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Kliff Kingsbury



Q. When you were talking the other night about little school yard, loose plays, is that from a lack of discipline and if it is, how do you rectify that?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, after watching the film, I just -- we weren't very mechanical. We weren't very fundamentally sound. I think what I was seeing at practice didn't necessarily carry over to the field. Maybe it's just nerves and first-game type jitters. But it wasn't us. And so we need to get that fixed this week and next Saturday play a much smoother, much more poised game.

Q. Going off that a little bit, I know you talked all off-season about Patrick making those easy plays, does that go into that street ball, and also, off of that, as well, did you feel like you took too many hits at times?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, but they weren't really his fault, so you don't want to get him hit ever. But our offensive line has to play better. Some of those plays, he was forced to get out of the pocket sooner, after watching the tape. But he continued to make plays. He's playing at a high level. We have to get some of those guys in front of him to do their job a little bit better.

Q. Any concern going into a game against a team that's notorious for blitzing all the time?

COACH KINGSBURY: Not really, just because I know what he can do. We'll get better up front. I know that's coming, and I know what Pat can do versus a blitz or a rush or whatever.

So it's good to have a quarterback that can make plays and extend plays. I watched him in the Bowl game and we didn't block anybody the entire game, and still ran around and did his thing. Hopefully we're better than that, but we'll find out.

Q. How much different is this team than the team you played in the Holiday Bowl? Still some players around?

COACH KINGSBURY: I'm trying to think, we tried to go back and see. I know Reggie Davis had a touchdown in that Holiday Bowl but not many. Not many. It's basically an entirely new team. So that won't have much of an impact, I don't think.

Q. Is there anything you're going to take from that

game, the Holiday Bowl?

COACH KINGSBURY: No, that was a long time ago. Completely different teams. And so I don't think -- I think Coach Graham's evolved a lot on both sides of the ball and we have, too.

Q. Have you looked at any film of them and can you talk about their offense and defense?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, I think offensively, they have a dual-threat quarterback, very good athlete, they have a great running back. Coach Lindsey, the offensive coordinator, I was a big fan of what he did at Southern Miss and he's doing a good job there. They will be tough to stop.

Defensively some really good pass rushers and good secondary. The one corner had a bunch of interceptions last year. It will be a step up in competition that's for sure and we'll have to play well.

Q. What's your fondest memory from that 2014 Holiday Bowl, getting your first Bowl victory and capping off an 8-5 season?

COACH KINGSBURY: I really don't remember it that well. I'm kind of day-to-day. So I just remember winning the game, that was it.

Q. Was there emotion that you felt at all, during that moment, your first season as a head coach, ending things the way that you did?

COACH KINGSBURY: I don't think so. I mean, I remember being happy for the seniors just because we were knew to them, and they really bought in and played hard for us.

Q. What is (inaudible) and Gary Moore's status? Are they expected to practice?

COACH KINGSBURY: They are. They will practice today. Very minor-type injuries.

Q. Seems like at times on Saturday, the defensive line really set the tone for the defense. What do you think about their challenge going up against a dual-threat quarterback and being able to keep him contained?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, they will have to be very responsible in their assignments and their techniques, and like you said, we can't let them get outside and make plays, and they will run them a bunch. It will be a

different game for them than it was last week when you had more of a pocket passer.

Q. Were you happy with the breakdown of run and pass the last game, and is that something that you'll maintain going into this week?

COACH KINGSBURY: I'd like to run it a little bit more if we could. But if they are going to take away the run in numbers, then we are going to throw it every play. And when you have got a guy like Pat and you put the ball in his hands that many times, good things are going to happen.

Q. After looking at film, how do you feel like your receivers played?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, I think they played okay. Not great on depths of route. Not real sharp on some of those things. I thought a couple of the inside guys weren't very physical blocking. So we're going to get that fixed this week.

Q. Is that a group that after Saturday's game that you were disappointed in, but maybe had a chance to look back on the film and maybe change your mind about?

