

Postgame Quotes
Oklahoma State 30, Texas 27
September 26, 2015

Texas Quotes

Texas Head Coach Charlie Strong – courtesy of ASAP Sports

Opening Statement: The amazing thing about this game is it is a game of life, and when you get knocked down you gotta to be able to pick yourself up. You look at two straight Saturdays that you had it right there in your hands, and we let it slip away from us.

I like the way we came out in the second half and played on defense, had two scores and offensively were never able to get anything going.

We have to play better and just learn how to finish. We just can't finish right now. We gotta learn how to finish and fight through it. We sat there with a 3-point lead and probably shouldn't have got the call I got, but I got upset and gotta learn to you to just control my composure we just gotta be able to bounce back, go back to work tomorrow, and just get ready for TCU, and that's going to be a big one.

Q. Coach, Strong, your offense struggled to score, didn't have an offensive score since midway through the second quarter. What was the difference? Was it Perkins? What was the difference in not being able to score the ball?

COACH STRONG: Just not being able to be balanced, you've got to be able to run it and throw it, and they were able to come in and rush us and put pressure, and the thing about it when Jerrod stepped up, they were fast enough to run him down and keep him contained. But we had our opportunity on offense, they had the ball down there plenty of times in plus territory, and we just didn't get anything out of it.

Q. Charlie, do you think anything in particular happened after Perk went out, because that's when the momentum turned.

COACH STRONG: When you lose Perkins -- he is able to block the edge, and they were able to get the pressure. We got beat twice when he was out, and Jerrod had to step up and run out of there, but with Perkins in there that would never have happened, but we gotta be able to get first downs, and we didn't get any first downs, and we were not able to sustain a drive and burn the clock.

Q. Charlie on the unsportsmanlike conduct call, was that you that drew that, and were you upset with the defensive holding call? You hardly ever see a bench get a flag for something like that. Were you surprised they threw it?

COACH STRONG: That's what is surprising, because you think about it, the play before we got the interference call, and the very next play you get a defensive holding call, and they run the football. I've never heard of that. In all my years of coaching, I've never seen that so I thought it was holding on them, so I was clapping thinking we were going

to get a call at one point, and they was going to barely take them back, and then the guy said it was a defensive holding call, and I said, "On a run play on the offense, that cannot happen," but it did.

Q. Then they threw the flag?

COACH STRONG: Threw the flag on me for sayin' a little more than that.

Q. Coach, they say good teams always find a way to win. Do you have a group of guys that just don't know how to win at this point?

COACH STRONG: We just gotta learn how to keep battling and to finish it. You look at it, the game is tied up and we go back to punt the ball and drop the punt and now they get the ball in field goal range on a short field.

It's being able to convert the third downs on the offense and keep the clock moving and move the chains.

Q. Charlie, you had 16 penalties. Do you feel like that shows a lack of discipline?

COACH STRONG: Well, you look a lot of those penalties, and I love to see some of them because, I mean, we had 16, I don't know what they had. And I told the guys, it's like we're getting all their holding calls, and I said, "I know this: Their defensive line can't block our guys." But we gotta be a better disciplined football team.

Q. Charlie, what's causing these late-game mistakes and how do you fix them?

COACH STRONG: We gotta get them fixed and continue to work.

Q. Charlie, is the deal with Tyrone running the ball something you feel that you can use as the season progresses and keep him involved in the offense?

COACH STRONG: That's why we put that package in for him, just a short yardage package, and we just knew that we didn't want Jerrod to take a lot of hits, so you put Tyrone in there and let him be the short yardage guy.

Q. Coach, how did it impact you guys not being able to use head sets for the majority of game?

COACH STRONG: That was another issue. I think they said theirs wasn't working or they couldn't hear clear enough. As long as they work, they work, but, you know, where it hurts us is we have guys upstairs, especially on offense, that can't give us the communication we need.

Q. Coach, with all your experience this is tough to stomach these last two weeks. What do you tell a young team trying to figure this out?

COACH STRONG: I said, you know, "It's all about being able to pick yourself back up. You're going to get knocked down but you have to battle through. We're not going to give up, and we have a lot of games left to go play so keep playing guys." There are going to be tough games, which we just had but still -- we place ourselves -- a lot of

times when you're in the position you're in, you have done it to yourselves, and that's what happened to us. We did it to ourselves.

