

TEXAS QUOTES
vs. Iowa State
October 15, 2016

Head Coach Charlie Strong – *courtesy ASAP sports*

Opening statement:

It was a great team effort this evening. And when you look at our defense finally stepped up and just like with our offense tail of two halves, couldn't get it going second half they were able to step up and make some throws. But defensively, even for the whole team just challenging them, and I just said just challenge yourself. If we say who we are and you guys think you're really good football players, we'll go out and go perform the way we should go perform. And it should be our standard just week in week out.

And I was just really pleased with our defense, but penalties it's just too many penalties. When you're playing, you can't give away plays and you look at us on offense, the first half, that's what really stopped a lot of our drives, where we had the penalties, and we were really moving the football. And just defensively we had the taunting there in the second half and it allowed them to continue with some drives.

But just overall, we're just very pleased. We know we have to get better. It's going to be a very tough road test for us next week. We have to go to Kansas State and we'll have to play very well and knowing next week we're going to have to come in work hard, but just overall very happy.

On the rest of the season:

You've still got six games left, so we'll see. We've got a lot of football left.

On how he feels going forward:

Well, you still have some really good teams left. But we know this, that we just gotta continue to get better and it's all about fundamentals and technique, and you gotta tackle, continue to tackle better on defense, don't give up the big throw. And offensively when we have the opportunities, move the ball, we can run the football.

You look at the yards, 33 played well, and offensive line did a great job. Even our quarterback, they protected him very well, but we know this it's all about ourselves. I tell our guys there's three things you have to do. Number one, is you're in control of your destiny. It's the choices that you make, it's the decisions you make. It's all about just going and be the best each and every day. And the third thing, just live in the now. We can't go back. We lost three games -- we can't go back to those games, but it's all about the present. Just live in the present, let's take care of our business.

On when he told the players to challenge themselves:

It wasn't at halftime. It was before we played. It was last night when we have a meeting right before dinner and today we had a meeting before pregame. I said challenge yourselves guys.

We have a lot of talented players and we haven't been playing up to our ability. So just challenge yourself and let's go get it done as a football team, but the only way we have to do it ourselves.

On if he yelled at halftime:

I usually yell a lot -- halftime, first quarter, second quarter, I don't give too many breaks.

On the Texas defensive effort:

It was very pleasing. As I said, we talked about it. And I told them it's going to be a challenge for us, our defense, trying to slow them down. I said if we keep the ball in front of us, guys, and we go tackle then we'll have a chance to get up the field and just get the ball back for our offense. But it was just great to see the defensive performance but next week it's going to be a really tough challenge for us because they can move the football and we're going to be on the road. We haven't played well on the road yet.

So we just need to go and just get ready this week. And our guys, they know how important it is and just how tough a Kansas State team is.

On the team meeting that saw a few players speak up:

I don't know why a big deal was made about that. I have a team meeting every Thursday. Every Thursday at 3:30 I meet with the team. And I just set out this is our plan to go win the game.

And a few guys had wanted to voice their opinion about some things, but it's something I do every Thursday.

On Shackleford's injury:

Shack got rolled there in the second half or, what, right before halftime. And he got rolled up on his ankle. And I think that we just don't know the extent of the injury yet. But hoping he'll get back. But McMillon went in and did a really good job for us.

On if the third quarter was the closest Texas has been to running on all cylinders:

It is. And you're right, the offense, you hit the long one, Duvernay just runs past guys. He just blows by them. And then Heard was wide open down on the far sideline.

But just to see -- we scored and we didn't allow them to go score. That's what's been happening. Usually our offense goes scores and then all of a sudden we'll give up a play, a play, boom, five plays and they go get a touchdown. I told our defense, listen, we've got to continue to play and go out there and relax and then give them the throws and let them -- you know, give up the big play. But we were able to come back and continue to pressure the quarterback and stop the run and get off the field.

I lick the arm band. I see you like it you haven't taken it off yet. Do you feel like the guys played better with your calls; you talk about the new voice and everything?

No, it's not that. I think what happens is that -- I don't know if they were looking for a new

voice or just even new energy. It was more or less you walk in there, you're the head coach, when you start yelling and you're calling it, then I don't know if it means any more or anything, I really don't know. But we can build on this one but last week it didn't work. So this week we were able to get it done.

On the fans tonight:

When we started to score I think they were pretty good. I was nervous myself being 6-3 and we weren't scoring. But I just know this, our offense is so explosive. And at any point we're going to score.

And you look at how well Buechele, the one he laid out there to Pete -- if he just throw the football that's going to be a touchdown. The middle safety ended up coming across and making a break on it.

And Dorian Leonard, you look at him. He continues to improve and get better and better. He's exciting to watch now. And the thing I told him, you know what I really love about you, Dorian, is that you're a starting receiver and you run, you're on every one of our special teams. And he doesn't look to get come out.