COACH KINGSBURY: No, I feel like I had a pretty good feel for what occurred. The groups I were disappointed in were offensively -- I thought the defensive second group came in and played okay but offensively, that second unit didn't play very well.

Q. What did you see out of the two new guys in the lineup, Kolin and Ondre.

COACH KINGSBURY: Physicality. I thought early they really were a force in there, jamming up the middle on some of those runs and winning their one-on-one battles and that was good. They are two big, physical tough guys. They play with a chip on their shoulder. They have a lot of football built up after sitting out a year, and I think there's a lot of room for growth, which is encouraging.

Q. Can you tell there's an energy about those two, having sat out last year, for an entire season, watching the guys play from the sideline last year?

COACH KINGSBURY: There's no doubt. That's not easy when you're having to run scout team and you do that and you come from places where you were a player and on the team and now you're on the scout team.

So definitely saw them eager and I think they made the most of it. I think as they get in game shape and as they get more snaps under their belt, they are just going to get better and better.

Q. Do you feel like the team was more physical

overall in the opener?

COACH KINGSBURY: I thought defensively. I didn't think offensively. I didn't think offensively at all. We have some good playmakers that can make things happen in space; we have Pat. So we covered up a lot of things by a lot of things by, like I said, playing some street ball. But we have to get a lot better and tighten things up and be a lot more physical this week.

Q. What did you think of your cornerback?

COACH KINGSBURY: Not bad. Really, D.J., really it's his first full game of starting and playing corner and he was physical and stuck his nose in there and made some plays on the football and then Thierry came up with a big-time interception. They will continue to get better and we'll see how it goes. It will be a big step up this week.

Q. Did you feel like when they got ahead is maybe when they stopped being as physical?

COACH KINGSBURY: No, it's when we took out the ones, I'd say. That hurt. And then even the ones, a lot of the things that we do in practice, we weren't doing it. I don't know if we were uninterested or just didn't feel like we needed to bring the physicality that we need to every week. But it wasn't very good when it comes to that.

Q. Could that be down to the competition?

COACH KINGSBURY: I don't know. I don't know if it was just being scared or maybe we're not that physical. We'll find out. But we did not bring it Saturday offensively.

Q. Are you talking offensive line, blocking from the receivers? What exactly?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, both. Both. Offensive line was soft and then the receiver -- the inside receivers came at some blocks well. Dylan Cantrell, some of the outside guys did some thing, but a couple of those young inside guys, they caught some passes, scored some touchdowns, but they weren't very good blocking.

Q. Ideally, the number is zero for zero, but were you pleased with seven penalties for 150 yards against a team that's traditionally had some issues with that?

COACH KINGSBURY: Offensively I think we had six of them, so that wasn't good. It wasn't really good focus. The number of yards I guess was encouraging. But when you have six offensively, it's just lack of focus, a bunch of pre-snap penalties and some things we have to clean up. I wasn't happy with that part of it but defensively, yes.

Q. What's Kisean Allen's status?

COACH KINGSBURY: He will be playing.

Q. Inaudible.

COACH KINGSBURY: Just a shoulder. Banged up his shoulder.

Q. Did you watch the game last night?

COACH KINGSBURY: I did not. I was watching Narcos Season 2. I didn't get to see it Friday, so I was on it hard yesterday (Laughter).

Q. What did you think of Corey Dauphine's run? Obviously people are excited about him.

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, when he touches it, it's dynamic. There's a lot of other things we have to get him better at. That's why we had to put him in, take him out a little bit, talk him through some things. But when he has the ball in his hands, he's dynamic, physical, with run the football well. There's just a lot of other things that go into playing that position. So we're working through that. He's young, works, hard, does everything we say. We've just got to get him more comfortable in our system.

Q. Inaudible.

COACH KINGSBURY: He did well. I think we've got a couple of things that just were raggedy. We snapped the ball one time we shouldn't have made it. He made a great throw to Ian and went through his hands and got an interception. But he made some good checks, and had some adverse conditions with the way that line was blocking. I thought he handled himself well, and he had a good demeanor on the sideline so that was good to see.

