University of Texas Football Media Conference

Monday, September 7, 2015

Jason Hall

Q. What's the mood of the team right now?
JASON HALL: Right now we're just working on saying focused and just moving forward.

Q. Is it time to push the panic button? How worried and concerned are you after the first game?
JASON HALL: Certainly no panic. You know, that game we didn't execute, and now at this point all we can do is just move on and just keep working.

Q. After the game Marcus Johnson grabbed a couple of the players to chat with them. Were there individual discussions amongst some of the players looking forward?
JASON HALL: There's no individuals because we're all one team. We make sure we're all on the same page. That game is behind us now, and we'll just move forward.

Q. Did you guys meet and talk about the game about moving forward?
JASON HALL: Yes, after the game, but time likes that all you have to do is just stay together and be strong and keep moving forward.

Q. What went wrong Saturday night?
JASON HALL: You know, we just didn't execute. We played hard, and like overall just didn't execute during the game.

Q. When you guys practiced on Saturday, what was that practice like?
JASON HALL: Just like any other practice, just correcting our mistakes and make sure we're working on our technique and to make sure that we're always on top of it and make sure we don't have any more mistakes.

Q. Going back to last season, this is three straight games that have been pretty disappointing. Is there any frustration on the team, just kind of like you're sick of games like this?
JASON HALL: I think there is frustration, but at the same time, at this point it's like there's no more talking about it, we've just got to keep working.

Q. Coach was talking about how embarrassing it is, how disappointing it is. As much hype and expectation and there was going into the season, where do the players come out on this, and is there a quick fix?
JASON HALL: Quick fix, just staying in the film room and always getting in the playbook and make sure that we're on top of our game and make sure we know our assignments and execute.

Q. After the game (inaudible) how did you guys feel about that?
JASON HALL: I'd say we didn't execute. We played hard but we didn't play smart. That's I'd say it was.

Q. Does that affect you mentally as a player?
JASON HALL: Coach is not going to lie to us, so all we do is take the criticism and keep working and prove ourselves from there.

Q. How excited are you guys now to come home, home opener, 2015, and put on a show for the fans and let them know who the real Longhorns are?
JASON HALL: You know, just come out this Saturday, just play hard and show the fans that last week isn't who we are.

Q. Tyrone said a lot of the same things you're saying, Saturday night we didn't execute. What does that mean to you? What didn't you execute? What exactly is going on on both sides of the ball?
JASON HALL: You know, as far as like we didn't execute the returns for touchdowns or big-time plays, and we can't have that on the defense.

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Tyrone Swoopes

Q. How difficult was it Saturday night to do your job with that offensive line?
TYRONE SWOOPES: I mean, I said it on Saturday, they're not going to give you a perfect pocket every time, so I've just got to work with what I've got and what I get and kind of just go with it.

Q. Tyrone, Charlie said this week in practice you're going to be competing for the job again. Do you feel like you secured the job or are you okay with fighting for the job this week in practice?
TYRONE SWOOPES: I mean, I don't have a problem competing every week. I've been competing against everybody, so I feel like I don't have a problem with it.

Q. How do you keep things from -- what do you do personally to keep things from falling apart, snowballing, and change this embarrassing trend as Charlie called it?
TYRONE SWOOPES: I mean, it's just the first game, kind of everybody's first time doing the whole new feed offense thing. Everybody has to get better for this Saturday.

Q. Is Coach Watson deserving of all the criticism he's getting, and is it on the players as much as it is the coaches?
TYRONE SWOOPES: I mean, I don't think he is because I think Coach Watson is a great coach, one of the best coaches I've ever had, and I don't think it's on one particular group. I think it's just the organization as a whole that kind of everybody needs to step up.

Q. Do you feel any pressure to win the starting quarterback job?
TYRONE SWOOPES: I mean, it's not really up to me. I've just got to go out and practice every week, just keep doing what I've been doing, stay positive, and keep everybody else positive.