But we're really explosive on offense. I know it's going to take a little time then all of a sudden we're going to hit home run and then, boom, we're going to hit another one. Because we just saw too talented a wide receiver and the running back is so strong and powerful.

On if this win could bring back confidence:

You're at home. And so it's always good. And our whole goal has been the whole season, we gotta play well at home. We had to be undefeated at home. Then when we get on the road it's going to be a challenge for us. But we have to go play better on the road. Look at California didn't play well, and then we came back, played well at Stillwater, and then to go to Dallas and we didn't play well. So it's going to be a good challenge for us right here and we'll see exactly how this win will be a good carry-over for us.

On getting the fourth-and-one stop in the third:

It was good to see them step up. We stopped them, it was third and we stopped them, with the quarterback, and we're coming back, the fourth down call. The quarterback -- I'm thinking he's going to run it again. He handed it off.

But just to get that stop was really big. Then you see all of a sudden you see the shift of the momentum and then, boom, we hit home run on them.

That was a big stop in the game and that allowed our defense to really step up and just you gotta play with confidence on defense. They're going to make plays, but still you've got to have short memory. And the good thing about this evening is that we didn't give up the big home runs. We were able to keep the ball in front of us and not get it thrown over our heads.

On Elliot and the defense:

The update on Elliott, he went in. And I don't know how serious it was, but I think that he'll be back. He just couldn't finish the game. But we'll get him back. But as far as personnel, we're going to play a lot of guys. We try to play a lot of guys and just keep them fresh.

You look at our front, tonight you saw Roach, you saw 97 inside. You saw 95 inside and then you saw 44.

And 44 and Roach, they play with so much energy. And then 40 was able to come in, get his sack. So guys know they're going to get a limited number of plays. So when you get your chance, you've got to take full advantage of it.

On if D'Onta Foreman will average about 30 carries going forward:

Yeah, that's the number that he's going to have to tote because we give 21 a few carries. But D'Onta, he's so strong and powerful. And you watch him, anytime, he's getting pounded, pounded. He'll get you two, get you three, then all of a sudden he'll get you ten. And then he gets the big run.

But he's having an unbelievable year. And I was telling somebody, I haven't seen many running backs across the country, but I think we've got one of the best here with him. And we'll just keep feeding him the ball. If we gave it to him 40 times, it wouldn't bother me because I know it would be positive results.

On scoring at the start of the second half:

We came in at halftime. We talked about offensively they're going to get it going, guys, just keep playing on defense.

We get the ball there right at the start of the second half. And we end up having a penalty which stopped the drive.

And then all of a sudden we end up punting it away. But just offensively we're just so explosive. The quarterback can put the ball where it needs to be placed, can throw an unbelievable deep ball.

Then when you have the big running back run, the offensive line protecting, you're going to get the points. It's great because the defense was playing so well, too, so you needed that momentum and you needed those phases just all in the kicking game, everybody's involved, everybody's playing. And that's what we had to have. We had to have that in order to be successful.

Offensive Coordinator Sterlin Gilbert

On what opened up in the second half:

Just penalties. We put ourselves in that hole right there in the first half. I believe it was nine for 100. It's just tough to overcome, and those are things we've got to really work on and really focus on to not only lessen, but to eliminate.

On what they worked on in the third quarter:

middle of all that, and those things are tough to overcome. We were able to clean that up in the second half and our guys were able to go out and execute.

On the defense holding Iowa State to two field goals:

Those guys did a great job, and we've got to go capitalize on those guys doing a great job. And that's what we're pushing for and working for week in and week out, is to go play a complete game as a team and being able to feed off each other and feed off each other's momentum and energy.

On whether he's seen the team come together more:

Yeah, I think day in and day out and week in and week out, anytime you get to go through adversity as a team or person or individual, people battle with you and fight with you, you'll grow together. That's what we're in the process of right now.

On running back D'Onta Foreman's seventh straight 100-yard rushing performance:

Anytime you've got a back that can go for 100 plus and be able to do that on the ground and be right in the middle of what we're trying to produce offensively and within tempo and get us momentum and pick up first downs, it's huge for us to have success.

On what he saw from quarterback Shane Buechele in the first two scoring drives of the second half:

I know it gets repetitive for y'all, but with him it's just about growth and just seeing pictures and making sure he's taking the ball in the right spots and seeing things happening in the back ends. And those are things every week he's growing and getting better at, and that's what's exciting about him. Again, his ceiling's very, very high. Just steady coaching him and he's absorbing and watching and learning and listening, and then obviously going out and executing.

