

Texas Football Press Conference (Sept. 21, 2015)

(transcript courtesy of ASAP Sports)

Poona Ford

THE MODERATOR: Questions, please.

Q. On the defense on Saturday night... Are there easy corrections on defense and are there concerns teams may run the ball down your throat?

Yeah, there were some mistakes in the defense. It was really on defense, we had some mistakes we made, like fading gaps and what-not. But those things we went over yesterday we got corrected. We just have to keep doing a better job of stopping the run.

Q. How different of a place is the stadium with that electricity?

POONA FORD: It's a whole new environment. It drives you to put out your best, you give it your all.

Q. How tired are y'all of hearing week in and week out that the defense isn't playing well?

POONA FORD: You know, just real tired. But on Saturday night, fourth quarter, we realized what type of defense we can be. They didn't score in the fourth quarter. We realized that we can make that happen throughout the game.

If we didn't have those mistakes, they wouldn't have run for that much yardage.

Q. Despite the result Saturday, is it encouraging to see what the offense did and if you had your part taken care of the offense?

POONA FORD: The offense, they're scoring. We need to do our part and not let the other team's offense score.

So, like, if they don't score, we can win games by shutouts or whatnot.

Q. Charlie is the type of guy that loves to give you a hard time, jokes around with you a lot. How hard a time is he giving you now? What is his message for you?

POONA FORD: His message is basically challenging us to step up, step up and play the way we should, play the way Texas defense should.

Q. Seeing how this team rallied and fought back, what does it do for the team's confidence? Do you feel like you have a lot of juice and energy right now?

POONA FORD: Yeah, it's a big confidence booster for us. Being able to fight back like that, being 21 down, it just shows we can be a really good football team, that we can probably go on and win this conference.

Q. What you did think of (Kevin) Vaccaro's performance?

POONA FORD: He played absolutely good. I knew that if he ever got the chance to step up, he was going to make an impact. I see him out there in practice. He's always trying to hit somebody. He's not afraid to put his pads on somebody. That's what I like about him.

I wasn't surprised. I know what he's capable of, you know. He can do that more if he gets a chance. He's got the attitude with him that it takes to play defense. I like that about him.

Q. What kind of show does this team need to make in this conference opener to let the conference know the Horns are coming, y'all are legit?

POONA FORD: Not get ran on. We're going to put up points. Doesn't matter. We're going to put up points. Need to show that we're not going to be stepped over or ran over. Whatever it takes, we're going to do whatever it is to keep the offense from scoring.

I guess people think they're going to try to run the ball on us or whatever. They're not going to be able to do that, and Texas is coming back to the top.

Taylor Doyle

THE MODERATOR: Questions for Taylor Doyle.

Q. Taylor, what a comeback. How much juice and fire does this offense have now?

TAYLOR DOYLE: Yeah, there's a lot of juice. As an offensive line, we know that if we give the quarterback time, we block well, guys around us are going to make big plays. That's really encouraging.

We have a quarterback who is playing solid football, all our skill positions are playing really well. It's encouraging as an offensive line, if we do our job, we'll take care of us.

Q. How much of the penalties on the offensive line are hurting you right now?

TAYLOR DOYLE: It's killing us. We can't shoot ourselves in the foot. It's all about executing.

We're putting a lot of emphasis on having no penalties. Obviously some things are going to happen. But the goal for us week in and week out is zero penalties.

We definitely fell short there this past week.

Q. When you went back and looked at the tape, was it even more special to see what Jerrod did? Did you marvel and wow?

TAYLOR DOYLE: Absolutely. Jerrod played an incredible game. He has a lot of talent. He has an opportunity and he's taking full advantage of it. It's a lot of fun to be out there with him and to watch him play and have success.

Q. Was it his arm or feet that impressed you the most?

TAYLOR DOYLE: Tough to say. He's dangerous with both. He's invaluable out there for us. We're just focused on getting better.

Q. How much better has the O-line gotten as a unit? How much has Jerrod helped that?

TAYLOR DOYLE: Absolutely. Jerrod has done a great job of making plays on his feet when there are breakdowns. As the offensive line, we're focused on improving every week and getting better. That's our goal. In order to do that, we have to eliminate the penalties, we have to eliminate the off-sides, the holdings, all that.