Q. What's the difference in your team compared to last year?
TYRONE SWOOPES: I think the biggest thing I heard from most people, and I kind of noticed myself, was just body language. When things started to go bad, I didn't put my head down, I kind of just talked to guys, tried to get them going, and I feel like I stayed positive.

Q. Do you feel the pressure of this job right now?
TYRONE SWOOPES: Not really. Like I said, it's just the first game, so I'm not really worried about it.

Q. Do you feel like the team just needs to starts over and get a fresh start, and as a leader how do you keep guys from panicking?
TYRONE SWOOPES: I mean, like I said, it's just the first game. We've got 11 more Saturdays to go. You can't panic after one game. I feel like everybody is going to be on. We've just going to get out there again this weekend and go to work.

Q. I know you keep saying that it's only been one game, but it's kind of been three, hasn't it? Do you see that?
TYRONE SWOOPES: We see it, but like I said before, you can't let one game beat you twice. So I mean, if you just keep on going back and looking at old stuff, then we're never going to move forward. I think we look at it, we learn from it, and we're moving on from it.

Q. Do you feel like you've done enough so far to deserve and earn the starting job?
TYRONE SWOOPES: I mean, I feel like it's up to them, honestly. I'll just go out and practice and then on game day we can compete, and that's all I can do.

Q. Do you want it?
TYRONE SWOOPES: Yeah, of course I want it. Nobody wants to sit on the sideline and watch. Everybody wants to play and be in there with your teammates. Of course.

Q. How nice will it be to have a home opener to prove and show the fans that last week was a fluke?
TYRONE SWOOPES: It'll be great. It's always great to get back in front of your home crowd because you know that they'll always be behind you. I think it'll be fun.

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Malik Jefferson

Q. What's the mindset of this team right now, and what do you guys say to each other to get back to good play?
MALIK JEFFERSON: You know, it's just a stepping-stone for us, on the trajectory to move forward and finish our season because we can't go back in time, we can't change that game, so we know as a unit and as a team we have to keep moving forward.

Q. Malik, is this a learning experience, growing pains? Was it something that shocked you, surprised you? How do you feel about it?
MALIK JEFFERSON: You know, it's a setback. When you look at it at the end of the day, you have to say, what did we do wrong, that type of deal. For me as a young guy, I had high expectations for everybody when I came into this program. We all wanted to do great things. But I don't think this determines who we are and who we're going to be in the future. I'm extremely excited about what the team can be.

Q. Did you guys have a meeting on the road after this loss to talk about the attitude and the approach moving forward?
MALIK JEFFERSON: We have meetings all the time, actually. Yes, but we did have a very good meeting, and I just told those guys, whenever it's your turn, you've got to step up to the plate. No matter who, you're not a freshman anymore, you're a Texas Longhorn. Same thing with everybody else.

Q. Charlie said you guys have to start over now. How do you start over after everything you've put in? What does starting over mean to you?
MALIK JEFFERSON: In our situation, I believe it's taking a step back, everybody realizing what they can do now. This doesn't identify us as a team, and we all know that. That's what Coach Strong means by starting over.

You know, all the hard work we had through the off-season and stuff like that, it was more frustrating because we prepared for the game really well and just didn't execute. So at the end of the day now it's all about execution and being prepared for the next game.

Q. You talked about starting over as a team. Do you feel like everybody is still engaged and confident?
MALIK JEFFERSON: I feel like everybody is still engaged and confident. I think a lot of the outside people think that that's our perspective, that we aren't engaged and we're not trying to move forward from what we did last year, but I think as a team attitude, I think that's what everybody is looking forward to is the next game and trying to get the season back on track.

Q. Charlie also said that for 19-, 20-, 21-year olds that a couple hours after the game you're over it, you're not really thinking about it anymore, you're on with the rest of your life. For you does it burn? Does it stick with you moving forward or are you able to kind of get over it and move on?
MALIK JEFFERSON: It does burn because you go back and look at all the little things you can fix throughout the game that you knew you could do but you didn't do it. It's just little stuff that really eats you up inside. Of course you want to get better from it. The coaches may feel like it burns them, but it actually burns us, especially since last season, trying to move forward from that.