On whether they will try to lessen the number of carries for D'Onta Foreman:

Again, it just kind of goes with what's going on in the game. We've got an idea maybe around that, of the carries we'd like to have on his legs and what we'd like him to do. And sometimes it just kind of depends on the kind of carries they are. Are they big runs? Are they short yards? Are they hard yards? So all that stuff goes into consideration when you're talking about doing those things. But he's a guy that continues to battle for us, continues to produce and put up those kinds of numbers, so we're excited about him and what he provides for us offensively.

On Dorian Leonard getting the start at wide receiver:

Just being able to be productive and making sure we have guys in there that are better doing that. The thing we still got with this receiving core that we're excited about is that there's depth. Those guys have done a good job and continue to do a good job. Like I talked about this week in the press conference, it's about identifying your personnel and making sure we're settled in on the right guys.

On wide receiver Jake Oliver:

Yeah, Jake did a good job. Matt [Mattox] handles those guys up front, and just from the production aspect and what we do with our run game and just looking at Shane [Buechele] being able to stand back there and throw the ball, I thought those guys were good up front. So again, that's an evaluation thing where you go back and watch the film. Matt grades those guys and evaluates those guys and then we get feedback from there.

On the touchdown nullified by the offsetting penalties and if the touchdown on the next play added momentum:

Yeah, absolutely. And like you said, the kind of game it had been in the first half and you're kind of battling through those things and being able to step up and hitting that play at that moment was huge.

On if the flag on a fade made by Armanti Foreman was fair:

Yeah, I liked the call and it's just something we have to execute. I couldn't quite see because it was on the far side of the field. I don't know where exactly the ball landed, so we'll see tomorrow.

Senior DT Paul Boyette Jr.**On how fun the game was tonight:**

We haven't played here in a month, so I think the enthusiasm was high. There weren't any jitters. We've been 2-0 here so far, so we wanted to put a statement on the program. To be a successful team in the Big 12, you have to win at home. We've got to protect DKR, and that's what we did tonight.

On the mindset at halftime:

We played a decent first half. We had to come out and play a complete game. You can't win in the Big 12 just playing one half. We need to go out there and not let them score any points.

On the confidence of the defense:

It's a big comfort for us. We haven't played here in a month, and I feel like we wanted to come out here and make a statement. We're a very talented team. We just had to put it all together today, and that's what we did.

On playing up to his capabilities:

With it being my senior year, we want to make this a special year not only for [the seniors] but for the whole team in general. We know we have a talented team. We know we can go out there and compete with the best of them.

Freshman WR Devin Duvernay

On how long it took him to get used to the playbook:

It was not as bad as I thought it would be because the offensive is simple, basic, and not too hard. I just needed to memorize most of the things and get some hints on some of the plays.

On getting more runs:

I feel like I'm building confidence in myself and the coaches. They're trusting me a little bit more to let me just go play.

On the team meeting this week:

Our destiny is in our own hands, and we are just continuing to get better each and every day at practice. We're going forward. Just taking it one game at a time, one play at a time, one practice at a time. We're just going to keep believing.

Sophomore CB John Bonney

On the help from the defensive line:

Those guys up front helped us a lot at secondary, especially today. We were able to get a lot of pressure on the quarterback, and at the end of the day that's what you want out of the defensive line.

On getting more comfortable:

I'm definitely getting more comfortable. The coaching staff here always believes in the players. They were on me this whole week to prepare, and I was really focused this week to come out and play well.

On improving:

It's never good to play games when the secondary is not playing to well. We didn't want to be known like that. We really focused hard to bring this win home.

Junior DE/OLB Naashon Hughes

On the defense tonight:

As a defense, we took it upon ourselves to go out and step up and help the offense when they needed it. We just went out there and played with a chip on our shoulders.

We've been focusing on getting to the quarterback and finishing our rushes. We just didn't want to leave anything on the table.

On how badly they needed this performance:

Personally, they beat us 24-0 last year, so we just had to return the favor. As a defense, we've been kind of bad these past couple of games. We wanted to go out there and prove we can still play football and still play Texas defense.

On the team meeting this week:

Guys just challenged each other and we challenged ourselves in that meeting. We all went in there with our pride to the side and said what we needed to say to each other. After that meeting, we all knew what we had to go do. I think this meeting we finally started challenging each other instead of pointing fingers. If we all sat down, we all could have made plays that turned the tide here or there.

Junior RB D'Onta Foreman**On the third quarter:**

We haven't been playing as well as we've wanted to play, I think we came out, actually when we came in the locker room it was kind of dead, so we had to get everybody's juices flowing. The offense didn't play as well as we wanted them to play in the first half, but we congratulated the defense and told them that we were happy for them and just to keep it up and we were going to some points on the board, and we did that.

On half time:

Coaches came in there and said that we were playing really well and just to keep it up. We told those guys not to worry about it and we were going to put some points on the board. We believed in it and we went out there and we did that.

On his role on the team:

I play my role on this team and that's to lead this team, that's to get the ball in our part and we just try to be physical, try to help us move the team. However much I get the ball I'm willing to play my role.