We need to continue to execute and protect the quarterback and create lanes in the run game.

Q. I'm assuming at some point Jerrod Heard won the team over to his side. Did it happen Saturday?

TAYLOR DOYLE: We have the utmost confidence in both our quarterbacks. We know both those guys can play. Jerrod had the opportunity to go out there the past two weeks and do his job as quarterback, and he's done a phenomenal job. We support them both 100%. Jerrod is in there. It's a coaching decision. We're 100% behind him.

Q. Did you notice a major difference in the offense from practice and during the game?

TAYLOR DOYLE: Coach puts a lot of emphasis on just being consistent, repping plays, repping plays, just doing your job day in and day out. That's been consistent with Coach Watson and what he's done in the past. He's just putting a lot of emphasis on being accountable, holding our teammates accountable, doing our job play in and play out.

Q. Are you close with Nick Rose and have you said anything to him since he missed the extra point?

TAYLOR DOYLE: Absolutely. That's a tough situation. He was absolutely devastated in the locker room. You can tell how much he cares about the program and our success. Obviously it's tough.

It's been encouraging to see our teammates rally behind him. Obviously it's very unfortunate what happened, but we're with you 100%. We can't let this affect us next week or the week after that. We have to move forward and keep trucking.

Q. The defensive guys were coming over and hugging you guys. Does the offensive line encourage the defensive guys?

TAYLOR DOYLE: Absolutely. We know as a team we have to be good on offense, defense and special teams to win games. We're just trying to control what we can on the offensive line. We know we have to play better to win games, to consistently win games. We're just controlling what we can control as an offense, and always encouraging our teammates.

At the end of the day we're all on the same team and we all have the same goals. It's special to be with a group of like-minded guys and continue to get better week in and week out.

Q. What's it like playing with the twins, Armanti and D'Onta (Foreman)?

TAYLOR DOYLE: They bring a lot of energy to practice. Both the twins can make plays. It's funny, looking at their body type, you would have no idea they're twins. Once you get to hang out with them, they're very similar. Same sense of humor. When it's time to work, they're ready

to work. They put their foot down and get after it.

So it's been awesome having them as teammates.

Q. Are you sensing a competition between the two as they're getting more touches and looks on offense?

TAYLOR DOYLE: They both want to have success. They're both highly competitive people. I wouldn't be surprised if there's a little competition between the brothers.

Q. How hungry are you guys for a championship, to set the tone and tempo for this conference opener?

TAYLOR DOYLE: It's huge. Now we get into Big 12 play, every game matters, every game is important. We're excited to get back out there after this past Saturday, after watching film. Guys are ready to get on the field last night and play again.

Everyone's hungry. Everyone's ready to improve and get Texas back to where it needs to be. We're excited to have a clean slate and an opportunity to go play.

THE MODERATOR: Thanks, Taylor.

Desmond Jackson

THE MODERATOR: Questions for Desmond Jackson.

Q. What did you think of Jerrod Heard's performance Saturday?

DESMOND JACKSON: First and foremost I want to say that Jerrod played a good game, really good start. I think he had, I think, most yards by a quarterback in Texas history. Wow! (It was great) to see him go up and down the field like that...the offensive line, the blocking they did. Receivers catching the ball.

Q. What did you think of Kevin's (Vaccaro's) performance on Saturday?

DESMOND JACKSON: I think he had one of those games where he got thrown in there. He prepared his whole career to go in there and play the way he did.

I think him being the type of player that he is, he wouldn't say that he had the best game in his career. There's always room for improvement. I think he had a pretty good game and he's ready for the next one.

Q. What is he like as a player when he's not on the field?

DESMOND JACKSON: Kevin is like one of those real quiet guys. He doesn't really say too much. He laughs every once in a while. He's a humble person.

Q. We see the offense making strides week in and week out. What has to change for the defense?

DESMOND JACKSON: Consistency. That's one of the biggest things. We got to be consistent the way we play.

Third quarter, 21 points. Fourth quarter, zero points. We all came together as a unit. The consistency has to change.

