University of Texas Football Media Conference

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Chris Warren

Q. What sort of feedback did you get from family and friends following your performance on Thursday?
CHRIS WARREN: They were just congratulating me on the performance. They really thought it was a pretty good performance coming out.

Q. How do you top that performance off this week against Baylor?
CHRIS WARREN: You've just got to come out and try and execute. Got to run hard and have to make sure that I can be physical enough to try and make the same plays that I made this past week.

Q. Was it hard to kind of be patient this year and wait? Did you know at some point your turn would come?
CHRIS WARREN: I came in knowing that I would have to wait my turn or I would have to out-compete J-Gray [Johnathan Gray] and D'Onta [Foreman] for the spot, so no, it wasn't a big deal.

Q. Speaking of the patience you had this year, it's one thing to wait behind guys, especially a senior, but now that you're getting that start and you're going to be the guy, how does that affect you mentally? Is it a different mindset at all?
CHRIS WARREN: A little bit, but I try not to focus on that. I try to just do -- I try to just play my game and I try to just focus on things that I know I can control.

Q. Charlie Strong mentioned the conversation he had with you ahead of the game guaranteeing some yardage for you. Can you walk us through that?
CHRIS WARREN: He [coach Charlie Strong] was just saying, "2-5, I expect a good game out of you. You're going to be the guy today." I was like, "I know, coach. I'll do what I can." And then he laughed at me and said, "Well, go out there."

Q. Did he tell you that you were going to have a certain number of yards?
CHRIS WARREN: He just said big game. He may have said a number, but I don't remember. I focus on the game on game day, so the other things are just outside thoughts.

Q. More than likely you guys won't get to go to a bowl game this year. Is it hard going into this last game and still be motivated and want to play hard when there's not an obvious goal out there on the table for you?
CHRIS WARREN: It's disappointing that we may not be able to, but you can't let that affect the way that you go out and play. You still have another game to play. You still have things to do. You've got to take care of business. No, it's not really any less motivating.

Q. Charlie mentioned your maturity level, how you don't seem like you're a freshman. Where does that come from? Where does that maturity stem from?

CHRIS WARREN: It's how my mother raised me. She did a really good job, and I appreciate her for it. It's helped me see things that I probably shouldn't have seen at this young of an age, but I really thank her for it, but yeah, that's the reason, because she raised me.

Q. Will it be more easy or difficult to run against this Baylor defense than it was Texas Tech?
CHRIS WARREN: I don't know. I haven't played Baylor yet. We'll see. I'm just going to attack it the same way I attacked Texas Tech. I'm going to go and I'm going to put forth my best effort. I'm going to be physical and be fast. I'm going to play how I know I can play.

Q. With that being said, coach [Strong] seems to be confident in your playing ability. What's motivating you for this game now that some of the team objectives are off the table?
CHRIS WARREN: I'm just going out there and I'm playing for the team. It's not really anything individual. I know that there's going to be 11 guys out there. It's not going to be just me, so I go out there and I play for the whole team. I've always played like that, so I'm going to keep that going.

Q. Partially out of necessity this week, you're probably going to get a lot of carries. Are you a back that does well the more carries you get? Does that play to your strengths?
CHRIS WARREN: I feel like it does. I haven't really been in a situation to where I can get under 20 carries. In high school I got about 25 carries a game. Before then I was getting probably about 20 carries back in middle school and stuff. But I haven't really experienced it, so I'm not too sure.

Q. You were named Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week. What does that mean to you in your first start, in your first major game?
CHRIS WARREN: I appreciate it. I know that there's a lot of explosive firepower in the Big 12, but to be recognized for it, it's pretty humbling.

Desmond Jackson

Q. What would it mean to go into Baylor and win?
DESMOND JACKSON: It's one of those we've just got to be able to prepare ourselves. The season might be a little disappointing, but I think everybody just needs to be able to just come together and end the season on a good note.

Q. How frustrating was it not to be able to play against Tech Thursday night, on senior night?
DESMOND JACKSON: I had a real bad infection in my lower intestine, so I was in the hospital for a little time. Got a chance to suit up and get to walk out there, but I mean, it's one of those things that I wouldn't be able to experience my last go-around at home with the fans. I love the fans so much. They mean a lot to me.

I mean, it's very frustrating just that you put in the hard work for the last five years I've been here, and if I had traded anything I've ever accomplished, I wanted to be able to get a chance to play in the game. But I've still got one more left, one more game in my NCAA career, and I'm just going to cherish this week. This is the last time I'll get a chance to put on a Texas uniform,

and it means a lot to me.

