

Texas Tech University Football Media Conference

Monday, November 7, 2016



Kliff Kingsbury

Q. What did you see in the film that you weren't able to see from the sideline?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Yeah, I think some of the protection issues. We had some things that we needed to get picked up throughout the game and we didn't. Allowed Jefferson to really wreak havoc the whole game. Looking back, we should have some answers for that.

Q. (Inaudible)?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: He was kind of spying the quarterback. But we had a guy for him. We just did some things that allowed him to have some free runs at Pat that I think made us a little jittery in the pocket and missed a few throws we probably could have made had we had him accounted for.

Q. Did you have anybody in the booth saying anything to you?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Yeah, it was addressed. We just consistently didn't get it fixed for whatever reason.

Q. (Inaudible)?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: No, more of a line issue that had been talked about. We just didn't get it done.

Q. Pat mentioned in the postgame that late in the games his footwork starts to suffer. Do you see any of that in practice? Is it nerves that makes him sort of revert back to those habits?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: No, I think it's more just as the game goes on. Mentally, it's a long game. He's throwing it 50, 60 times, probably a little tired. So he's just got to stay strong in those moments. Because he usually starts the game very clean mechanically, footwork, and as the game gets going, he gets a little loose with it. That's just something we've got to keep working on until we can get that completely out of his system.

Q. When you talk to Coach Gibbs after the ballgame or even on a Monday, what kind of report does he give you with regard to progress that he feels like the defense is making that might be encouraging to him or to you moving forward?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Yeah, really just those moments where they gave us the ball back, with a chance to win it. That's all you can ask for in this league is having the ball at the end with a chance to win the game. There

were several times there at the end where we had to have a stop. Their backs were against the wall, and they got the ball back and held a very good rushing team when they had to. Lots of plays throughout the game we'd like to have back, obviously. But those were moments that earlier in the season we weren't standing up and making those plays.

Q. Does he feel like the defense is grasping his system and learning and developing and achieving progress?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Yeah, I think so. Obviously there are personnel that we continue to need to upgrade and continue to get older and stronger and play more. But, yeah, I think he feels like there's been some progress over the last few weeks.

Q. Going back to the offensive line not picking up, we've got Jefferson (inaudible), do you feel like that's something that's been addressed or is going to be addressed?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Oh, yeah. It shouldn't have been that game. It just was. For whatever reason, we weren't handling it, but I expect to see some more of that moving forward.

Q. Is it a question of (inaudible) not having the correct technique or carrying out their assignment, or just really talented players just beating you?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: A little bit of both. But I feel like we could have still had more resistance if we had done what we're coached to do. But he's a tremendous player at times. He just beat us.

Q. Are you surprised at the play of the offensive line, because during camp you talked about how you were impressed with the group and everything?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Yeah, I think just went up against a really good defensive line. You know, Terence still had a tough day on some one-on-ones. I mean, really they all did. That's a good defensive line, and we've got to play better.

Q. There were a couple comments after the game about receivers not running the correct routes. After you went back in and watched the film, was that the case, and to what extent?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Yeah, there were quite a few times that we busted on routes, which I don't have an answer for that. It was base stuff that we were doing. Some guys were getting an opportunity to start and getting an opportunity to play more and didn't execute the routes. That's something we have to address. In those moments when the lights are on and there are a lot of people in the stadium, you've got to be able to execute. I think the moment was just too big for some of those guys.

Q. What do you see when you look at Okie State on both sides of the ball?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: It's a team that continues to find a way to win at the end. They've had some really good comebacks. They're offensively tremendous skill players. The young running backs doing a great job. Washington's as good as anybody in the country, and the quarterback's throwing it really well. So defensively they tend to make plays when they have to. But it's a team that throughout this league at the end, they've found a way to win, and that's a credit to them.

Q. You talked last week about changing the routine going into the ballgame. The end result wasn't what you wanted, but were you happy with the change in practice and where you did things? Will you continue doing that?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: I think so. Obviously, we wanted to win the game. But since we've challenged them after we were embarrassed against West Virginia, I feel like they responded as competitors fighting, playing hard, competing throughout the game. We're not where we want to be obviously, but that's been better.