Q. How hungry are you and the team for a Big 12 championship?

DESMOND JACKSON: I think as far as conference play this week, I think that's something we're getting ready for, the Big 12. We got to take one game at a time, take care the things we need to take care of, fix the things we can fix.

We got Oklahoma State this Saturday, it's a chance for us.

Q. Talk about the third quarter and your performance.

DESMOND JACKSON: I think as a unit, we always want to strive to be ready going into the game. Basically there were a lot of things we didn't do, we didn't take care of. We didn't fit our gaps right. We didn't do the things we needed to do to be able to win, despite Jerrod's performance, the offensive's effort.

There's stuff that we need to take care. They had five explosive plays they had. Running the ball was on us, which was basically on us. We need to continue to make tackles. I think as a unit we have to continue to take care of that. If we hold them to five plays, make tackles so they don't have five plays. They had like 200 yards rushing. Especially they had the 36 yards for a touchdown. That changes the whole game right there.

So we all got to watch the film. We got to stop making excuses about saying, This shouldn't have happened. We got to go out there and make sure it doesn't happen again.

Can I (Desmond Jackson) say something quick?

I got a call yesterday, one of my teachers back home. Her name is Stacy Russo. She had cancer. She was one of those ladies that always watched after me, made sure everything was all right for me at Westfield (High School). My heart goes out to her and her family. I want her to know I love you so much.

She talks to me all the time, telling me she's proud of me. It's kind of hard for me to have a straight face right now because I miss her a lot, the things she went through. She had to get a leg amputated all the way. She had to get her leg amputated the beginning of this year. She always had a smile on her face, always talked to me.

She was one of the ladies back in Westfield that taught me how to be a man. She was my mom away from home when I was away from my mom. I want the family to know she was a blessing to me, taught me what I needed to do. I'm going to keep trying and make her proud, take care of what I need to take care of.

I love you, Miss Russo.

Thank y'all.

Johnathan Gray

THE MODERATOR: Questions for Johnathan Gray.

Q. All pumped up, fired up, set the tone and tempo?

JOHNATHAN GRAY: The Horns are definitely comin'! I feel what we displayed last week was amazing. You saw a team down 21 points. For us to rally back and even have a chance, then unfortunately we missed a field goal. But to put us back into almost going to overtime to a team we were supposed to lose to by 7 or 14, it shows how much fight we have and how much guys want it.

Unfortunately we need to get some things worked out, details. But I think going into conference, guys are ready and pumped up.

Q. Do you feel like the tension has gone away? Does it feel like it's almost a different team now?

JOHNATHAN GRAY: I definitely think everybody is in place. Coaches are doing a great job now of getting guys the ball, utilizing the talent we have on this offense.

I think we have the missing pieces to the puzzle. Our offense is ready right now. We hope to go into conference play and get better each and every weekend, keep going.

Q. Why do you think it took the offense so long to get those pieces in place?

JOHNATHAN GRAY: Just guys got to buy into the system. Coaches got to get on the same page. Players have to keep fighting and keep pushing through it, just fight for one another.

I stood up in the meeting room before the game and told each other, We have to fight like brothers, help each other out, be dogs on the field. I think guys took that to heart and played well.

Now I think we have everything we need. Unfortunately it took this long, but glad we have it now. Now we're ready to get in conference play and roll.

Q. After the game, Charlie said you and some of the other seniors in the locker room rallied the team. What was your message to the team?

JOHNATHAN GRAY: Keep your head up. It was a great game, hard-fought game. Guys competed, played hard, played well. We just missed a field goal. Guys just got to keep their head up. It's not the end of the world. We have more games to play. We just need to get this thing figured out and keep rolling.

Q. Why was it important for you to want to say something afterwards?

JOHNATHAN GRAY: Senior leader. Just know that a guy in the locker room has a brother for

him. I'm here for my brothers on my team. I let them know that. I fight for them, I cry for them, I bleed for them. I think for the seniors it's a great job to just let them know, everybody in the locker room know.

Q. You've known Nick (Rose) for a long time. How did he react?

JOHNATHAN GRAY: I think he reacted how anybody would react after losing a game. He took it to heart. But I let him know, the team let him know that we're still brothers regardless of what happened, regardless of the outcome. He was kind of hard on his-self.