Q. You guys have a tough road game and the injuries you have to overcome. What's the sentiment around this program right now as you guys approach this final game?
DESMOND JACKSON: Guys are kind of just at a loss for words a little bit because of the season, how it ended, but it's something that we couldn't control as a unit. I mean, injuries are going to happen. This is a tough sport. Injuries are going to happen regardless. So it's nothing that we can actually control. You can only control the things that you can actually control. You can go out there, have the best season of your career and you can get caught with an injury at any given time just being on the field like that. Injuries are tough, but I mean, everybody told me, hey, the next guy got to be able to step up and get ready for his opportunity because you never know when the chance is going to come. When it's your go, you've got to make the most of it.

Q. How will it affect the defense to lose a guy like Peter Jinkens for this last one?
DESMOND JACKSON: I had a chance to talk to Peter yesterday. I mean, I've been around Peter since he stepped on campus. He's a real great, humble young man. He's always been a great joy just to be around. As a player I got to see him develop, how much he's grown since he's been here. His last season, he just went out loud and did everything he possibly could do, and it's kind of big for us. I mean, I was at a loss for words when he told me. He was still trying to make me laugh and trying to do some type of dance on his crutches, but seeing him and how much effort he actually put into football this season, and for that just to be taken away from him for his last game playing at Texas, it hurt my heart a little bit. But I know Peter is a fighter. He's going to bounce back from it, and I wish him all the best, man. That's my dude right there. I love him so much.

Q. You're probably not going to go to a bowl game and will finish with a losing record, but what kind of vibe are you feeling from your teammates right now?
DESMOND JACKSON: It's kind of disappointing for my last go-around not getting a chance to go to a bowl game, but I still had a lot of fun is the main thing. Even though we had a losing record, I wouldn't trade none of these guys for anything. It's been a joy just to be around them, just being able to work with them. I decided to come back because of them. It's like just one of those things where like a brotherhood means a lot to me. These guys are not just my teammates, they're my family. I love being around my family. I have guys that look up to me as their bigger brother and some of them after the game just came up to me like, you know, everything is going to be all right, man. We're going to make sure the program gets turned around.

For me, I get one more Saturday I get to play against Baylor in Waco, Texas. I want to go out there just knowing how much this University means to me, and a lot of them understand that, as well, so they want to give the same effort.

Q. All of you guys were so close to turning the corner, whether it was Cal or Oklahoma State or even after OU and K-State. Do you feel like this program is closer than people are giving them credit for to making that turn and making that jump?
DESMOND JACKSON: You know, it's a game of inches. As cliché as that is, it's a game of inches. It's one of those things where a play or two here, a play or two there goes from being 4-7 to winning three games or four games. But I mean, guys have always had good effort in games,

and then some games we didn't show anything we needed to do, got blown out a couple times. But this is kind of just -- it's just a game of inches. It's funny that it is. I can't even like really explain that. I think the program is headed in the right direction. I think we have a chance just to pull everything around, and I know there's some good guys that are going to leave the program in good hands. I talk to them all the time, I'm especially going to talk to them this week, just things that I've learned since I've been here. You've just got to work as hard as you possibly can and lead guys in the right direction, stay positive all the time, have positive vibes, don't worry about negativity coming your way, whether it's towards you, your family, anything like that, man.

Taylor Doyle

Q. Is it hard for you, especially as a senior, when the bowl game is more than likely off the table to kind of stay motivated and make sure that you're dialed in on this game?
TAYLOR DOYLE: No, I don't think so. You know, as a team and as a player, if you start something, you want to finish it. We don't have a choice but to finish this season, and I think that boils down to pride and moral fiber. But I don't think we're going to lack motivation in the locker room or with the staff this week. We're looking at it as another opportunity to go play the game, and it's exactly that.

Q. How much do you want to beat Baylor?
TAYLOR DOYLE: Obviously last week was tough, and we don't want to go out like that. We want to end with some success. We're focused on us right now. We're focused on being the best team we can be and doing everything we can do to be our best as we move forward.

Q. What did you think of Chris Warren's performance on Thursday?
TAYLOR DOYLE: He did an outstanding job. To say the team was blown away wouldn't be true because we all knew that he was an athlete and he could play as soon as his name was called. But it was exciting to watch him go out there and run hard and run behind his pads, and look forward to seeing what he does over his career here.