Q. Can you just describe what your emotions will be like running out of that tunnel, historic Texas Memorial Stadium on Saturday in the home opener?
MALIK JEFFERSON: I think it'll be pretty cool, to be in my home crowd. Last week we weren't but this week we're back at home and ready to play and put a show on for our school.

Q. How do you think you guys responded to the challenge of Notre Dame?
MALIK JEFFERSON: I think a lot of us came out there a little nervous. A lot of us were very excited and we kind of overlooked our responsibilities. I just know now that any other freshman that steps up to the plate, they'll be ready. There's no more of the youngest players anymore.

Q. Speaking of the freshmen, do you want (inaudible) meeting as a group. How much of an influence can you guys have on these freshmen?
MALIK JEFFERSON: That's what we came for. That was our purpose, to be an impact. The older guys know that and they respect that. When it's our turn to step up to the plate, you have to, and those guys know that from now on because you can see people getting

hurt left and right, and there's got to be somebody in place for that.

Q. There's obviously so much attention on you and everything that you did in your first game, but what did you think of Peter, how well he played?
MALIK JEFFERSON: He played very well. He was right there when he needed to be to play gaps. When I looked left and right, the majority of the time he was in his spot. I feel really comfortable about the guys inside with me. Other than that, he's still a good player.

Q. Coach Strong didn't have a lot of positives to talk about today, but you were one of them. How do you get everybody else to play like you did?
MALIK JEFFERSON: I think it just comes from energy. When I was out there, I wanted everybody to get hyped. I wanted everybody to get excited. People had their heads down, and that's the attitude you kind of need to have when you're on the field.

I think if all the guys in the future games, when we have future games like that where we're just down, it's all about keeping the high energy, and it starts with the defense. At the end of the day, defense wins championships, and that's what it comes down to.

Q. What does that look like to step up? You keep saying the freshmen need to step up when it's their turn. What does that look like?
MALIK JEFFERSON: I can give you an example, last game I went out there and tried to play my hardest. I tried to give 100 percent every play, and they know that. If they mess up on their assignment, it's still 100 percent. That's what Coach says all the time, go 100 percent, go hard. Those guys are going to be really confident coming into next week. They're really excited because once the ones that played did get a taste of the field last week, when I talked to them, they were like, it's not that bad. So I really think they're going to be fine.

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Desmond Jackson

Q. How rough was Saturday night for you guys?
DESMOND JACKSON: I mean, any loss is pretty difficult to manage, you know, and I mean, we can't do anything about the past. We've got to worry about what's going on in the future, what's going on right now. To make a point, we've got a game with Rice, so that's what we're worried about right now. As a unit we just need to learn from our mistakes and just get ready for the next game.

Q. How as a leader, what do you do as a leader when something like this happens? What do you do?
DESMOND JACKSON: You tell everybody just get ready for next week. We've got a lot of football left. We've still got 11 more games, and we've just got to just come together as a unit, be tight as a family, and just get ready for the next game.

Q. It clearly wasn't the game outcome that you wanted, but how did it feel to get back out on the field after last year not being able to see it because of the injury?
DESMOND JACKSON: I mean, I had a lot of butterflies going into the game, just being able to be out there for the first time in I think it was almost a year, so just being out on the field, it felt -- I felt a little rusty at first, but I've got to prepare myself a lot better than what I did.

Q. Do you feel like you got better as the game went on?
DESMOND JACKSON: I felt like I felt more comfortable as the game went on. I went out there, had a lot of butterflies, but I need to prepare myself more as a leader and as a defensive lineman, but anything else, I didn't play the way I wanted to play. When I came back and watched film, I was like sick from watching some of the stuff I didn't do and the way I didn't execute the things I needed to execute. Moving forward, I just need to make sure I do my job and make sure everything gets right with the defensive line.