Q. Defensively a couple of touchdown you didn't give up as many yards as you have been giving up. What did you think about the defensive performance today?

COACH STRONG: Well, you look at it, and it's all about getting turnovers, and we got some turnovers and were able to get pressure on their quarterback, you look at Ridgeway's play and then Holton Hill, young guy, coming in and making a big play for us, and even on the one, I thought we were going to get -- when they fumbled, and I thought we had recovered the fumble but we didn't. But we want to apply pressure and get the turnovers.

Q. Coach, can you give us an idea of what your level of concern is at this moment?

COACH STRONG: Well, it's a lot. I just haven't thought about it, just trying to get this team going and get us a win somehow.

Q. Charlie, is that the main thing you talked about a second ago, the position y'all are in, you gotta create your own luck and create your own breaks, and y'all just aren't doing that right now?

COACH STRONG: Yeah, we're not. You're right, we do it to ourselves. It's nothing that someone else is doing to us, we do it to ourselves, and we're going to have to create it ourselves.

It's all about making plays. We get the ball, I think it was -- we were up by 3, 5:12 to go, I think, and we just need a first down, and we keep burning the clock and make them use their time outs, and just try to get one first down and get the ball moved. And then if we had to get out and punt, we were not backed up and we could get the ball off and make them drive the field, because we had started playing pretty well on defense and they were going to have to drive the ball, and I didn't know if they could drive it 60 or 70 yards on us.

But we have to create those plays, and we have to do it, and it's all about guys stepping up and making plays.

Q. Coach, for a stretch there you guys made a lot of stops in a row. Do you take any solace in that, any optimism moving forward?

COACH STRONG: We did, think about it, we made a lot of stops and we got them in back-to-back turnovers, and then we got a touchdown on a turnover, but defensively we just gotta -- we haven't played well the previous three weeks, and then we go out today and play pretty good, so we gotta continue to build on that.

Q. Is Kent Perkins' injury serious, do you think?

COACH STRONG: No, he couldn't have -- no, he could not have come back in the game,

but I think it's one of those where it's going to take some time to get him back, and not for sure how much time

Charlie Strong quotes are courtesy of ASAP Sports

Texas WR Coach Jay Norvell

On whether or not they can catch a break right now: I don't know about that. I told the players that one thing that we've been talking about from the start is building accountability and we have to watch the film and take responsibility for what happened today. We had far too many penalties. I don't know if I've ever been in a game that was so lopsided penalty-wise, but we seem to have a bunch and they didn't seem to have many at all. So we have to do a better job of eliminating that and we have to find a better way to protect Jerrod [Heard] on third downs so he can drop back in the pocket and throw the ball. That was not good at all. We just have to execute better, we don't have anyone to blame but ourselves. We started off the second half and we had a touchdown on the first play and we just didn't execute it correctly. We have to be better, with everything that was going on, trying to be smart at the end and it just wasn't enough.

On not protecting Jerrod Heard: We have to do a better job of protecting Jerrod on third down. That's just the bottom line. We told the kid that we have to learn from this. We knew people weren't going to let him run around like they did last week. That's just the reality. There are good coaches that are going to make adjustments watching the film and they are going to make you earn it. We have to make sure to protect, so we can give ourselves the opportunity to throw on third down and make plays. That obviously wasn't good enough. The penalties in the second half put us in long-yardage situations. If we can't make yards on a first down, it makes it very difficult for us and so we have to find a way to play clean. And if we have to eliminate more of our package to do that, then that's what we'll have to do. Somehow we have to play better, there were too many dropped balls. We had dropped balls on third down that we could've converted. We just made it even harder on ourselves. Our defense fought and hung in there and gave us a chance to win and we just didn't make enough at the end.

On coming up short once again: It's disappointing to lose games the way we lost them the last two weeks. Those are fairly rare occurrences for those types of games and we did those back to back. It's kind of ironic, but at the same time we're accountable for the plays that we didn't make in the game and the mistakes that we made. We have to correct those things to give ourselves a chance. The penalties--they are very difficult to overcome and I thought in the first half we did some good things, we converted some third downs and some fourth downs and kept drives alive and took advantage, but we didn't do much of that in the second half.