Q. What about the Baylor defense? How big of a challenge will that be?
TAYLOR DOYLE: The Baylor defense is very talented, and we're going to have our hands full this week. Right now, it's all about learning from our game this past week and figuring out how we can put ourselves in a better position to execute consistently, so right now we're focused on us and just preparing so we can be the best team we can be this Saturday.

Q. Would a win against Baylor make a statement and prove that you're back and building towards a future?
TAYLOR DOYLE: Right now we're just focused on us. We're trying to put ourselves in the best position possible. We aren't thinking about outcomes.

Alex De La Torre

Q. Will it be easy or difficult to get this team motivated this week?
ALEX DE LA TORRE: I think everybody is motivated, just because it's a big-time game against

a really good team. You also want to finish your season with some pride of winning this last game and going into the off-season with some momentum. But in terms of the team, being motivated to play, you know, despite not going to a bowl game, everybody wants to go beat Baylor. We're going to work hard this week and go try to do that.

Q. The Bears have won four out of the last five against you guys. What have you taken away from those games?
ALEX DE LA TORRE: I think there was -- I think my freshman year we beat them 56-50 or something like that, and the past two years we lost in Waco and then back at home. The thing I can take away from those games is just some missed opportunities to take advantage of the game and the momentum in the game. You know, I think that's what it's been the last few years is just not really taking advantage of the opportunities we had to go score on this drive or score off of this turnover and just stuff like that.

Q. Were you surprised by Chris Warren's performance Thursday?
ALEX DE LA TORRE: I don't want to say surprised because I know he's athletic as heck, but you see him in practice and he has runs kind of like that -- not really like that because you don't run 90-yard touchdowns in practice, but it's different seeing him in practice and then going out in a game and just running like crazy. I thought it was really good for him and our offensive line. They work their butts off week in and week out. I think we've got some pretty good numbers rushing, so that's a plus.

Q. You're a big part of his production, as well. Do you take any of that credit for the 276 yards he put up?
ALEX DE LA TORRE: I take a little bit, just in the meeting room, though. You can only do so much, but the guy with the ball in his hands, he's got to make it happen. He did a great job on Thursday.

Q. It feels like this program is getting closer to flipping that switch. What's it going to take for that to happen?
ALEX DE LA TORRE: I think it'll be just a total team buy-in into what coach [Charlie Strong] is saying, and going out and playing your hardest every down, every game. You know, you kind of watch it this year, and all it's been is missed opportunities or self-inflicted wounds. That's been the story this year.

But that also comes with maturity, growing as a team and knowing how to finish a game. We've got a lot of young guys this year, and not necessarily saying it's just immaturity, but I think it's just knowing how to just to win a game with a whole total team effort.

I think next year, hopefully if we can get a win this Saturday, take that momentum into the off-season and really focus around that and growing as a team I think that would really move the program forward.

Q. What do you see in this Baylor defense?
ALEX DE LA TORRE: Well, you know, coach [Charlie Strong] is going to come up with some type of game plan, but I'm pretty sure we're going to try to run the ball since that's what we've

been doing pretty well. You know, we'll see. We'll get our game plan tomorrow and work with it from there.

Dylan Haines

Q. What motivates you at this point with one final game left for the season?
DYLAN HAINES: Just the love of the game. You know, we get one more opportunity guaranteed to go out there and play football for this year with this group of guys with this team. That's what we're going to do. We're going to put all our effort and everything we have left into this week into preparing for Baylor, and we've shown we can beat teams like OU. You know, that's the goal right now. Last week with the last home game for the seniors, we couldn't get it done, so we can only try now to get this win this week, and that's the goal.

Q. Was that the most painful part of this season? That you did show you can beat OU?
DYLAN HAINES: I guess, because after that we had so much confidence, we had so much momentum, and it was like the turning point. It's really disappointing that -- not that we played so well that game -- but we played so well that game and then finished the season like we did. It is disappointing, but it's not over yet, and we can get one more up there in Waco.

Q. Even though winning against Baylor most likely wouldn't get you to a bowl game, does it matter as a statement for the program and the direction you're heading going into the off-season?
DYLAN HAINES: Absolutely. Any time you can end the season on a win it gives you a little extra confidence and motivation going into next season. It would just be nice to send the seniors out on a win. I think that's the most important thing for them because that's the last time they get to suit up in burnt orange and I know that means a lot to them. We need to get a win there.