On Earl Campbell and their similar statistics:

I think that wonderful. I'm proud of the line, I went in there after the game and went up to each and every one of those guys personally and told them thank you, if it wasn't for yall this wouldn't be possible. I told them thank you and I just have to keep playing hard, playing my role.

On the fumble early on:

It pushed me a lot. I don't like putting the ball on the ground. I feel like this might sound crazy, I feel like I was just doing extra, I was just trying to fight everyone off and he happened to get two hands on the ball from me so I had to calm down, just take what they give me. Still run physical but try not to expose the ball as much, I did better at the end of the game.

On frustration from recent losses:

I don't feel like its going to ease up, I feel like its something that we just have to keep fighting with. One game doesn't determine the season for us and even those losses didn't determine the season for us. I feel like we're a really good team but we have to keep pushing, we have to put these games behind us and it was a wonderful win for us tonight and I'm proud of us, I'm proud of how we played in the second half but we have to move forward. We have Kansas State next week so we have to go up there and try to get another one.

Sophomore WR Jerrod Heard**On being wide open:**

Close to scary wide open. Its one of those things where you start wide open and you start thinking "don't drop the ball, don't drop the ball" but Shane had put it on me and it was a great ball and all I had to do was real it in for the touchdown.

On penalties in the first half:

It's one of those things where everyone is going to make mistakes, its just one of those things that these are things that happen and lets just fix it but lets just keep playing at the moment.

On being undefeated in the future:

I don't want to speak too highly right now but that's our goal, its just to finish out strong and what a great victory and just prepare for further things in the future.

On next weekend:

It's always hard to play in Manhattan at their place, it doesn't matter who you are. It's a home base and a good home advantage they have, its just very critical for us that we mind the mistakes and execute.

On the third quarter:

We have to make everything click. We showed that we can be a first quarter team and a full four quarter team when we show up in the second half, but I feel like when we really kill it its just going to make us more of a dangerous team that we are right now.

Sophomore FOX Breckyn Hager**On pressure they had to go out and win:**

We put it on ourselves. We got it figured out through the meeting we had and through practicing as hard as we could and just really doing everything that we possibly could to get our defense right and the results were positive.

On how the rest of the season will go:

We will go undefeated. We have no choice and we're going to do whatever it takes to get there. We have our hardest games at home. You see how we play at home; the excitement the energy. You see how our defense just played and we're going to step it up because there are a lot of things we could have done better. I missed like three sacks tonight. That can't happen. We're just going to get better. Keep steamrolling teams to prove to the fans and the media that these coaches are here to stay.

On if they were playing for Charlie tonight:

I can't speak on the rest of the team but I think we play for Charlie and each other. We're tired of all the crap and we love that man. We want to keep him in house.

On how to limit penalties:

Yeah you can't do that against better teams. We can't let that happen. I let my emotions get the best of me and that's something I just learn from and really I was just so proud of my defense that my emotions were just hard to control.

Freshman QB Shane Buechele

On half time adjustments:

No adjustments. First half there were penalties that killed drives. There were open guys I missed them. We just have to play a better first half. Stop the penalties and just continue what we do.

On how the first touchdowns helped energy:

I think it helped a lot just getting the crowd involved into our game, having the momentum on our side I think it helped a lot

On having the defense play well while offense was struggling:

Our defense did an unbelievable job tonight. Letting them score six points that's awesome. I'm happy for them they did a great job.

On players meeting:

That meeting was definitely encouraging for all of us. Just coming together as a team. I think it was really important for our team to have that mid week meeting for all of us to come together and realize what we have to do the rest of the season and I think we know now.

On playing for Charlie Strong tonight:

Every night we're playing for that man. Everybody on our team, all the coaches love Coach Strong and we try to show it every time we go out there.

Sophomore DT Chris Nelson

On coaching staff putting it on players to step up:

Yeah that put it on us as a team like look at ourselves in the mirror. Everybody came together and we spoke collectively to one another and just see what we had to build on.

On if the team is fixed after three game losing streak:

No it's not fixed yet. We have to come in tomorrow just like a regular day and see what we did wrong and just build on it.

On why he thinks the direction is going to be positive:

We just know. We just humbled ourselves. After the meeting we just humbled ourselves.

On playing for Charlie Strong tonight:

Coach Charlie Strong is a great dude. He comes to us as a player one-on-one and tells us what we're doing wrong. He looks at us besides football. So we play our hearts out for him.

On how the defense wanted this game to prove themselves:

We wanted it bad man. Offense has been doing great so we just had to look at ourselves to do our part to win this game.

On road preparation:

That's one thing we are going to do tomorrow come in and see what we did wrong, build on the game. We're not going to look at it as a road game but we're going to go in there with our heads high with the same mentality to win the game.