But, like I said, we're all brothers, we're all in it together, we're all here to win games. We just had his back.

Q. Coach was saying on that final drive, Jerrod was saying, Give me the opportunity to get a touchdown. When was the last time you saw that much confidence from your quarterback?

JOHNATHAN GRAY: It's been a while. Jerrod being the guy he is, give me the ball, I'm going to show you what I can do. We had a great team, great excitement, great play calling put us in a great position.

Jerrod took over. Like I said, he's stepping up, becoming a key guy in our offense, really big for this team. We need more guys like that to say, Give me the ball, move out the way, let me go score. He done a great job. That's what we need.

We can keep that going, the sky's the limit for this team.

Q. Do you look to him with confidence?

JOHNATHAN GRAY: We always looked to Jerrod with confidence. We knew he needed to grow, which he has done a great job. We just look to him to be one of our strongest leaders. He's done a great job with it.

Q. What did Jerrod do after the loss?

JOHNATHAN GRAY: Just picked guys up. Like I say, he's grown up a lot. Even win or lose, he's always talking in somebody's ear, picking them up, has great words of encouragement, doing things a team leader is supposed to do. Things are looking up for him.

Q. Coach said it's the first time you reacted the way you should react after a loss. Have you noticed that?

JOHNATHAN GRAY: It's been a while. Normally we'd be down by 21 points, it would get out of hand. This week we were down 21 points, we had fight in us.

After a loss, we would have our heads down, our season's over. Now guys are like, Let's keep this going. We know what we can do, what we're capable of. Let's go out here and fix the minor mistakes and start winning games.

Q. What did it mean for the offense to finally see a game (indiscernible)?

JOHNATHAN GRAY: It was great. We haven't had that in a while. For us to go up there and put

those numbers up on offense, like I said, we have the piece to the missing puzzle for this offense. With the talent we have on this offense, we can do some amazing things.

We just got to keep pushing forward, fix the mistakes, be more detailed in our work.

Q. What about the (Foreman) twins, what are they like on the football field?

JOHNATHAN GRAY: They're big. Both of them being twins, they share the same attitude. Those guys are great play-makers for us, have great attitudes. They want the ball in their hands. They're always motivating the team. I think their attitude towards the team, being so young, is great for the seniors and some of those young guys coming in.

If they can keep contributing to the team, it's going to be great.

Q. Is it healthy competition right now?

JOHNATHAN GRAY: It's funny competition. Those guys playing at two different positions, they still go at each other. I'm better than you at this, I'm better than you at that. It's fun in the locker room. It's good natured. Everybody is competitive in the locker room. Coming from twins, it's great.

Q. Are you 100%? What do you need to do to get you going the way you're used to?

JOHNATHAN GRAY: I'm 100%. Whatever coach asks of me, I'm here to do. Right now Jerrod is ruling. Keep running with Jerrod until that slows down. I'm still out there helping him, trying to contribute to the team, doing my part to make the team better.

Q. How good is the Oklahoma State team? Sounds like you have your hands full.

JOHNATHAN GRAY: OSU is great competition, great team, great school. They're not going to come in here lightly. We know that. We know we have to go to work.

Their defense is a strong defense this year. Their front is amazing. We have to go in with a game plan, go in there like dogs. We got to fight, keep fighting for each other, play.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

Peter Jinkens

THE MODERATOR: Questions for Peter Jinkens.

Q. Pete, how important was it for you to come to Nick's defense, give him the love and support he needed?

PETER JINKENS: It was important because I know him personally. He's like one of my best friends. I know he was real hurt after he missed the field goal. I went to him, told him, Keep your head up. Just make sure you never know you never feel this feeling in a game, continue to work hard.

Q. How difficult is that to get over?

PETER JINKENS: I wouldn't know. I mean, I can't even imagine or fathom what he's going through right now. I wouldn't even know.

Q. Are you seeing stuff people are saying to him on Twitter? A lot of people supporting him.

PETER JINKENS: I've seen it. It's hard to watch. I try to tell him to stay off of social media until this blows over.

