

TEXAS TECH ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS



TEXAS TECH VS IOWA STATE

November 13, 2021
Jones AT&T Stadium

TEXAS TECH POSTGAME QUOTES

Interim Head Coach Sonny Cumbie

Opening Statement:

"You know I had a long time to collect my thoughts after this one. And all I really want to say is there's not a greater feeling in the world as a coach to see your players have success on that stage and see your players have that type of success in offense, defense, and special teams for four quarters, and that's what our jobs are all about. I told those kids three weeks ago they were going to get every single ounce of energy that we have as coaches, they are going to have every single ounce of energy that we have in practice, and they got that tonight, and they gave us that notch, and they did it over and over and over again. I think they believe they took a big step tonight. We talked about breaking the mentality; when negative things happen, what do you do? In this game, our defense, our special teams, and our offense rose up. They rose up time and time again. This game is about players, it's about players and us pouring into them, and they did that tonight, and they had a great night. You can't be any more excited and proud of a group of kids than those players that we have in the locker room right now."

Q1: "How did you prepare Johnathan for the kick?"

"I didn't talk to him. I told coach Tommerdahl, listen, I've been on offense as the offensive coordinator for however long we've been going through this season. A couple of weeks ago, you know, the roles changed a little bit, and I said I'm not going to screw up special teams; all I'm going to do is coach the scout teams. I can get them to read a card, I can get them to run fast, and I can holler at them. So, the rest of the special teams he's got. I asked him before that kick, when Iowa State called that time out to try to set up the return. I said, Tommerdhal, what are the chances on this thing? He said less than 50 coach, but we've got to throw the spear, so we did."

Q2: "Have you ever seen a field goal that long in your lifetime throughout your career?"

"You know there was a kicker that I had, that I was associated with at TCU named Jayden Oberkrom that had a strong leg. I mean, Johnathan Garibay didn't blink. I mean, Jonathan Garibay got out there with utmost confidence that he was going to make that kick, and he did; he drilled that sucker."

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Q3: "Coach, can you talk about Donovan Smith's performance tonight?"

"You know it's not bad for a third-string quarterback. I had a lot of confidence in Donovan Smith. I have a lot of confidence in Behren Morton, Tyler Shough, Parker McNeil, and Henry Colombi. All those guys. Maverick McIvor. I believe in every quarterback we have in our room. It's my job whenever their time is called to have them prepared, to have them ready to make the most of that opportunity, and then ultimately, they do it. Donovan Smith is a talented kid from the moment he set foot on that field. Today in pregame when we walked the field, he had a look in his eye of determination. You see him throughout the course of the season, every role we have given him, he's done what with it? He has been successful. He has gotten better and better, and he has practiced that way, and now it is a challenge to do it again next week. You know, I knew defensively they were going to have a hard time with him just because of the type of talent he has throwing the ball and running the ball and extending plays. What more can you say? That defense was top 15 in the country in stop rate, something like that. The second half, they got us a little bit, but a great performance by all of our guys, and Donovan Smith led that.

Kicker Jonathan Garibay

Q1: "Where did you feel the team needed to get to for you to feel good about the kick?"

"Since Pregame warmup we give Tommerdahl our range and going towards the scoreboard, the jumbotron, the wind was kind of blowing a little bit, so I told them 55 and if needed, longer. I think I hit a 64 during warm-ups just to kind of get a feel for it, how I need to hit a ball to make it go that far. When there's one minute left on the clock I'm warming up, getting my mind ready, whatever is needed I just told Tommerdahl just put me in there."

Q2: "What was going through your mind?"

"Hopefully it goes in! It's just so funny that everything just happened so fast. When Iowa State called their last timeout, everybody except me went to the side and I kid you not I literally thought to myself 'If God is with me who can stand against?' So, I told that to Coach Tommerdahl, man it's crazy. God is the reason I'm here. When I'm out taking my steps I'm just like, hit a clean ball and then everything else will take care of itself."

Q3: "When did you know the kick was going in?"

"It's weird, I'm going give you a little bit of kicking analytics right here. So, when you get to a distance that far, it's really hard to give it that nice height, you kind of have to drive it, and I looked the flags at the top of the uprights and I'm like the wind's not blowing, I don't have to try to kill this ball, I just have to hit a clean ball and hopefully it goes all the way. I didn't know until the guys at the back were like 'AAHH'. The thing is that my O-line stands up and I'm six feet tall I can't even see so I'm like, let me wait. It was crazy."

Q4: "What was your poise going out onto the field?"

"I just think we've done this so much. Just the repetition so much that it has to be second nature to us, practice when we're kicking by ourselves. I feel like it was everybody who contributed to this I just did my part. I did my 1/11th. My O-line was blocking, the kick could've been blocked if the hold wasn't good, at the end of the day, everybody has their 1/11th to do so I just did part."

Safety Dadrion Taylor-Demerson

Q1: "What does it mean to be bowl eligible?"

"I probably say it means a lot. There's a lot that goes on inside this room that we're sitting in. Nobody outside of these walls knows what goes on inside these walls, so just what Coach Cumbie and them brings to the table...I'm actually at a loss for words. This is amazing. This is a great feeling; we have another game next week at seven so we're just going to keep balling."

Garibay: "We've worked so hard, and I think it was just overdue. Our guys deserve it. I'm a senior and I feel like we've collectively worked so hard, and we've sacrificed so much to be here, and just to become bowl eligible that gives us another game and for a lot of the guys. You never know, it might be your last time playing college football after this season. To stretch it as much as we can, it's the best. Who doesn't love to watch, or play another football game?"

Q2: "What was your reaction to the fans storming the field?"

"You know what's crazy? I've been watching college football for a long time and I'm like: why haven't we stormed the field yet? Then when Jonathan made the field goal, we're running over trying to find Garibay and I see someone jump the concrete and I'm like 'Oh, they're about to storm the field'. It was a great feeling, man, it was a great feeling. Like Jonathan said I came here, the fans are amazing, they stand out from the top to the bottom and seeing that happen really shows how people outside our building really care about us."

Garibay: "I ran to the fans, the student section because I know that the refs moved them, and Coach Cumbie pregame had us shake their hands and give them that feeling that they're involved here, because they are. It's a big part, them coming here and being loud, it helps us. I had to show them some love because they deserved it too."