Q. Was there anything that surprised you the most, looking back at the film?

COACH KINGSBURY: I just think watching the film really showed me just how loose we were in a lot of areas. From what I've seen in practice, and I'm speaking for the offense right now but what I've seen in practice is very tight, doing things right, doing the little things, and we got away from that in the game. So we've got to tie that back in and play better Saturday.

Q. How ready are you to play a team like Arizona State?

COACH KINGSBURY: We're ready. I think it's been good competition against each other all camp. I had made mention of that during camp and so I think that has prepped us to go against a solid Division I team.

Q. What have you seen from their defensive line? Seems like they have some pretty good pieces.

COACH KINGSBURY: They do. They have guys that can be disruptive, get upfield. Solid in the run game. So it will be a good challenge. From what I saw this

past week, we're going to have to improve a lot up front.

Q. When you look at your own team and Arizona State, do you see some similarities in both teams, at least the national perception, is that there are middle-of-the-road conference teams that are looking to break their way into that top half where they are competing for conference championships every year. Do you see a similarity in those?

COACH KINGSBURY: I don't but there may be. I don't really look into that type stuff, so I don't know.

Q. Seems like the lack of offense, whether it be Dana or Sonny last year against Cal or Arizona State, you guys seemed to like playing that type of defense. Is there a reason why you've guys had success offensively?

COACH KINGSBURY: I don't know. I mean, when I was at University of Houston, we played Tulsa when he was there and had some success and he had some success. I think it's all year-to-year and who you got and who he's got.

Q. Special teams had to make you feel pretty good, Cameron Batson 33-yard punt return. Can you tell us if your expectations to go forward is good?

COACH KINGSBURY: I hope so. Coach Robinson I think brings a lot of experience, a calmness to that group that was good. Cam's returning with a lot more confidence and I thought we covered kicks well.

Punting, we've got to get better at punting. We didn't put the ball like we needed to. He hit it in the wrong spot a couple times and then Clayton made his kick, so that was encouraging.



Patrick Mahomes III

Ondre Pipkins

Q. After looking at the film, how do you think you performed?

PATRICK MAHOMES III: I thought I did well. I could have definitely done a lot better, got a little loose at some times. Kind of freelanced a little bit more than I would like to, but I mean, we won the game. We scored a lot of points. That's always encouraging.

Q. How do you tighten that up, just remind yourself every play?

PATRICK MAHOMES III: Yeah, remind myself, working on it in practice, really getting the game plan down and going through the reads and not try to make a big play all the time. Something I've been working on all off-season and hopefully I'll get better as the season goes on.

Q. Is it more -- did you do it that way because that's the way you've done it all your life and changing it to be tighter is more -- is newer to you?

PATRICK MAHOMES III: Yeah, I feel like I was a little amped up, especially the beginning of the game, trying to make big plays happen. We did make some happen but at the same time, we missed on a lot of things. I'll try to get better at this going into Arizona State. They have a good defense, so need to be better, more efficient, just try to put it in the best player's hands for that play.

Q. After the game was it more just not going through all of your progressions and staying in the pocket that Kliff hit on with you or what was it specifically?

PATRICK MAHOMES III: Yeah, that was the main thing, just kind of getting off my reads early, and you could tell, I was going through the progressions, I guess you would say but just not really trusting it. Trying to make -- get out of the pocket and run around, throw the ball, instead of just trusting it and making the throws. Something that we've been working on and I expect to do better.

Q. Was that more because, I guess, maybe the offensive line wasn't blocking as well as they should have or was it just you, first game.

PATRICK MAHOMES III: A little bit of both. I feel like a lot of it was on me just not trusting them. But at the

same time, we have to be more physical, the offensive line. But a lot of it was on me just not trusting them.

Q. Are you going to try to throw it to 18 different receivers this next game?

PATRICK MAHOMES III: If they are open, I will. Try to put it in the best receiver's hands for that play, and whoever goes through my reads and whoever is open, I'm going to give them the ball. I'm not a big guy on having a go-to guy. I try to put it in the best player's hands for that play.

