to be a great game, going to be a lot of energy.

Q. What about their high-octane offense that will challenge you guys back in the secondary?
DYLAN HAINES: Oh, yeah, obviously we've gotten a chance to look at them on film with this kind of bye week we've had, or half bye week the last week, and they put up a lot of points. I think they're third in the nation in scoring, and I think I read somewhere they're like first in total offensive efficiency. But they have a great offense, so that's something that we've definitely taken a look at.

They like to spread the ball out a lot. I think they're one of the only teams that runs like a true air-raid offense. A lot of teams in the Big 12 do a lot of the same stuff, but they throw it everywhere, all over the place. They kind of get up on the ball fast, and they do a lot of quick passes, a lot of quick now schemes. They have a bunch of excellent players that can just like make plays in space, so I think one of the things we are going to have to do on the back end this week is tackle, tackle well in space, and just make plays on the ball. I think that's something that we've kind of stressed all season.

We haven't necessarily done a great job with turnovers, so I think we're going to get a lot of opportunities in the back end this week, so we just have to capitalize on them.

Q. What does it mean to hear your leading rusher is not playing, that you may not have Patrick Vahe or Johnathan Gray?
DYLAN HAINES: You know, like you said, I'm not an offensive player, but I know that we have so many great players on offense, we have a lot of young guys that are right behind them. I think Chris Warren is going to be a big guy that's going to get a rot of reps this game, and I've seen him in practice do amazing things, so I have full confidence that he can get out there and perform.

It's just kind of that next-man-up mentality, you know, when guys go down and guys get injured, and we still don't know the status of them yet. But you know, there's people behind them that are ready to play, and we can only just hope and trust that our teammates are ready to play, and I'm sure they will be. I have no doubt in my mind that the second-stringers or whoever is going to have to replace some of the injured guys are going to go in there and perform.

I don't think you look at that with any negative. It presents a great opportunity for some of the younger players to get out there and play, and it's going to be a big game to do it in, so hopefully they can just make the best of it.

Q. Tell the fans, the viewers, Dylan Haines' favorite Thanksgiving dish.

DYLAN HAINES: Well, I'm a real big fan of stuffing, you know, the stuffing you get with the turkey. I really like turkey and the gravy and stuff, but I like the cornbread stuffing. That's always my favorite part. It might be the way my mom makes it, but yeah, that's always the best part of Thanksgiving right there.

Q. Granted, this is going to be your last home game here in Austin, and this is probably not the four years you would have envisioned, but when you look at the opportunities you've had in Texas, how are you going to remember your time here?
DYLAN HAINES: You know, it'll always be something I treasure and something I cherish and something I'll always look back at and just kind of treasure and look back and be so glad that it happened. But I'll also speak to it's not my last year. It is my fourth year but I will have one more season of eligibility.

But just being the last home game of the season and just kind of the ride I've taken over the last two years, it's something that I just don't take for granted.

No matter what the win-loss column says, it's always something that I wouldn't trade for anything else in the world. But just like I said earlier, just for the seniors, for the guys that this is the last time they're going to get to put on that orange jersey and come out in DKR, I can just imagine myself a year from now feeling the same thing, and I just know my heart will be so heavy knowing that it's the last time it's going to happen. It's kind of surreal, but I just hope that this game, just for the sake of those guys, that we can just go out there and play a complete team game, something we have not done so far this season.

I just wish that for those guys, and that's what's most important is just your teammates because that's really all you have here at the end of the day.

You know, like I said, we've just got to go out there and put a complete game together and send these seniors out right.

Q. How do you slow Tech's offense down?
DYLAN HAINES: Well, I don't think necessarily you slow them down or stop them. To slow them down I think you've just got to keep them at -- we've got to keep them at our pace of the game, not let them get up on the ball and kind of run that hurry-up offense, the air-raid offense that they like to do. I know we're going to be trying to pressure them a lot, play some man, not kind of sit back and let them run the tempo of the game. We're going to go out there. I think a team like that where they just kind of play schoolyard football, you kind of got to go out there and play schoolyard football, too. I think if you just sit on your heels, they can just kind of dissect you and do what they do. I think you've got to go out there and be aggressive.