Q. It seems like at times this year the defense will get (inaudible), that the offense kind of stalls out when you get the ball back. Do you think that's coincidental?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: I'm not sure. You'd like to see both sides rise up together, and we haven't been good at that. When we do get a stop, you've got to take advantage of it. In this league, you go back and forth, and you have a chance to get some momentum like we did last weekend, you've got to take advantage.

Q. On that last drive, running the ball (inaudible)?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Yeah, we got where we wanted to get. Just they're dropping eight every time, and we weren't protecting well on the three-man rush, so we were trying to take advantage of what was there. We had one timeout left. Got it down where we wanted to get it. We just turned it over.

Q. (Inaudible) what you all thought of in James Washington when he was a recruit? It's obviously not far from here?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Yeah, I don't remember much of that situation. The position coach that was coaching that position is no longer here. So that may be a question for him. But I remember him being at camp and that's about the extent of it.

Q. What kind of plan do you have to come up with to get (inaudible)? Obviously it's been a big thorn in your side the last couple years.

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Yeah, you've got to dedicate a scheme to him, a couple guys to him probably each snap and make sure you stay over the top. He's going to get his catches, just don't give up an easy one deep. It's easier said than done with him because he does such a good job playing the ball in the air and they'll take shots. So we'll have to have an answer for him on every snap.

Q. What have you thought about, especially the last month or so, just kind of at times Pat's decision-making, do you think that's dropped off at all?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: I don't think decision-making. It's been a combination of not practicing that much that month, and defense is daring us to do different things and us being not that effective in doing it. So he's had a lot on him to drop back and try to make a lot of things happen. So I think that's the biggest thing. There are some throws we'd like to have back. But he's got a lot on his shoulders right now with us not being able to run the ball as well as we'd like. So we'll have to keep working at that.

Q. To his footwork and leaving the pocket early at times, is it not an excuse to be a little gun shy when it seems like the offensive line has trouble with the three-man fronts? It feels like I'm just in a very vulnerable position if I stay in the pocket every time because they haven't shown me that they've been able to block?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Yeah, no question. No question. Survival mode kicks in. But to be a great player, you keep standing in there and trust it. When you've got to get out, you've got to get out. But we're still working through that. Yeah, no question. I've played the position. I've been through that situation. It's not fun. He's getting out, trying to preserve himself at times.

Q. Through fall camp and even leading up to the first game, I remember you said a couple different times that you felt like this was your best team headed into the season. Do you still feel like it is at this point?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Yeah, I do. I do. The results aren't what we want as far as wins and losses, but I think we've gotten better, and I think we've been right there. We just haven't finished.

Q. What do you feel like has been the difference from what you saw in fall camp and what you're seeing in practice, but what's not translating to the game?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Wins and losses, yeah. I think just really and truly, turnover margin. I think we needed to get some more throughout those first nine games, and we haven't. I think we've won one game where we won the turnover margin, and that was Stephen F. Austin. So when you consistently don't win there, it's hard to win in this league.

Q. Is that the craziest play you ever saw where Coleman stripped the ball out?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: It was pretty wild. Foreman made a heck of a run, and our guys kept trying to slow him down. It was a real head's-up play by Doug. He's a smart player. He played offense, defense in high school, and really a competitive kid.

Q. Before the season you said you weren't as concerned about the offensive line as some of us. Do you feel like the offensive line has performed up to your expectation so far?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: No.

Q. Why not?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: I think just having developed, I think, some of the younger guys we were counting on to be stalwarts, left tackle, and right guard, and some guys that we needed to play at a higher level just haven't got there yet. It's part of the process. They're still young and they'll get there, but I expected it to come along quickly.

Q. Last time you won at Stillwater, you were the quarterback here at Texas Tech. Red Raiders haven't beaten them since 2008. Just seems like they've been kind of a monkey on the back. Some of these players are still young, but any of them kind of feel like they owe Oklahoma State one given how it's gone the last seven or eight years?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Yeah, we haven't beaten them in a long time. So I would expect us to be excited to play. It's a ranked team. Probably the last ranked team we'll play this season. On the road, they always have a great environment. The fans are right on top of you. So I think our players understand what it means and how long it's been.

Q. You mentioned Oklahoma State has found ways to win the ballgames. What do you think enabled them to do that? What is their magic rabbit's foot that's enabling them to get those type of post wins?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: I think they've had success. You build off that. When you can look back in the past and

say, hey, we've been here before and found ways to win, that's what you see. You see them making interception in the end zone last week from Sterns who has played a bunch and been successful and had a lot of success. That's the biggest thing. They've been there before. We're still trying to get those wins under our belt where we have that confidence we can look back upon: Hey, we've done this before.