Q. Specifically where didn't you execute?
DESMOND JACKSON: I didn't use my hands like I needed to. Go out there after almost a year, you kind of -- you have to almost like think, gosh, I'm actually on the field again. Watching the film I know there was a lot of things I didn't do, and I'm going to get ready to play Rice.

Q. So it's not like riding a bike?
DESMOND JACKSON: It's not like riding a bike.

Q. Charlie said that the players would kind of move on from the loss whereas it eats at him for quite a while afterwards. Is this team bothered enough by losing? We can't see what you guys are like. Are the guys angry, bothered by this?
DESMOND JACKSON: Our guys, I can only speak for myself. I know for me after any type of loss, any type of feeling like this, I don't like talking about it. This is hard for me to just even talk about it because I need to move forward. I need a day or two to get back, and on Tuesday I'll be back to normal again getting ready to play the next opponent. I took the loss very heavy because I think that the reason why we lost the game is because of the things I didn't execute on.

Q. Do you see that in your teammates? Do you see that burn after a loss like this?
DESMOND JACKSON: I see a lot of people with just hurt inside of them.

Q. Do you see it in enough of them, though?
DESMOND JACKSON: I see a lot.

Q. If you don't talk about it, you don't talk about what needs to change, how does it change? How do you change if you don't talk about it?
DESMOND JACKSON: When I say I don't talk about it, I mean like I don't dwell in wins or losses, you know, because I think we've got one game underneath or belt. We've still got a lot of football left to play. So it's not like -- we understand as a unit that we need to learn from our mistakes and learn from what happened on Saturday and move forward from it. But what I mean by I don't dwell in it, I don't let it eat me up to where I can't get ready to play the next game. We've still got other opponents to play, so next game, next opponent we've got is Rice, so that's what my main focus is on.

Q. How good was that Notre Dame offensive line compared to some of the other offensive lines you've faced?
DESMOND JACKSON: They're a pretty good offensive line. I think they're very fundamentally sound. They're

coached very, very well. I give them a lot of credit. I just know that we didn't execute the way we needed to execute.

Q. How do you think the freshmen that started, how did that perform?
DESMOND JACKSON: I think they did pretty good. I think that Malik played pretty good. I know that Chris Boyd made a lot of good plays. He's in on special teams. Moving forward, I know they want to get better and do the things they need to do so that we can succeed as a team.

Q. How does that help you veterans to have guys like that, some fresh blood coming in and energy and drive to be on the field?
DESMOND JACKSON: I think it's good. You know, I think they came in and from the jump they said they wanted to make sure that they bring some noise to all sides of the ball, and right now they're doing that. I give them a lot of credit.

Q. With everything you've been through, how excited are you for Saturday night, to run back out in front of your home crowd?
DESMOND JACKSON: It'll be really good. I can't wait to see the fans, see everybody again. It'll be pretty nice playing in my last home opener. It'll be pretty nice.

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Andrew Beck

Q. You said there were three times on special teams that y'all had 10 guys on the field?
ANDREW BECK: Yeah, it was something like that, which obviously that can't happen.

Q. How does that happen?
ANDREW BECK: We had guys that were, you know, late in the game -- we have a lot of guys on the team that we'd go from kick return to offense and then we'd punt, guys coming out, trying to figure out what just happened on offense and guys getting tired, and communication wasn't at its best on Saturday night. Obviously that's pretty apparent when we lose that badly.

I think that was a big thing, and guys were just coming off the field and wouldn't get their sub in.

Q. Was that maybe an example of just how frustrating Saturday night was?
ANDREW BECK: Yeah, absolutely, yeah.

Q. Is that where you guys are?
ANDREW BECK: Unfortunately that's not where we are, but it's tough to argue against that when you play that badly. You know, coming from inside the locker room, that's not the team that we are. We've done that -- we've repped punt about a million times in practice. We do it every day. It's one of Coach Strong's favorites for whatever reason. I think it's just because it gets the defense back on the field.

So we do it every day, and when stuff like that happens, it just shows you how frustrating that is.