One of the games we've been watching against them is West Virginia, and they're kind of notorious on defense for playing really aggressive. They played a good game against them, so we're kind of just trying to go out there and kind of mimic that same style of play, be aggressive, be physical, and just dominant the line of scrimmage.

Q. You do plan on coming back next year, right?

DYLAN HAINES: Yeah.

Peter Jinkens

Q. Peter, this is it, your last home game ever at the University of Texas, wearing the burnt orange. What are your emotions and feelings right now?
PETER JINKENS: Ain't really feeling nothing yet, but I'm pretty sure that will probably come during the game or maybe after the game.

Q. I know you still have some games left to play, but this being senior night and reflecting on your senior career, I'm guessing you thought you'd win four championships of some sort. How strange and how crazy has this ride been?
PETER JINKENS: It's been a crazy ride. We had a whole lot of ups and downs in my four years here, but I wouldn't change anything. I love this team, I love the coaching staff, and I love this University.

Q. When you reflect back on this year, obviously your performance stepped up, but when did it start to click that this was going to be your last year and you were going to make a difference?
PETER JINKENS: Probably during camp. I mean, coaches challenged me all camp to step up my play. You know, you're a senior, and I'm going to have to contribute a lot. So during camp I just set my mindset that I was going to do the best I could and just play up to my abilities.

Q. What's the biggest challenge you'll face with Tech's offense?
PETER JINKENS: Just the ability to pass the ball. They're a really good pass team. They have a strong running game, too, with their running backs. We have to try to make them one-dimensional, to run the ball or pass the ball.

Q. Obviously there's a lot riding on this game, but big-picture-wise, how do you guys set yourselves up to still make a bowl game and keep the goals intact?
PETER JINKENS: Just got to go out there and win these next two games. We've just got to prepare and just be ready to play.

Q. What's your best memory from the last four years?
PETER JINKENS: Probably catching a pick my freshman year in the Alamo Bowl game. That was pretty cool.

Q. Can you do it again this week?
PETER JINKENS: We'll see.

Q. What's been the toughest thing that you've dealt with in your four years here?
PETER JINKENS: Just probably not playing. When you're behind a guy like Jordan Hicks, you can't really say anything, but just learn and grow from seeing him play.

Q. What do you want the younger guys to learn about this senior class?
PETER JINKENS: About this senior class? I don't know. Just do better y'all's senior year.

Alex De La Torre

Q. How did you guys respond to the news that Patrick Vahe is likely not playing in this game and D'Onta Foreman, your leading rusher, also may not play?
ALEX DE LA TORRE: It always sucks to find out some of your teammates get hurt during a game. But we've got guys that have been practicing who have got to step up and fill the roles. We've just got to trust in them, which we do, and them guys got to know that we've got their back. I think the running backs are going to have a good day, and I think the O-line is going to have a good day, too. It's looking good for us right now.

Q. How do you feel right now?
ALEX DE LA TORRE: I feel confident.

Q. What about physically?
ALEX DE LA TORRE: Physically, yeah, I'm good. A lot better.

Q. Were you nervous that you may not get that starting job back?
ALEX DE LA TORRE: Oh, yeah, so I came back last week, and they didn't want to put me on the special teams because they just wanted me to do the offense stuff. So every day I'd come by in special team meetings and just give them a hard time, like hey, man, I'm ready; like put me in. He's like, no, you ain't playing today, boss. You ain't playing this week on this.

I mean, now I'm back on everything, so it's all good.

Q. I know Johnathan Gray is kind of questionable, whether or not he's going to play. Is there any way he doesn't play senior day?
ALEX DE LA TORRE: I hope he can play. I haven't heard much on the matter. We've just been practicing and preparing. But hopefully he can. I mean, that would be awesome. That would be good for him. You want to play your last senior home game. But you know, we've got to trust in what our medical staff and our training staff says.

Q. You've been around the program for a while. What does a Thanksgiving game mean? What does playing on this day mean to this program?
ALEX DE LA TORRE: Well, you have a tradition of playing on Thanksgiving since I don't know the date, but it's been a long time. It's always been against A&M, which has been huge. Me growing up, I always watched the OU game against Texas and I always watched Texas and A&M.

There's not a lot of teams playing on Thanksgiving, so it's kind of a -- everybody is tuning in and watching, so you're on a big-time -- I guess you're on a big-time platform for everybody to watch you, so you've got to go and perform, got to go and win.