Q. What's (inaudible) status?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Still day-to-day. I'm not sure he'll be up or not. I have to see how it goes today. But he's a day-to-day guy.

Q. And Moore?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Yeah, same deal. Kind of a coach's decision, and we're waiting to see how that plays out.

Q. Saturday was Senior Day. What was the thought process and what went through the decision whether Devin got to go through that or not go through that?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Same answer. It was a coach's decision.

Q. Is he (inaudible)?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Not sure on that status to be quite honest. We're working through those things.

Q. Is part of the challenge for you right now all the attrition that's taken place, going back to even May where maybe a team that you thought you were going to have February 1 or March 1 is not the same team on November 1?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Yeah, I think everybody goes through that based on injuries and the nature of the game. So I don't think that's it. I think we just have to figure out how to finish games. We've been competitive and been in them, but we haven't finished them when we've had opportunities to do so. And it keeps kind of repeating itself. So we've got three more to finish and learn how to do that.

Q. With three left, I know you guys probably like to take one game at a time and focus on Oklahoma State this week. But needing two to be able to reach bowl eligibility, how much is that in the back of the coaches' minds and players' minds as well? And how much does that mean to you guys being able to extend and not have a really long off-season?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Yeah, I think you focus on each week, really and truly. I'm sure players think about it. Coaches think about it. But when you're playing a top-15 team on the road, you better worry about them first. So that's a big challenge and it's been our main focus.

Q. (Inaudible)?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: He is not.

Q. Is that because of his knee?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Yes.

Q. One last thing, when you look at the tape and the fourth quarter, you have 35 plays and went 108 yards. Did that just shock you when you looked at that?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: Yeah, we just can't move very well. I think in the second half we had it inside the 30 three times and got zero points. They did a good job. They dropped everybody out, and we were trying to run the ball and we weren't effective doing that. We tried to pass, and they covered everything up. So they had a good scheme, and we have to be better at running the football when teams are giving us that.

Q. Special teams, punt team and kickoff return team continues to struggle. Is there a reason for optimism? A way to improve this week at all?

KLIFF KINGSBURY: We'll see. We've tried about everything on both those units. It may just be a personnel issue at this point.

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Patrick Mahomes
Justis Nelson

Q. Have you had a chance to look at the tape of Saturday's game?

PATRICK MAHOMES: Yes, I watched it, I think, the next day. Like I thought in the game, we just didn't execute at the right times, and that caused possessions not going our way.

Q. Did you watch it with Coach Kingsbury?

PATRICK MAHOMES: Yeah, I watched myself and watched with Coach Kingsbury, and kind of talked about it and what we need to do to get better for the next few weeks. We talked about it, and trying to stay true, stay in the pocket, and trust my O-line and trust my receivers to make plays.

Q. Is that hard when everybody's coming at you? It seems like you're always running for your life.

PATRICK MAHOMES: It's really just me trying to make too much stuff happen. The O-line is getting better. A lot of the young guys are getting experience, and just keep trusting in them and keep trusting in what we've done the whole off-season and the whole beginning of the season was just trusting them and making the little plays happen.

Q. What is the biggest key in the decision-making process for you that you think in order to strike a good balance between not limiting yourself and keeping those big plays alive but also playing within the system when you can? Is it just the situation, or what do you think you need to focus on?

PATRICK MAHOMES: I think it's a little bit more about me pressing when we start not scoring. That's the biggest thing. When we're going good, it seems like I'm good at making decisions. But a few drives start stopping, three-and-outs, stuff like that, start pressing more, making more stuff happen. I can't let that happen. I have to just stay with what I've been doing all the beginning of the season and just stay true to that.

Q. When you say lack of communication, you said that the other night after the game, is that part you and the receivers not being on the same page when a play breaks down?

PATRICK MAHOMES: Yeah. It's that and as well as just signals and stuff before the play. I'm just trying to get them to run to certain spots, and they're thinking a little bit different stuff. It's something we've been good at most of the season, it's just these last two weeks haven't been great.