Q. How hard is it for players to stay off of social media with the criticism?

PETER JINKENS: It's really hard. You see people talking like they don't even know what they're talking about. You want to comment on it so bad, but you can't. You have a lot going for you. So if you go down to that level, say what you really want to say, you are to a higher standard than they are. You just got to roll with the punches.

Q. It seems like you guys have been a little more vocal this year.

PETER JINKENS: We have, but you just got to make sure everybody stays in their place.

Q. Charlie said you guys finally responded like a team should when they lose. Has it been a while since guys have taken stuff to heart?

PETER JINKENS: I feel like it has. I feel like we been okay with losing. This past year, you know, we just get tired of it. Coach Strong has been saying this two years already. Now it's starting to hit home with us. Now we're hungry and ready to prove everybody wrong.

Q. You have Oklahoma State coming in. Are you scared to death right now or what is the mentality?

PETER JINKENS: No, I'm never scared. I'm always up for a challenge. They're a real good team. I'm ready to play. I'm ready to prove to everybody what this defense is really about.

Q. How are you taking this right now, the defensive side struggling?

PETER JINKENS: I mean, it is hard. You never really want to allow 200-or-anything rushing yards on you. You just got to pick up the pieces, go back to the drawing board, continue to get better.

Q. Do you feel there's positive energy in the program right now?

PETER JINKENS: I feel like it is. We're stout on offense right now, Jerrod Heard coming in and doing the job he did. In Heard we trust.

I feel like there's a whole lot of positives going on. Until the fourth quarter, where we had -- defense was playing great. I feel like if we play like we did in the fourth quarter, I feel like we're going to have one heck of a season.

Q. Is that something you guys are saying in the locker room now? "In Heard We Trust"?

PETER JINKENS: Actually, I just started that just now. Going to patent it.

Q. What did you think of (Kevin) Vaccaro's play?

PETER JINKENS: We call him The Bead. He's a firecracker. I always knew if he ever got the chance to play, he was going to do great things. He showed that last night. I can't be more proud of him.

Q. Charlie said this team is starting to take ownership, something that has been missing up until recently. What are you seeing the team do to show that to Charlie?

PETER JINKENS: Just the game. You see from the game on Saturday. Man, usually if we down 21 points, we won't have much fight. I saw like the fight. I saw the fire in everybody's eyes. Everybody is hungry for success now. Just ready to play.

Q. What can come from you guys being like that?

PETER JINKENS: Great things can come from that. We can finally put this program back on top, where it belongs.

Q. How would you describe the rivalry with Oklahoma State to open conference play?

PETER JINKENS: They're a good team. I don't kind of think there's a rivalry there.

Q. Are you ready for conference play?

PETER JINKENS: Extremely ready. I'm just ready to play.

Q. When is the last time you saw a game played like that?

PETER JINKENS: First year we played West Virginia for the first time. Only time I seen that ever.

Q. What about setting this tone and tempo for the conference?

PETER JINKENS: That would be nice, hopefully we can just rattle everything together, go on a streak these next few weeks, hoping we can just win.

THE MODERATOR: Thanks, Peter.

Jerrod Heard

THE MODERATOR: Questions for Jerrod Heard.

Q. Didn't name you Big 12 player of the week. What do you have to do?

JERROD HEARD: I don't even try to, I guess, get that title. I was out there just to get the win. I guess someone else did better. I'm not insulted about that at all.

Q. It kind of feels even in the loss, you guys took so many positives in the game. Is that fair?

JERROD HEARD: Yeah, you know, definitely. I think what we showed the other night, we can fight. It's going to be like that in the Big 12, period. There's a lot of good teams in the Big 12. All our games going to be hard-fought games through the fourth quarter.

Q. Why was there no fight the last few years? What was missing?

JERROD HEARD: You know, I don't know because I wasn't here for the last few years. I think probably what was missing was just that unity of having each other's back.

I can only go from what I seen from this year and the previous year. We just really came together this year and fought for each other and made sure we're going to have each other's back.

Q. Charlie said he saw you take more ownership as a team. How has that happened?

JERROD HEARD: Just having our leaders and knowing who they are, having the young guys follow. We have great leaders on the team, from the senior class definitely. They're definitely like our big brothers out there. We rely on them a lot. They help us out 24/7 on the field. It's a great deal.

