

TEXAS TECH ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS



TEXAS TECH VS KANSAS STATE

October 23, 2021
Jones AT&T Stadium

TEXAS TECH POSTGAME QUOTES

Head Coach Matt Wells

Opening Statement

"Congratulations Kansas State. Hard fought game right down to the wire. Tale of two halves. We did what we wanted to do right out of the gate. We started 14-0. Played good football for the rest of that half. You open the 3rd quarter with a stop on defense, then that punt gets all the way down inside the five there tight. You can't give up a safety, you've got to get the ball out, get two first downs, you've got to flip the field. We gave up a safety, then a touchdown, on back-to-back drives. We went cold on offense. Any score on offense on the second half wins the game. The thing that hurt us as the game went on was some untimely penalties. We haven't had that around here and that's unfortunate. We had a couple holding calls, then a hands to the face call on third and forever. That's not like us, that's giving them a chance for the game winning touchdown, it's unfortunate. I'm proud of those players, they busted their butt, they're spilling their guts. Hard fought game, it went down to the wire, but we didn't make enough plays in the second half."

Q: On run game

"The safety support and the linebackers, it seemed like they had an extra head in there every time. We broke a few and ran well at times, but when we really needed it, we didn't get it. 170 yards rushing probably should have got it done. That's a decent outing."

Q: On the pass game struggles

"There were some breakdowns in pass pro. Not sure that was the ultimate problem. We targeted Erik a few times, we had some overthrows, and one was an underthrow. There were a couple breakdowns, you could probably point at two or three things that you could point at."

Q: On not finishing drives the last few possessions

"Tahj broke one and we got down there and the big one that hurt us was the jet sweep that had been working well to Miles. We got strung back then we got third and forever. That put us way behind the chains on the last drive."

Q: On the Safety

"There was a little momentum change. Unfortunately, we were not able to stop that momentum. They took the next drive down and scored then it was nine points just like that, made it 24-19. That's why you can't have a TFL back there."

Q: On defensive effort

"There is a lot of guys in that locker room, and it hurts them, it stings them. We played well defensively, we played very well. Deuce got lose a couple times, he's a good player. Skylar has got a lot of moxie, I've got a lot of respect for him, but I thought are defense battled. We are razor thin out there, but our guys continued to battle, and fight. It would have been nice to keep them off the field a little bit and extend some of those drives on offense and we didn't do it."

Q: On the decision not to kick in the fourth quarter

"We figured it was 52 (yards). Into the stiff wind, I don't know how fast it was blowing, but we wanted to get closer to the 30, somewhere it that area it was going to be a 48 yarder into the wind, because it was a pretty good wind."

Q: On the halftime message

"Go finish. Defense is up first and go finish. We made some adjustments, both sides were making adjustments. By no means did anybody think it was over, we knew we had to go fished and I thought the locker room was just fine at halftime."

Q: On Penalties

"It has not been a chronic problem or issue for two years, 5-40 yards. I would say there were three untimely penalties, both holding calls and the hands to the face. They were bad bad timing."

Running Back SaRodorick Thompson

Q. On first half success

"Getting the ball to our lane...we locked up things nice, that's pretty much it."

Q. On what was different from the first half

"We were seeing the same stuff they came out with, in the first half. It's just us as the players didn't execute. Simple as that."

Q. On mentality moving forward

"For me, I feel like as an offense we just have to let this one go. We can't really dwell on this one too much, because we know that's not us. Going back to the Houston game, we been the [same] team, came out fast the second half and outscored the opponents in the second half. This wasn't us!"

Defensive Back Eric Monroe

Q: On Second half pressure

"I wouldn't say it was pressure. Just sticking together and just playing our part, playing our role, and capitalizing on plays."

Q. On little plays in the second half

"Yes, that was the main issue. Just stopping them and other players too, that was the key."

Q. On Mentality

"We just have to stick together, man. Focus on the plays we messed up and correct them Sunday. We're all a unit, just sticking together and finding a way. We'll be alright."

KANSAS STATE POSTGAME QUOTES

Head Coach Chris Klieman

Opening Statement

"Really unbelievable team win today. Lot of adversity that we faced, especially early in the game not the way we wanted to start, it was frustrating to us and then they get the field goal right before half and it's 24-10 at half. Kids didn't flinch, they didn't bat an eye and felt like we were a better team and had a chance to win the game we just had to make some plays. In my mind the play of the game was the punt by Ty (Zentner) and then the safety to get it to 24-12, because it gave us a ton of life and we were able to make some plays. Coach (Messingham) told me throughout the week that he thought we could pitch it around and throw the ball against these guys and we were trying to run it a little bit and I said Courtney (Messingham) let's put it in (Thompson's) hands. Talked to (Thompson), talked to the receivers and said 'the game is going to go to you guys' we're going to protect up front and find a way to throw it around. Then we started to settle in on defense. That's so important because you can't play defense frantically. For a while in the first half, we were playing frantically and then we settled and started playing good team defense and that's what you have to do. What I told the guys after is that our preparation was exceptional this week, doesn't always guarantee victory, but our preparation was really good. The guys held each other accountable. It was a team win, offense, defense and special teams all had a hand in it. Much needed victory, as well all know, that we needed to find a way to come on the road and get a win. Happy for the guys, going to enjoy it today and then back to work."

Q: "What this a matter of just getting out of your own way to get it done on offense?"

"I think both sides of the ball trying to get out of our own way. Too many penalties, and the crowd was a little bit a factor but we work silent count all the time. Too many discipline penalties you can't have but we were able to overcome them. Defensively, just a couple of blown assignments. We keep talking about it we cannot do those and be successful we are not a team that can give teams 10-15 points and

we did that again today. I hope that the way we won the game, in the fact that we were down two scores for how many weeks in a row, but we found a way to win give the guys some confidence that what we are doing is right.”

Q: “What did you change on defense at the half?”

“We just told them to be calm and play within the framework of the defense. We honestly didn’t change that many calls, we just played them better. That’s the thing I know is the frustration for us as coaches and probably for the guys as well. It was a very simple game plan. We told the guys we were going to keep the game plan really simple so that they could play fast. We were simple, played fast and made mistakes in the first half and in the second half we kept it pretty simple and just played faster and made plays.”

Kansas State DB Russ Yeast

Q: On frustration with beginning of the game

“Anytime there is a slow first half there is frustration, but we still had to stay humble and stay grounded so we could still ultimately come out and play good football later in the game.”

Q: On not allowing any points in the second half

“Credit to my teammates and this team, we got a lot of fighters. Really we didn’t make a whole lot of adjustments we just said we gotta go out there and play hard. We knew we were going to win the game the whole time, we never faltered.”

Q: On his interception

“I was in a quarters concept, and I see the quarterback look over to the boundary side of the formation, I peeked over and see him running an over route from the other side so I tried to undercut it and he never saw me.”

Kansas State DE Nate Matlack

Q: On defensive play difference between the first and second halves

“I think we just knew we needed to stop blowing plays and we kept not executing on those long pass plays. We were on third down multiple times and then all of the sudden they throw a deep ball for 45 yards and we knew if we shut those out we’re good and that’s how we always work if we were good on the first couple downs and we let that long, explosive play happen like at the beginning of the game it screws up our momentum, but then we bounced back so that was good.”