Q. How much of that is because you've been missing practices and your injury?

PATRICK MAHOMES: That definitely hurts a little bit just not being there all the time, not getting those extra reps. But at the same time it's a long season, and, like I said, the offense isn't going great. So they're pressing as well, trying to make plays happen. When we're both pressing, it doesn't help out.

Q. Are you disappointed in how the season's gone?

PATRICK MAHOMES: I mean, yeah. I mean, we have a really talented team, a team I thought we had a chance to play for the Big 12 Championship, and I truly believed it. We just haven't won the games, the close ones. It's something that we have to just keep going and these last three weeks try to get wins and end the season with a good taste in our mouth.

Q. What do you think is the disconnect? It seems like you guys are going backwards offensively compared to where you were maybe a few weeks ago?

PATRICK MAHOMES: I mean, the defenses that we're playing have had great game plans. We're, I guess, trying to make too much stuff happen. They're letting us run the ball a little bit more. I need to keep trusting in that and if there's Bailey on, just played really good, offensive line has blocked better, running the ball, and at the same time, when I do get those throws, I need to take the little ones and let those return the big ones.

Q. We asked Coach Kingsbury that same question coming into the season. He felt like this was the best team he's had coming in too. He mentioned that he felt like it was turnover margin was one of the biggest things bringing the team down. Would you relate with that? Do you feel like it's something different?

PATRICK MAHOMES: Yeah, turnover margin is a big thing. I think we haven't won but two the entire year, maybe. I don't know. But that's a big deal in the

football game. That can really change the aspect of a football game. Football games are pretty much won on a couple plays, and those plays are big parts of it.

Q. How much when you and Coach Kingsbury are watching tape where he kind of says, look, I understand you happen to get out of the pocket a lot?

PATRICK MAHOMES: He definitely understands. He's been in my position. He's played quarterback here and he knows what happens as a quarterback and when you need to get out and when not to. But at the same time he says there are times when he understands when I can get out and he says there are times I need to sit in there longer and go through my reads longer.

Q. Are you gun shy at all at times?

PATRICK MAHOMES: Not necessarily. I'm trying to go out there and win football games. Whatever it takes. I need to get better where we can win games. Just like the end of last game we could have went down there and scored, tied the game up and took it to overtime, and we didn't.

Q. Do you think you guys are pressing at this point in time in the season?

PATRICK MAHOMES: We want to win bad. We know that we haven't played as great as we can. So I think it's people trying to go out there and win games. We just need to get back to our old habits and get back to what we know ask what we do best.

Q. What have you seen from the Oklahoma State defense?

PATRICK MAHOMES: They're good. They're always a really good defense. They do a lot of different stuff. They have good players, older players. They can really have a great game plan, so we need to come ready to play and have a great game plan as well.

Q. Do you expect to see a similar game plan as you have the last couple weeks?

PATRICK MAHOMES: Yeah, probably so. It's worked these last two weeks. I think West Virginia has a similar game plan too. It's something that's worked against us. So we need to find ways to execute against it. I expect to have a pretty good game plan going in this week.

Q. Do you think one of the biggest challenges will be they've got two pretty good defensive tackles?

PATRICK MAHOMES: Yeah, definitely. We played those guys a lot last year. They had a good defensive line last year. It's something where our offensive line will have to step up, play big, and at the same time help them out by getting the ball out fast and not holding the ball too long.

Q. What does a win or loss this weekend -- now that we're nine games in, what do you feel like is the most complete game you guys have experienced at this point?

PATRICK MAHOMES: The most complete game as an offense, I mean, it was really against Oklahoma. We really clicked. But as an offense and defense, I don't know if we completely played well together. Our defense played really well against TCU. Offense didn't really show up. It seemed like all year it's been like that. Off and on the offense and defense. But one game I would -- I mean, LA Tech was a pretty good game, I guess. But I don't know if we really clicked all together.

Q. Oklahoma State's been a team that seems like a monkey on Tech's back for a while now. Haven't beaten them since 2008. The last time you guys beat them at Stillwater was when Coach Kingsbury was the quarterback here. What do you think is the trick? Do you guys feel like you owe them one? Is that something in the back of your mind at all?

PATRICK MAHOMES: It's a good rivalry. Like you said, we haven't beaten them in a while, and Coach Kingsbury tells us about that. I'm pretty sure he'll tell us about that today in our meeting. They have a good team. They have a really good team. They've been good for a while. And we need to find a way to win a game that we haven't really found a way this season. Hopefully we can go out there and win a football game against a really good team.