Q. The last day after the loss, what did you do?

JERROD HEARD: I basically watched a lot of film. Got in the film room, saw the stuff I need to fix, stuff that could have probably changed that game around. At the end of the day I was really just happy for my team and how we fought and bounced back.

Q. Were there any words of encouragement from anyone you respect?

JERROD HEARD: Again, family, friends, and also from the coaches and teammates. But I just wanted that W really bad. But that's part of it, competing. I'm just happy I ended.

Q. What needs to be fixed?

JERROD HEARD: Some drives that I want back. You're not going to be on the field every drive, score every drive. We want that. I feel like our team, we strive for that perfection. When you see that on the field and on film, that's what we try to go for.

Q. Charlie said you told him you were going to get a touchdown for him on the final drive. Do you remember that?

JERROD HEARD: Yeah, I told Charlie I'm going to go get this touchdown, we're going to be all right. I just had that drive that I wanted to do it, I wanted to win that bad. That's what happened.

Q. Where does that confidence come from? Did you have a game like that in high school where they put the ball in your hands and you were able to get it done?

JERROD HEARD: As I can recall, I had a few games like that. I did rely on my guys. There's sometimes when you're the leader of the team, you just got to take charge.

I felt like I was one of the leaders on the team so I have to be accountable for that game.

Q. Do you feel like this team has confidence in you now?

JERROD HEARD: I feel like we all have confidence in each other, and definitely have confidence in me now. I want to keep it that way, be a reliable source on the field. If times get tough, they can also rely on me.

Q. How will it feel to play against (Oklahoma State QB) JW Walsh?

JERROD HEARD: Definitely going to be a lot of competition out there. Plus even Jimmy Bean went to my high school as well. Just seeing those guys is really going to be more a little bit

personal out there on the field. But it's all going to be fun. Can't wait to get out there.

Q. Former head coach probably will be in attendance.

JERROD HEARD: Oh, yeah. It's going to be a lot of the staff members out there. It's going to be exciting. Can't wait. It's something that we've been looking forward to.

Q. What was your reaction when you found out you broke the record for total yards?

JERROD HEARD: I didn't really find out till yesterday afternoon, someone had told me. Someone told me. I forgot.

I wasn't really excited because we didn't get the win. It is a great achievement to have. Looking forward to many more.

Q. You got to warm up for Big 12 play. How excited are you to see what this conference is all about?

JERROD HEARD: I'm really excited to see. I know there's great teams in this conference. I'm excited to be able to compete in it, see how we lead out in this team.

Q. How would you describe Nick (Rose) ?

JERROD HEARD: Nick is good. We're still going to rely on him to make more critical kicks for us. We still got faith in him. Nick is going to be all right, do his job.

Q. Anything you said to him?

JERROD HEARD: I definitely gave him words of encouragement. Stuff like that happens all the time. You can't get your head down on that, bounce back from it.

Q. Peter (Jinkens) told him to stay off social media.

JERROD HEARD: He probably did. But Nick is going to be okay. The thing is, he's going to be probably in the game where he has to make another critical kick for us.

Q. Are you starting to notice that people on campus know who you are?

JERROD HEARD: A little bit, yeah. A little bit. I get a little, Hey, What's up, every now and then. I really don't try to bring attention to myself. That's just me. But I do see the difference, which is fun. It's cool, too.

Q. Do you feel you're more dangerous with your arm or your feet?

JERROD HEARD: I don't know. I really don't know. I guess my feet. I guess when the throw is not there, I can take off and try to get the first down.

Q. What are the (Foreman) twins like in practice?

JERROD HEARD: Competing always, who can make the most touchdowns, who can do this the most. That's how they are. It's really nice to have those type of guys on the team that want to compete.

They're great guys. They're going to be really impactful for the season.

Q. How are they different?

JERROD HEARD: I don't know. I don't think they're different. They really are twins. They feed off each other a lot, too. You're going to see them around each other most of the time.