Q. Can't help but notice the patch on your shirt there. How important is it to get the team to a bowl game?
ALEX DE LA TORRE: Well, I've never not been to a bowl game, so I don't want to see what it feels like. You always want to go out on a high note, and I think our record right now doesn't really portray the type of team that we have, and it's disappointing to know that things haven't worked out the way it has, but you've got to keep moving forward, and we've got to take this game, focus on this game, and we've got to win it, and then we'll focus on Baylor next week, and we've got to go win that one, too.

Q. You guys keep telling us that your record isn't reflective of team that you are. Why haven't you been able to put that sort of team on the football field?
ALEX DE LA TORRE: You know, it's hard to answer that because you look at the Cotton Bowl game when we played Oklahoma, and you have an atmosphere like that where guys are just out there playing loose, getting after it, being real competitive, and I just don't know because I try to play at that level every play. But I really can't answer that. I can't tell you. There's a lot of factors that could play into it that I don't even know.

Q. Describe and characterize what you've seen this program go through in your time here.
ALEX DE LA TORRE: So I've seen a lot of guys that were really talented and have gone to the NFL and been successful, and I've seen okay seasons, but this past two years I've seen guys that have committed themselves to becoming a complete team. I've seen guys sacrifice a lot to really focus on football, and I've seen a lot of guys change their lives for the better to be a part of this team.

I can look back on my college experience after these next two games and really appreciate the trials and tribulations that we have been through because it teaches you a lot about going through adversity, even in life. You've got to stick with your family and friends and those who care about you throughout any situation, and so, you know, I won't ever regret my college experience as being a Texas Longhorn.

Q. Do you have a favorite moment?
ALEX DE LA TORRE: I've got a few, but I'd say this year when we played OU would probably be my favorite moment.

Q. Not the touchdown?
ALEX DE LA TORRE: No, not the touchdown. This would be my favorite moment, when we played OU this year.

Q. Why?
ALEX DE LA TORRE: Just went out and played as a team. It was fun. Went out there, smacking heads and getting after it in that type of game. It's just big-time.

Q. Is that what do you have to do the next two games?
ALEX DE LA TORRE: We have to. We've got to go out there and play at a level where we can go and beat the team we're playing, play by play. Can't look ahead, can't look about if we're

going to make a bowl game or not. We've just got to focus on winning, beating Tech. We've got to focus on playing and beating Baylor. We've just got to take it step by step in my opinion.

Q. Are you a Thanksgiving guy, a turkey guy, a pie guy?
ALEX DE LA TORRE: I'm a turkey and stuffing guy. Put the turkey in peanut oil and fry it. My pops makes some good turkey, I will say that. Not the dry kind where you need a lot of gravy, but you can see the turkey and it's pretty moist. He's got a good recipe.

FastScripts Transcript by ASAP Sports

Senior WR Marcus Johnson

On thoughts on last home game: It's a blessing really. All the stuff we have been through to get to this point. It's a major blessing. It's another opportunity to play the game I love and I am looking forward to it.

On describing your career here: It's been up and down, a lot of adversity. I wouldn't want it any other way. It shaped me into the person that I am today. It has taught me a lot. Things like that happen and you have to learn to adjust and learn to adapt and overcome. We just have to continue to fight. Definitely, a life lesson; something you take with you once you are gone. When you go anywhere you have dreams of national championships and ding great things. Along the way we have been doing great things, but we just never got it all together. That's part of it. I am a true believer in that everything happens for a reason, so it didn't happen the way that I envisioned but it did happen the way it did. I learned a lot along the way.

On what younger players can learn from the senior class: Just learn to not take it for granted. You have to continue to stay focused and just grind it out. Things aren't always going to go your way. You really have to learn how to handle adversity. You have to learn to adapt. Don't just hang your head on something. You have to be able to move on. They have to learn from this season not to carry it with them. Learn from it, move on, but don't carry it with them. Don't let it happen again.