Q. With three left, knowing that you have to win two to be able to reach bowl eligibility, how much is that something that you guys think about?

PATRICK MAHOMES: Definitely we think about it. We want to be here playing for a bowl game. You don't want to go home in December and sit home. I did that my freshman year and never want to do that again. It's something people are going to fight and give whatever they've got to win hopefully three games and get to a bowl game. So people do think about it, but like you said, give it one game at a time, go out there and leave it on the field.

Q. How long did that off-season feel?

PATRICK MAHOMES: It felt extremely long. I think we had seven weeks off, and going home and answering questions of what happened this last year is never a good feeling. You don't want to have to do that again.

Q. Your freshman year you were able to play there, so what makes it so difficult to play there?

PATRICK MAHOMES: They have a great atmosphere there. They have an awesome stadium. The fans come out there strong and they support them. Like I

said, they always have a good football team. Going to someone's place in the Big 12 is never easy. We've got to find a way to get out there and win.

Q. A lot of people looked to the Baylor game that same season as when you kind of took off. But that Oklahoma State game in Stillwater, can you see that as kind of the start of your career, I guess, as Tech's quarterback?

PATRICK MAHOMES: Yeah, that was my first game I ever played. I only got to play one quarter, and I struggled in the beginning, and I think I threw my first touchdown there. So it's going to be cool to get back out there and hopefully go out there and get a win this time, because we had a loss in that one.

Q. There was a play, I think it might have been the first play you were in there, you had fumbled and threw an interception on the same play. Is it just crazy to see your maturation and how it's gone since you were that freshman?

PATRICK MAHOMES: Yeah, it was the turning point, I feel like, in my career. Just knowing how to work and what I need to do to prepare. Before then I was kind of just here, not expecting to play that much. Then after I got the playing time, I knew I needed to work harder. So that was a turning point. Just to get back out there will be cool. I want to get out there and get a win for these seniors and these guys that want to make a bowl game their last season here.

Q. What's the morale on the team? Are people a little down after that loss?

JUSTIS NELSON: Obviously a little bit. We go out there trying to win every game. Didn't quite go as we expected. But you've got to move on, the 24-hour rule, get over it, and focus on what you have to do next week.

Q. (Inaudible) as a team, lose as a team, but there were times earlier in the season when the defense was struggling, seemed like the offense was carrying the program. Now it seems like the defense is turning the corner a little bit with back-to-back decent games and aspects of getting stops and turnovers, and the offense hasn't been able to (inaudible). Is that starting to get frustrating on the defense in that type of situation?

JUSTIS NELSON: I wouldn't say frustrating. Like you said, it is a team sport. We had our mishaps. We had our mistakes throughout the game that that cost us in the long run just as well. So it's a combination of both. Offense has to play well, defense has to play well, and when that happens, everybody's happy.

Q. Talk about the defense (inaudible) because you did give up a (inaudible)?

JUSTIS NELSON: Yeah, I think guys showed toughness. Some things didn't go our way. Mostly mental mistakes that went for long yards. In the end, I think guys toughened up. They did what we had to do to get off the field. Overall, there's room for improvement all the time. I'm happy with how we played and how we got through on third down. There were still some third downs that we didn't get off the field. And giving up points before the half and even missed turnovers that could have been points before the half. So there are a lot of mistakes, lot of things we have to change, and we're not there yet.

Q. When you look at Oklahoma State's offense, what do you see them do?

JUSTIS NELSON: They definitely can throw and run the ball for sure. They have big backs. They have experienced quarterback, they have a lot of deep threats. I know they definitely like to go vertical. They like to toss the ball up. So I think the key is just keeping everything in front of us, making tackles. Making them move the ball consistently just down after down. They're a well-coached team, and they have all the talent that you need. So we just have to go in there and do our job.

Q. As a defensive back, does that get you excited knowing that they like to throw the ball as much as they do, for the ability to try to get that interception?

JUSTIS NELSON: Yeah, we're always looking to make plays. The ball's going to be up in the air, so we have to make those plays when they come to us. Coach Gibbs is going to put us in the right position, and it's our job to make those plays.

Q. (Inaudible)?

JUSTIS NELSON: I have voted -- what's today? Monday? I voted last week.