Q. How did you feel physically yesterday? Can you do what you did Saturday consistently or...

JERROD HEARD: Yeah, I was definitely sore. But I feel like I can do that pretty much every Saturday. Take less hits, definitely. But that was part of it. Just trying to make something happen, making sure I got the first down. I might have to take a lick or something like that.

It was part of the game. I had to fight for it.

Q. How is your neck?

JERROD HEARD: It's good. My neck is good (laughter). I had on a heat pad the whole day probably Sunday. It's good, though. I'm going to bounce back from that.

Q. Did you see the replay of that?

JERROD HEARD: Yeah. It looked pretty nasty. I was surprised how my neck can turn like that. But it was pretty nasty.

Q. Been flipped before?

JERROD HEARD: No, I haven't landed on my neck and twisted it almost off like that. That was the first.

Q. When you split those defenders and there's nothing left but the end zone, the crowd there, what's going through your mind?

JERROD HEARD: I don't know. Kind of went blank. When you do it, you don't realize what you did till it's over. You're like, Oh, my God.

But, yeah, I guess Armanti (Foreman) had made the block, I'm just going to go run straight. I just followed D'Onta (Foreman) in the hole, followed off his butt, went into the end zone.

THE MODERATOR: Thanks, Jerrod.

Daje Johnson

THE MODERATOR: Questions for Daje Johnson.

Q. How does it feel to get positive feedback regarding your performance?

DAJE JOHNSON: It feels great. I just want to continue to improve, push the team to be great. That's my goal this season. That's been my goal coming from the summer. Also push my teammates to be great, this whole team.

Q. You had a career game. What else are you capable of?

DAJE JOHNSON: I'm not sure. Whatever God has planned for me. I can't really tell the future. I know He has something special for me.

Q. How has Jerrod Heard affected the offense?

DAJE JOHNSON: Jerrod affected tremendously with his capability of running. The defense can't really play zone, that's why they kept on playing man. They had to get a man on him.

Jerrod, he is passing, too. He's improved much from the summer. He's just building confidence for the team, allowing the team to just play through him. Once he does that, the wins will keep coming.

Q. Charlie said he's starting to see the team take ownership of itself. How is that different now versus maybe a few weeks ago or last year?

DAJE JOHNSON: Well, the team, we feel like we have the capability to win with any team in the country now. How we played from Cal, how we showed everything, used our athletes, used the plays that the coaches had set up for us, executed those plays. Once we continue to do that, it will be great.

Q. What did you think watching Jerrod on Saturday?

DAJE JOHNSON: I remember the one play, the last one, right before the field goal. I was like, That right there is greatness. He's amazing. Real proud of him.

Q. Are you faster than him?

DAJE JOHNSON: Still got to ask him the question. Let him answer that.

Q. Coach Norvell said that you like reading the wide receiver book more than the actual playbook. What do you like about that wide receiver book that Coach Norvell gave you?

DAJE JOHNSON: I said this before. Changes your mindset that Coach Norvell has in the book. After I read that, that's how I wanted to be, playing at that level. Coach Norvell, he always speaks of that. I heard this many times before, Play like a pro. Coach Watson says that, too. Those two great coaches preach the same.

Once you have like one person trying to preach that, you have other players, build it together.

Q. You rally and come back in this one, how badly do you need to win a game like this?

DAJE JOHNSON: The Cal game?

Q. Any game. You are battling to get back in it, how badly does a team need to win a game like this one?

DAJE JOHNSON: You always got to win. When you're close like that, you want to win. Especially when you come back with a 21-point deficit, the mentality you're going to have. It hurts that we lost. But we just got to keep pushing through.

Q. What did you think of the performance of the (Foreman) twins?

DAJE JOHNSON: Armanti, he brings that dog out of him on the outside. They play their heart out. D'Onta, they both have that connection where they're going to play for one another, and they

try to bring that to the team, try to preach that to the team when they get a chance.

Q. How have you responded with Nick (Rose)? What has he been like?

DAJE JOHNSON: Just give him positive feedback. I talked to him afterwards. I seen him after the game in the locker room, talked to him. Told him to keep his head up, pray to God, just help him get through everything. Stuff like that happens. We're still behind him and everything.

THE MODERATOR: Thanks, Daje.