Q. Have you looked at any film, do you think that Arizona State is softer in the middle or the outside or short and deep?

PATRICK MAHOMES III: I think it just kind of depends what defense they are in. They have a really good defensive line. Their pass rushers are really good. But they have a good defense in general. They have a really good scheme. They blitz a lot, try to confuse you. So just me recognizing the blitzes and getting us in the best play would be the best way to go about that.

Q. Were you on the sideline for the Holiday Bowl win in San Diego?

PATRICK MAHOMES III: No, I was still a senior in high school. Didn't get to come.

Q. Did you watch that game?

PATRICK MAHOMES III: I did. I did watch that game. They did really good, first half, especially, jumped on them early. Davis at the time was really good about just going through his reads and making his plays and hopefully I can do the same thing and carry it into the second half, have like a full game of really good football.

Q. Anything about Arizona State, the Pac 12, power five conference, does that change a lot for this week, the buzz or anticipation?

PATRICK MAHOMES III: A little bit. I mean, we're really trying to go out there and prove to everyone in the nation who we are. We have a really good chance. They are a really good football team. So to go out there and hopefully excel and hopefully come out with the win would be awesome, and really get us going for the season as we are at the beginning of it.

Q. What do you take from inexperience in non-

conference last year going to somebody else's house in Arkansas and what do you take to Arizona State that maybe you didn't last year?

PATRICK MAHOMES III: I mean, last year, the biggest thing against Arkansas was getting on them early, getting that lead from the beginning, and hopefully we can do that this next week, jump on them early and kind of how we've really done well since I been here is once we get up early, usually we can maintain it through the whole game. We have to be better on the road this year, so excited to see us get out there, first time on the road in a big stadium in front of a hostile environment.

Q. Have you ever played that late at night? That seems like a lot of waiting around.

PATRICK MAHOMES III: I haven't. I was here for UTEP when we played them at nine o'clock my freshman year. I didn't get to play but I was there, so I know what the process is like. So I use that experience to help me out, and really try to get myself maintained the whole day and not be too energized all day.

Q. What do you hope to learn most as an offense or maybe try to improve on, power five opponent, a couple of weeks before Big 12 starts?

PATRICK MAHOMES III: Biggest thing I'm improving on is being more physical as a whole unit and blocking for each other. We made a lot of plays with playmakers last week but we really need to improve on really blocking for each other and really being a full team and not just a big play team.

Q. As least as of yesterday, it came out that you guys were underdogs compared to Arizona State. Do you guys see yourself that way?

PATRICK MAHOMES III: I mean, I don't see us as underdogs to anyone. I feel like we can beat anyone in the country, so we're going to come out there and play like we've worked this off-season and played the best we can and compete, hopefully come out with the win against a really good football team.

Q. Did you take a lot of hits on Saturday?

PATRICK MAHOMES III: Took a few. I don't really notice them until after the game but yeah, I took some hits, took some big ones but for the most part, I don't think I got sacked, so that's always encouraging, and so as long as we're moving the ball forward and not moving backwards, that's always a good thing.

Q. The knee doesn't bother you?

PATRICK MAHOMES III: Knee, I haven't felt in a while, knock-on-wood. I haven't felt it and I'm excited about that, staying healthy, keep maintaining rehab and stuff like that, just to make sure about it.

Q. Two or three times Saturday night, y'all were in third down situations and you kind of took -- were those by design, the first passes?

PATRICK MAHOMES III: Yeah, and I think that goes to how good the receivers were playing, making big plays. They were dropping a lot of guys out of there. And learning from my freshman and sophomore year, I've learned that on third down especially, if they give you the first down, just go ahead and take it and run for it.

Like you said. I was just kind going through my reads and just saw open space, just ran for the first down and got out of bounds so we can keep the offense and the chains moving.

Q. Usually in that first game, you don't really know what you have until those lights come on and you get out on the field. Just after what you saw, Stephen F. Austin, do your expectations change, what you see the season ending up as and what do you have those expectations as of right now after seeing it for the first time?