Q. That being said, you've got a long list of injuries. How does that impact this game, and does that make it more of a challenge, especially being on the road?
DYLAN HAINES: I definitely think it makes it a little more of a challenge because you're going to see a lot of young guys. You don't get a lot of valuable playing time, a lot of reps. It's just, like I said last week, that next-man-up mentality, so they've just got to know that they're going to get some reps this week. They've got to go out there and prepare harder than they've ever prepared, and I think that's going to be good for the young players -- to get them experience to carry into next year so when next year rolls around they're rolling in and they've got some playing time, and that's something that they can just kind of build off.

Q. Do you think you're close to flipping this program, and do you feel like you're on the edge of it or do you feel like there's a long way to go?
DYLAN HAINES: I'd say kind of in between. You know, I don't know if next year we're just going to snap and be 10-2 or something like that, but I think it's going in the right direction. I think that's what I, just being inside the program, can take from it right now. I just think with everything that's gone on with last year and this year; I thought last year, that's not really a great season, six wins, and then this happens. But just inside the program, not looking at the wins and losses, just with recruiting, coaching, and just players developing, I think it's definitely going in the right direction.

Q. How impressive is Baylor's offense?
DYLAN HAINES: Very impressive. I definitely think they have one of the best offenses in the conference if not the country. It presents another great challenge for us, and I was kind of saying this last week with Tech, they're going to throw the ball over the place, and we've just got to try and contain them, and I think looking at Tech we did that good for a half and then we kind of let them go. We've just got to put together a complete game. I think we're going to have a good game plan going in to just kind of limit the big play. I think that's where they get a lot of the yards off of, just kind of throwing downfield. But like I said, this presents an excellent challenge, and I mean, we've just got to contain them, and that's all we can try and do.

Q. How hard have the last two games been on Peter Jinkens?
DYLAN HAINES: You know, that's obviously going to be tough for a guy like that. Just knowing Peter and what he's been through during his time here, he wasn't a guy that was a starter all four years, but when coach Strong came in here, he worked his butt off. I know he had a lot of people saying that he really wasn't good, good enough to start, good enough to play, and he really took that to heart, and he showed this season what type of player he can be, and I know a lot of people are proud of him for doing that. He really stepped up as a player and as a leader on this team. Any time you have a guy like that where the whole team looks up to them and then coming down with an injury and not getting to play the last game, you just feel for the guy, and that's all you can do.

Q. What is it about Baylor specifically on offense? Which guys when you watch them do your eyes kind of get big?
DYLAN HAINES: Well, you know, all three of the quarterbacks they have, watching them throughout the season when I got the chance, great quarterback play, and it's always great when you have a third string that can go out there and get the job done just like your first and second string. That's something that they have going for them. The third string went out there against TCU and nearly beat them, but also their receivers. And I know just playing against them last year, Corey Coleman, Levi Norwood, those guys can fly, and it's something they've had there for the past few years is speed at wide out. Like I said, we've just got to contain them, just not give up the big play. They're going to catch some balls, and we know that because it's football, but not give up the deep ball, not giving up any deep touchdowns, and then yards after carry. Should be catch-hit, and that's the way we're going to try to play the game. If we can do that, we can win, but if we let them go out there like Tech did in the second half and just kind of throw it all over the place and let them run, it's going to be a long game.

Tim Cole

Q. Tim, is there any possible way to replace Peter Jinkens at linebacker?
TIM COLE: Peter is a great athlete, great linebacker, and he's definitely going to be missed on the field, but as we all say, when one person is down, you've got to step up, and I feel like as a linebacking corps, we've all had a lot of experience throughout the year to come in and take on that role and fill in his shoes to help this team get this win.

Q. How do you feel about this Baylor offense?

TIM COLE: Hats off to the offensive coordinator and their abilities to produce big yardage and get their receivers open and just how they've been able to score points real fast. But we'll definitely take on the challenge of being able to stop them, so we're going to go out there and prepare starting tomorrow, keying on their playmakers and their guys. Definitely, we're accepting the challenge.

Q. What's the hardest part about facing their offense?
TIM COLE: I guess not busting any coverages because they look for that. You can't bust any coverage because they'll definitely exploit that and score really fast, so you have to follow your keys, as well as just get lined up real fast because they're a high-powered offense, real fast, so you're going to have to get lined up, play sound, and don't bust any coverages.

Q. You're one of the guys that are returning next year. Will this game have any impact on setting the tone and tempo for 2016?
TIM COLE: Most definitely. You know, you want to end up the season on a good note because this game is definitely going to be a reflection of how we start next season, coming in the off-season what this team is going to be. So we're definitely going to go out there and try to finish the season on a good note and carry this momentum into the off-season.