Q. When you say that's not where we are, you still do believe that this team is different than what we saw a year ago?
ANDREW BECK: Yeah, absolutely. I mean, again, it's tough to argue when you do something like that, but I think it's also a good place for us to come back and we can show people now that's not who we are. We've got a good team coming into Rice. We've got a good opportunity, and then after that we've got another great opportunity with Cal coming up here.

Q. Why do you guys think you are a different team than last year? What is it that gives you that --
ANDREW BECK: I think it's the guys we have right now and the ability -- last year after TCU we kind of looked around, like that was not good, and this year, we looked around and we said, yeah, that wasn't good, but why and how can we go fix it. So I think it's the mindset and the attitude of the guys is a lot different this year, and I think that's something that's good, and that's what sets us apart from last year.

Q. Why didn't the offense get going on Saturday night?
ANDREW BECK: Why didn't we? There were a couple different things. We had a tough time getting past their DBs. We had a tough time with their protections, a lot of different things. We didn't go as fast as we wanted to. Obviously there were a couple times that we were just slowing down, and obviously speed was a big point of emphasis for us, and come Saturday night, it wasn't what we wanted it to be, so again, it's just another place for us to improve.

Q. You still believe Tyrone can be the guy?
ANDREW BECK: Yeah, absolutely. I think a big part of his personality, like I was saying earlier, is that he's the guy, especially with his position, that will sit there and say, what could I have done -- borderline beat himself up about the game. That's where we come in as teammates and say, hey, man, this isn't just one person. Obviously there's things that we all could have done differently, and I play tight end, so I go watch film with tight ends, and we all say, you know, what could we have done differently, what did we not execute on. So I still think that he's the guy. I still think that Jerrod Heard has potential to be the guy, as well. You guys got to see him play Saturday night. We've got two different quarterbacks that brings very different things to the table, but they're both solid options, and I have faith in both of them.

Q. How did the two fill in the game?
ANDREW BECK: I think, again, they both bring different things. Jerrod is an athletic kid, so there were a couple times where he'd make things happen with his feet that maybe Tyrone couldn't and vice versa, Tyrone made things happen with his feet that you guys saw Saturday night. Unfortunately some of it was him running for his life. But he's just as athletic and can sling the ball downfield. I know he got the ball downfield to John Burt once. Obviously we want to try to do that a little more. But I think that they're both --

they both have this individual feel for them, and it's close enough that we can adapt as an offense. It's not completely different, which is good for us.

Q. Did you sense any frustration on the offense that the running game didn't get going?
ANDREW BECK: There was frustration across the board. I mean, when you put three points up and against a team like that, there's going to be frustration. We went out knowing that we could beat them, and we did not perform that way. It's, again, another place for us to build up. But there was frustration in every aspect of the game.

Q. There's a prevailing theme that a guy like Jerrod Heard has a little more athletic ability running-wise than Tyrone does, would be better when an offensive line is struggling a little bit. Is that a fair thought?
ANDREW BECK: I don't know, you can think of that what you want. We were watching the film Sunday with Coach Traylor, and we paused the film and looked around, like I wouldn't want to be quarterback right now. That's not to put on our O-line. Those guys played their butts off, and running backs and tight ends are involved in protection. There was one time a guy got around the edge on me, and I got to Tyrone and said, listen, there's so much we can do. But it's tough to put that on the quarterback when he had guys in his face -- both of them had guys in their face all night.

Q. How can the tight ends step up as this offensive line struggles a bit?
ANDREW BECK: I think we'll be a lot more involved in protection, which is good. One thing we do, we chip away slot and things like that, but I think you guys get to go talk to Watson on Tuesday, so that'll be a good question for him. I do what he tells me to.

Q. What about this Saturday, home opener, 2015, how jacked up are you to show the world that the Horns are still legit?
ANDREW BECK: Oh, it's going to be a blast. It's going to be a blast. To get back to BKR, that's all everybody wants to do. You want to come here and play in that stadium. That's going to be exciting. I'm looking forward to it. I hope the fans are, too.