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Texas Player Quotes

Senior OG Sedrick Flowers

On penalties and the O-line: But all of those penalties we had, that was a big turning point. You can't have all of those penalties and give up all of those yards, not converting because of penalties and all that stuff and expect to win the game. It's a little sloppiness. I really don't know, we will see on the film. You know, because a holding call can go 50-50, there is holding on every play in the game of football. It's all a matter of hands inside, or if you are against somebody.... we will find out why on the film.

On OSU changing up its game: They pretty much stayed consistent with what they were doing, they picked up with their twists a little more--they did run a little more twists, but besides that, no, they were what they were. We saw them all week on film. We just didn't execute to our fullest in the game.

On being 1-3 after close losses to California and OSU: You look at it--both games we were inches away from a win. In my opinion, that's what makes it more frustrating. You lose a game by huge margins ... like alright, we lost the game. A loss hurts regardless, but when it's by that much, it hurts you deeper inside.

Junior DT Hassan Ridgeway

On his feelings after the game: You just know that we're close and right there. It's disappointing when you're so close to winning like that two times. It's not just once; it's twice like that. It was by a field goal. We were right there. It hurts.

On being able to win moving forward: That isn't going to be a problem. When we lose, we're not going to go down. We're going to learn from it. We learned from it last week. We came out with a better mindset and we came to win. We had some tough breaks, but we're going to fight every week. That's not going to be a problem.

On being ready to win: That's how we are right now. It doesn't feel good coming out like that. It would've felt good winning. That's the only thing that would have felt good.

On the penalties: That's a tough break. They weren't going our way this game. It happens. Sometimes they go our way, sometimes they don't. You've got to just keep on going.

On being surprised by the calls against Texas: Yes, I was very surprised. Some of the calls, like the holding call against Poona [Ford], I didn't see a holding call. They held us all of the time, so how did we get a holding call like that?

On having three freshman corners: They bring energy. That's what we need on the field. As long as you're bringing that juice, the energy, excitement and passion, that's what defense is all about. Even the older guys, they bring that stuff, but young guys, young fresh dudes, it makes our defense better when they go through like that.

Senior CB Duke Thomas

On his frustration: This one hurt, just like last week. We have to finish, to find a way to finish the game or go into overtime and make a chance win. But we just need to win.

On the defense: The first quarter we came out and gave up two quick scores. We had to come out, adjust and make things happen. In that first quarter, when we gave up 14 points and right there, that really killed us. And we had to make the offense battle back. We can't have that on the defensive side of the ball. We've got to put all four quarters together.

On stepping up and meeting the challenge after a fall to 1-3: We are a family and we are going to bond together just like we did last week and every week. It's not a one-game season. We are going to put this loss behind us and come out next week ready to win.

On picking up the young guys in the locker room after the game: There are not any more young guys. We are a team. Everybody is together. We all pick each other up.

On the freshman cornerbacks that played today: Like I said, we don't have any more freshmen. You earned your playing time, you have to go out there and make plays out there in the field. Clearly Coach trusts you, I am going to trust you and they did a great job.

On Coach Strong's message to the players: Basically, we have to stand strong, be a family and make things happen.

Senior LB Peter Jinkens

On the loss: It's tough. You come out and lose two games in a row, but you just have to go back to the drawing board and keep pushing and keep working hard.

On what Coach Strong said after the game: He told us to remember we have one next week, so we can't really hang our heads for too long.

On the performance of freshmen DBs: They played amazing. I feel like they are going to be a big thing in the future here. I can't wait to see it. They brought that bite. They love to compete and love to play the game and they brought that excitement.

On how the team record of 1-3 sits with him: It's bad, no doubt about it, but that's life. Football is a game of life. You just have to battle through adversity and all the things that come.

On his role as a senior: I've been here for four years, and I've seen a lot of things. Before I leave, I just want to bestow some knowledge upon the freshmen.

Senior RB Johnathan Gray

On his feelings after the past two games: You definitely don't want to lose back-to-back weeks on field goals. It's a tough loss. We made some mistakes we could have fixed and prevented. We just have to be more detailed and come back to work next week and get this figured out.