PATRICK MAHOMES III: My expectation is still to win the Big 12, Big 12 Championship. From watching around the country, there's a lot of good teams in Big 12 this year, guys that can really play. I expect to win every single game. I expect to win the Big 12 and compete for a National Championship.

Q. What's the toughest part about going through your reads and avoid the rust and making stuff happen -- finding a balance between that and trusting your instincts; I imagine that's a challenge. What's that process?

PATRICK MAHOMES III: It's definitely a challenge, especially getting out on game day, you want to make big plays happen, but just have to trust in the offense, trust in Coach Kingsbury and that he knows what he's doing. He's had success. So really just trusting in him more than I guess you would -- I need to trust myself and just really go out there and execute at a high level.

Q. You talked about going through your reads and maybe trying to make something happen prematurely; a couple times where maybe you over-corrected, that has been a concern.

PATRICK MAHOMES III: For the most part, especially as I say, I feel like I was pretty good at not trying to make plays happen before the play. There was a couple times, I think on the third down, I overthrew Reginald Davis; the first option was wide open and I just took off running. But for the most part I thought I was pretty good about it this first game and hopefully I can be better as the season goes on.

Q. Do you thrive off going into somebody else's

house?

PATRICK MAHOMES III: Yes, I feel like this year especially, that was the biggest knock, I feel like for us last year, we were great at home and not as good on the road and especially as an offense. So I'm trying to really change that mind-set for the team and then for everybody else watching us, is that we can be a road team and we can win games at tough environments.

Q. Did you get a chance to watch the UT - Notre Dame game last night?

PATRICK MAHOMES III: I did watch. It was an awesome game. Two really good teams, both teams, quarterbacks, played well, all the quarterbacks in the game. It was exciting to see a high-scoring game with a lot of different changes and momentum.

Q. Have you watched Narcos?

PATRICK MAHOMES III: I haven't watched Narcos yet. I will though, soon. (Laughter).

Q. What was it like to get out there and just play well?

ONDRE PIPKINS: It felt good to get back out there. It's been awhile. The jitters, of course you have them, but I have my teammates right there beside me, so it felt like it was just another day.

Q. What do you feel like you guys need to accomplish overall on Saturday, even if it's something as simple as getting your feet --

ONDRE PIPKINS: I think we were just getting the feel of the game again, the feel of playing football at a fast pace, tempo. We definitely did a good job communicating with each other. That also could get better. Sometimes that we didn't communicate as well. So there was ups and downs in it, so we have to get better at that. Overall I think we all gelled together and we handled the environment pretty well.

Q. How do you prepare in practice to go up against --

ONDRE PIPKINS: He's a big back. The team that we are playing, they have a big back, they want to run the ball. So the way we prepare is just to tackle in practice, make sure we wrap up and we get the ball carrier down and also, you know, just weather the storm. If you go into somebody's house, you know you're going to have some ups and downs. Just stay constant and don't panic, don't freak out and we'll be fine. You just manage the environment, that's all.

Q. How do you get your teammates to have that same perspective?

ONDRE PIPKINS: You just preach it to them. You let them know right off the bat. Today when we go out there in walk-throughs, that will be said. That's the first

thing that will be said, once we bring it up, is that we have to learn how to control the environment going into somebody's house and just be together. You know, stay together through the ups and the downs.

Q. Do you enjoy going on the road? Do you feel like you thrive in that environment? Seems like come together and build that cohesiveness.

ONDRE PIPKINS: I don't mind going on the road. I mean, it's pretty fun. I mean, it's football, you know, so you've got to enjoy, you know, going to other places, seeing different things. But I enjoy it, going to somebody else's house, playing football. So I enjoy it.

Q. Even if it's going to be at nine o'clock?

ONDRE PIPKINS: Yeah, I've played in a few night games. It's going to be, you know, a challenge for some guys but I'm pretty sure once we dial in and focus in, we're going to understand, hey, this is a football game. So we've got to be ready to go.