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Sedrick Flowers

Q. Sed, you've been around here a while now, and going back to last season, three straight in a row. Did you think that would never happen again, that you guys got those type of games out of your system?
SEDRICK FLOWERS: It's always possible it could happen. I mean, we didn't go into the game expecting that we were going to lose or lose that bad. But I mean, when it happens you've got to try and correct it.

Q. Why don't you think the offense got going against Notre Dame?
SEDRICK FLOWERS: We just can't not execute how we did against Notre Dame. We didn't cover yards on 1st downs. The most critical part of the offense is 1st downs, and we didn't convert 3rd downs. Once you get into games like that where you can't run the ball and you've got to start passing more, that's what happens.

Q. (Inaudible.)
SEDRICK FLOWERS: I mean, after watching film, we kind of played sloppy, played real sloppy. We tried. We were kind of like putting forth a lot of effort, but we didn't play with the technique that we're capable of. We stopped moving around.

Q. Why?
SEDRICK FLOWERS: I mean, it's a whole lot of things. There was tightness in the game. It was during the first game, just trying to -- it's trying to play hard and just not worrying about technique and not thinking about it. That's kind of what I see happening. But I mean, there's things we've got to improve on. I know we're excited and we're ready to play hard and come out and show guys are capable of more than what they did.

Q. Tyrone said that you guys (inaudible) in the Notre Dame game?
SEDRICK FLOWERS: I felt like we had a good handle of it. It's just getting into those situations like we did, some guys maybe got a little -- emotions started getting into the game, and we didn't play how the coaches wanted us to play. We can't worry about what the score is or even how much time is left. We've just got to keep our heads down and play the game.

Q. Did the quarterback say anything to you guys, like help me out? How do you feel when you see your quarterback out there getting run down?
SEDRICK FLOWERS: It's not just -- especially being an O-lineman, you don't want to see your quarterback running around for his life, running around from defenders. That's on us. We've got to play a whole lot better than we did the last game. I mean, we were trying, just to help the guys out, but we were letting them get inside of us, and we can't do that. We've got to play with good technique. I mean, Coach, he got us -- everybody was relaxed to play this game. He tried to give us positive reinforcement, but we've just got to play better.

Q. How do you think (inaudible) in portions of the game?
SEDRICK FLOWERS: I mean, he stayed calm the whole game. He didn't let anything happen or get to him or cause him to yell at anybody or get mad at anybody. He tried to stay composed. I mean, he did good with that.

Q. Coach also said after the game (inaudible) second half that Tyrone would give you the best chance. Do you agree with that?
SEDRICK FLOWERS: Yeah, I do. I trust what the coaches do. I trust them, and I trust both quarterbacks. Whoever they want in the game, I'll run with it. We'll just do what we do, play the game at a high level and do what it takes.

Q. Is the struggle real with this team? Coach came in here talking about reevaluating everything.
SEDRICK FLOWERS: I mean, after a loss like that, I wouldn't expect anything but that. When we got in the game, things just didn't work how we planned. We want to reevaluate what we did, things we did do good and the things we did bad. You want to see what caused those things, and we want to improve our effort.

Q. Kind of along those lines, has Charlie's mood changed? How has he been around you guys?
SEDRICK FLOWERS: I mean, he's been the same. That's one thing about Coach Strong I like, that no matter what he's going to be the same guy. After a loss like that he's upset, and he lets it be know that's not how we're going to do things, but you know he's the same guy, same coach.

Q. Talk about the home opener now, coming back home, proving to everybody that Texas is back, and

what happened last week is not the real Longhorns.
SEDRICK FLOWERS: I mean, I'm excited to come back home and play this game. I mean, see our home fans, people cheering for us and everything, we're real excited for this game.

Q. How did you think the freshmen played on Saturday?
SEDRICK FLOWERS: I feel like they did pretty good. Especially being freshmen, they didn't let the big stage get to them too much. Especially being the first game, your first college game, and they can get like deer in the headlights, but they handled it pretty good. They can improve on being more vocal and everything like that, but that's all of us.