On the morale of the locker room after the game: Everybody is just mad at how we have been losing for the past two weeks. We don't want to lose like this. We were just picking guys up and everybody still has a positive mind. We all came around each other. We are brothers and we just have to keep everyone's spirits up. Leaders have to lead and be able to overcome this.

On if Texas has the ability to be a winning team: You just have to overcome mistakes. This team is a very talented team, but we make mistakes and shoot ourselves in the foot. Guys just have to be more detailed and we just have to get back to work this week.

On how to get the run game going: We just have to keep pushing and get yards off it. Coach is not going to call a run if we aren't getting yards off it, so we just have to get better at it.

On Tyrone Swoopes impact on offense: Tyrone has been a big impact on this offense. We also have Jerrod Heard. Both great guys, both talented guys, and both guys that can help this team, so hopefully we can utilize both of them.

Junior S Dylan Haines

On comparing the loss to last week's loss to Cal: It hurts a little worse, because it's the second time in a row. You know what I mean? It's just always really disappointing to come out there and play as hard as we played and as hard as we fought. It was a game that was back and forth and then at the end, we just couldn't finish...just really frustrating.

On whether it is more shock than being upset: Yeah, I mean, I was kind of saying the same thing last week as I was watching the game in the locker room. I thought for sure we were going to go to overtime and we were going to win. And that's always your mentality, is that once you get to overtime I thought we had the momentum. I thought everything was just going to go our way. We were just going to continue to play and we were going to get the win, but that just didn't happen. All you can do now is just look on to the next one and forget about this. It's just in the past now.

On the growing maturity of the defense: Yeah. Absolutely. I mean, if you look back at the game, the first quarter killed us. And that wasn't the case last week; it was the third quarter they scored 21 points. We've just got to play a complete game. You can't play three quarters of good football and one quarter of bad football and expect to win.

On why this team will keep competing: We have a good football team. You can look at us and say we're a 1-3 team, but that's not where we are and that's not where we're anywhere close to where we'll be at the end of the season. Obviously, like I said, it was disappointing that we couldn't finish, but if you look at it... a total of four points and we're 3-1. All you can do is... we know what we have, we're not a bad football team. Obviously a lot of things we can improve on and it's not like we went out there and played the greatest game we could and almost won. We made a lot of mistakes on defense, struggled on offense at the end of the game, and then special teams is obviously just as important as everything else. We've just got to get better.

On what Coach Strong told the team after the game: Kind of what I said earlier, the first quarter killed us, and you have to come out and come out ready to play. We let them control the tempo of the game. They kind of hurry it up and sometimes we just had people not getting the call or not in their proper alignment. So we just have to play better off the start.

On the loss: When you're sitting there expecting to go to overtime, that's your mentality and you're just getting ready to play another down, and then to have that taken away from you, you just look there and say 'I wish I had done more, I wish I would've played better.' But obviously, it just hurts a lot and it's worse if you're behind the whole game. We hung in there the whole time and to have it just taken away by not executing, it really hurts.

Junior QB Tyrone Swoopes

On when the team came to him about the short-yardage passes: Just sometime earlier in the week. It was just something we practiced on and we were going to use in the game.

On how excited he was to be productive in the short-yardage game: I was excited. It was just another chance to get on the field and help the team out. So I was excited.

On how he felt returning to the locker room postgame: Everybody's just frustrated, but there's not really a lot we can do about it. With some of those things that happen out there, we've just got to keep our head down and keep working.

On his mentality over the past week: It's been easy, because you never know when you're one play from going back in. I mean, just staying ready and not getting down on myself or anybody else. Just staying ready. If something were to happen, then I just kind of pick up where I left off.

On whether the loss brings a sense of hurting or frustration: I'd say a little bit of both, just because we worked so hard. We got so close for two weeks in a row and both games just slipped away from us, so a little bit of both.

On Coach Strong's message to the team following the game: I mean, just what I said. Can't really do anything about it now and just got to learn from it, keep going and keep working next week.

On why the team will bounce back after today's game: I mean, because, after last week we came back out and practiced well and played very well. And then we got a big game next week coming up so I'm sure everyone will be up for it.

On what it takes to get overcome the loss: It's just little things here and there. We just say every week we just needed one block here, one pass there... just little things, not really anything big. That's just the big thing; we need to get those little things corrected.