On what hurts the most, the losing or all the change: To be honest, I say just knowing how much we put into it. All the preseason talk was true and it was honest. I really felt like we came together as a team. I really believe through my four years here that this was first time I saw a team collectively work to be the best that they could be, really to mold each other and create that chemistry, and for whatever reason it didn't work the way that we would have liked it, but I really do believe that we wouldn't say that we have regrets. I feel like we really worked hard, and we put into it. This is the outcome of it, but we still have to games left and still have a chance to go make a bowl. We just need to stay focused on that.

Senior OG Sedrick Flowers

On the freshman Connor Williams: Connor is like two different people on the field and in the locker room. In the locker room, he is goofing off behind the coaches when the coaches' back is to us. Recently, he put a string in a bottle and was slinging it around and stuff. You have to remember he is still young, he is straight out of high school. He is still got a lot of growing to do. But he is maturing slowly but surely, but we have to remember a lot of times that he is still young. I expect big things from him in a couple years from playing here. I was impressed with him when he came in the spring, and how he played and everything. The things that he was able to do, really his physicality is what impressed me. I think that he will be a great players here, not just good but great, in the years to come.

On last game in the stadium coming up: It really hit me this past by-week. I thought about it and was like, 'man this really is my last game in DKR.' This is a special place to play. Time has just flown by. When you first get here the coaches always tell you: first you got to prepare and play hard like you are seniors because these four years are going to fly by, and they are going to pass by you real quick. We all kinda laughed at it thinking that we have time, but I was like that guy in the back and now I am the guy up front. Time has really flown by. It's going be an emotional game for me since it's the last one in DKR, but it going to be a heck of a game. I am going to go my hardest, so that I can remember the last game I played at DKR is the one that I played my hard and fought my hardest.

On imagining after 15 some odd years of football that there will be a life with no football: I never really thought about that. Ever since I was young, I always thought about just playing football or any kind of sport in general. I never thought about not playing a game or anything at all. When it is coming down to it, it's about to be that. I really don't know

Senior CB Duke Thomas

On your last home game, has it set it in: No, not really. It's another week going into it for me, going into it, trying to get a "W", and get into a bowl game. Maybe when I step out onto the field, I might see something. Something might be different, but as of right now, not really.

On career reflection as a Longhorn: Maybe after the season I might do a little reflecting but as of right now, I haven't thought much about it.

On mentoring role as a senior: This has been a fun year. Having a new freshman group coming in, very talented. A lot of them got a lot of opportunity to play. It has been a lot of fun having the opportunity to teach those guys what I have learned and see them grow. I really wanted them to learn to mentally grow. I always tell them that everybody who can get here can run fast, jump high, and play football, but the mental side of the game is really going to give you the edge. That's what I have been really helping the guys to know.

On looking back over the season: I still feel like we are a close team. Things didn't fall the way we wanted them to. Definitely not the outcome we looked to see prior to the season starting. But

I am looking forward to going out to these next two games, getting some wins, and going to a bowl game.

On looking at the losses the team has taken this season: Looking at anyone of our losses, I feel like we could have done things that you have got us over the edge, but looking forward we can't change that. We have to go out this next week and execute, get this next "W", move forward to Baylor, and win that can so we can continue to play through the rest of the bowl season.

Senior WR Daje Johnson

On what you have done for this team and what you have been through: It's a bunch of accomplishments that I have overcome. Not, all accomplishments, but a lot of stuff to overcome, I pushed through and learned from my mistakes. It has made me a better person in the long run.

On surviving these four years: I always had a feeling I would survive. I always had that drive in me that I never wanted to quit at anything or give up on myself. I was raised like that. Coach Strong really pushed that out of me, to continue to drive to what I could be. He helped me in the long run.

On what you have learned the most during your time here: I probably learned just to grow up, to grow up from coming in here acting like it was something I had to do every day to where this was a job for me. I had to look at it differently. I had to encourage teammates. I had to learn to become a leader, with Coach Strong helping me out. He helped my game. He helped me believe that I could do that and be a better player.

On doubts that you might have had getting to this point: I didn't have any doubts. I always knew that I could push through any obstacle that I met. I just had to find that right person to push me and show me how to push my own self.

On the future beyond DKR Stadium: I am still pursuing my football career. I still do the rapping on the side, but that's not going to go anywhere. But I am still am going to pursue my football career and try and make it to the NFL. That is my dream. It's been my dream since I have been little. I am still looking to train and have a great combine day, and hopefully someone will pick me up.