Q. Oklahoma State's a team you guys haven't beaten yet since you've been here, especially as seniors. What do you think has been the trick against those guys, and how much is that kind of something that's been eating at you guys at all to get a win here in Stillwater?

JUSTIS NELSON: Yeah, I mean, it's a tough place to play, for sure. They have a crazy environment. It's loud. And we definitely do need to get a win over there. Like I said, it's another game on the schedule. But like you said, we haven't had that win in a while, so it will mean a lot to get that, especially over in their place.

Q. Last time you guys won in Stillwater was actually Coach Kingsbury that was the quarterback. Has he told you guys about that at

all?

JUSTIS NELSON: No, not at all. I mean, I don't even know when that was --

Q. (Inaudible).

JUSTIS NELSON: Oh, okay.

Q. With three games left on the schedule, how much is it in the back of your minds that you have to get two wins of the next three to reach bowl eligibility?

JUSTIS NELSON: Yeah, we're trying to win every game. I mean, I think we're doing what we can in practice. We're practicing hard out there, for sure. The mindset isn't to just win two games to be bowl eligible, but we're trying to win every game. We're trying to finish this season as tough as we can, as perfect as we can.

So we're practicing for it. We're practicing hard. We're getting extra film. We're changing some things up. So just consistency and not being emotional. Just doing what you have to do to get yourself ready for the next week.

Q. (Inaudible) mentioned today and before the season they felt like this was the best team they've been around since they've been here at Tech. Did you feel that same way when you were coming into the season?

JUSTIS NELSON: I'd agree with that. I think we have talent at every position. I mean, things haven't gone our way in some instances. But I think we have a mixture of experience, a mixture of young talent, everything that we need to compete at a high level. So I'm still confident in our players. These three games, I still think we have a lot to prove.

Q. You guys got to eight wins your freshman year. You can still have a possibility that you will win the next three and possibly a bowl game. What do you feel like you saw in the off-season leading you to believe that it was the best team that you've been around but just doesn't translate right now?

JUSTIS NELSON: I'm not sure. I feel like we're more of a team than we have been in the past. By that I mean we don't have a bunch of people that are individuals, they just have individual goals, they just want to do this for themselves, they just want stats. We have guys that have a common goal. I mean, it's tough because it hasn't carried over as much as we'd like, but like I said, we still have plenty of time to prove that we have the same goal, that we have the talent. And I think we just keep working and keep implementing what the coaches have already put in place, then there should be no reason why we don't succeed.

Q. Nine games in, do you feel like you guys almost are like pressing, like it better happen now?

JUSTIS NELSON: Yeah, I mean, we've got to go. There's no time to sit around and wait for somebody else to make a play or do something. I mean, it's everybody. We have to have that sense of urgency. That's something that Coach talked about all the time. There's no time to rest. I mean, you can rest after the game. You can rest at night. So just urgency, we have to go right now.

Q. (Inaudible) has been playing Washington the last few years?

JUSTIS NELSON: I'm sorry, what was that?

Q. How frustrating has it been playing Washington the last few years, the wide receiver?

JUSTIS NELSON: I wouldn't say frustrating at all. I mean, he's a good player. He makes plays, we make plays. It's just part of the game.

Q. He's had these great games against you guys the last couple years?

JUSTIS NELSON: Like I said, just make plays. That's what it comes down to. Whenever the ball's in the air, who wants it more? He's a great player, nothing but respect for him, and it's a game of football.

Q. How about that game against Oklahoma where you kind of switched from nickel and just went back to corner? It seems like whether it was last week against TCU or against Texas, it seems like you're just picking up the other team's best wide receiver and just kind of picking him out saying I'm going to cover him in that game. How much of that was you either going to Coach Gibbs or just kind of a shift that he made defensively for the secondary?

JUSTIS NELSON: Yeah, it's just wherever Coach Gibbs wants me, or even Coach Scott. Wherever they feel like I can help the team the best. I wouldn't say I necessarily have a say, but I don't mind it at all. Wherever they need me, that's where I'm going to play. I'm going to do my best.

Q. Is that something you took on yourself at all, or was that something the coaches kind of approached you about?

JUSTIS NELSON: I mean, I like having multiple responsibilities, playing nickel safety or corner, just being around the ball all the time. Good things happen when you're around the ball. So it was kind of Coach Scott, Coach Gibbs. But I'm all for it.