Q. First opportunity to be on Jones this past Saturday, how did it compare to the Big House and other places you've been around the country?

ONDRE PIPKINS: It was loud. It was loud. Before I got on the field, I wasn't as nervous. I'm like, okay, I can -- when I got on the field -- they just started roaring, and I was like, oh, my, goodness. It's just a good environment and I'm happy to be a part of it. We have a great fan base and they did a great job Saturday cheering us on.

Q. Did it disappoint you that so many of them left before the end of the game?

ONDRE PIPKINS: You never know. You know, some of them may have some responsibilities. Some may have to get home. As long as we get the win; they came and supported and we got the win, so it was good.

Q. I don't know if you've had a chance to watch too much film, but who impressed you the most out of the offensive line group looking back on Saturday's game?

ONDRE PIPKINS: I think just about everybody, even Lonzell Gilmore, he came in right away and played an impact. Joseph Wallace came in and made an impact. Kolin Hill was a guy who sat out with me and he did an excellent job. I thought Gary Moore did a great job hustling to the ball. Breiden Fehoko did a great job holding his ground; Mike Thomas, Chris Williams, Jacarthy Mack, J-Mack, I don't want to forget anybody. I think everybody handled it pretty well and they went out there and did their job. We do have some things that we have to correct and we'll get those corrected this week.

Q. Did that help having not only someone else, but

someone else like Kolin in your position group that last year, just going through the process, waiting your turn, I guess does it help going through that process?

ONDRE PIPKINS: Yeah, it's pretty exciting, because we talked before the game, it was like, man, it seems like just a week ago we were just on the sideline, envisioning playing the next year and now it's here.

So it was just a good moment to share with him because we both sat out. But I enjoy sharing the moment with all of them, all the defensive line guys with me because they helped me through the process, as well. They accepted me who I was and they never resisted the leadership.

Q. How close do you feel like you performed as a unit compared to what you've seen the defense is capable of in practice?

ONDRE PIPKINS: Can you say that again, sir?

Q. How close do you feel like your performance as a defense was to what you've been capable of in practice and kind of the potential you've seen there?

ONDRE PIPKINS: I think that starts with Coach Patrick, what he preaches ever day, coming out, bringing the hard hat, try to work every day, try to get better at something.

So I thought that we were close at the whole game. We didn't break, we didn't bend. We have a tougher opponent this week so it's going to be interesting to see how we handle that.

Q. What was Coach Gibbs' reaction to how you guys played Saturday?

ONDRE PIPKINS: He was pretty excited for the most part. Of course, he wanted, you know, the ball a little bit more, so we got to do a better job of turning the ball over and making plays. And also, just taking advantage of our opportunities, batting balls, disrupting the quarterback, throwing his timing off. That's something we've got to do better. But for the most part, I think Coach Gibbs was pretty excited.

Q. Only seen one game from their quarterback but he likes to run around. What problems does that pose for you guys up front?

ONDRE PIPKINS: I don't think it's a problem. I think we all just need to know where we are on the field to do our job and stay in our gaps, of course and just ultimately do our job and execute when that time comes, if he gets out of the pocket, the guy who may have containment, make sure he has containment.

Those are just coaching points and game plan

strategies and they did a great job last week, meaning my coaches did a great job with the game plan and I'm pretty sure they are going to do a great job this week.

Q. Do you like the statue back there or do you mind a running quarterback?

ONDRE PIPKINS: Doesn't matter. I like them all. You know, I like to, you know -- it doesn't matter. You're a running quarterback, okay. If you stand in the pocket, okay. See how that works for you. I like them all. It doesn't matter to me.

Q. Is there a specific number that Coach Gibbs preaches in practice as far as turnovers are concerned; that if you feel like you get to a certain number, that gives you a distinct advantage to be able to win the game, or is it hey, turn over as many as possible?

ONDRE PIPKINS: There's no set number because we don't want to just set it right there. We want to get as many as possible and get it back to the playmaker, Patrick Mahomes, and high power our offense so they can score and do what they do best. FastScripts by ASAP Sports ...