

TEXAS TECH ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS



TEXAS TECH VS OKLAHOMAA STATE

November 20, 2021
Jones AT&T Stadium

TEXAS TECH POSTGAME QUOTES

Head Coach Sonny Cumbie

Opening Statement:

"Well obviously just disappointed, very disappointed in our performance on offense. Oklahoma State's a really good football team, defensively, offensively, on special teams. Coach Gundy, we talked about it during the week, he's done a great job with that team and that program. Our players played really hard and inspired on defense. Offensively, we could never get into a rhythm. I thought we used Austin McNamara too much but he was a game changer, he did a great job punting the football, just disappointed. In the performance, in the result, and just, we had a great crowd. They showed up, supported these seniors, these players tonight and I really just wish we would have played better and performed better on offense and then given ourselves a chance to be competitive at the end and win a football game. But one of the things I told our players is that I was extremely proud of their effort, their fight, their passion. We just didn't make enough plays on offense."

Q1: On defense keeping the offense from getting into a rhythm

"They were as advertised, their defensive front was really good, very stout out there, hard to move, really hard to create any space in the run game. Then in the back end, they just did a really good job with their man coverage, of disguising, playing enough zone to keep you off balance, giving you a pre-snap look of it always being the same whether it was gonna be man or zone. They did just enough of a zone look to keep our quarterbacks guessing and keep them off balance. Hats off to coach Knowles he's done a phenomenal job, they've done a great job, a really good defense and obviously our execution on offense was not very good tonight."

Q2: On how the defense played tonight

"Defense played well enough for us to win, David. They did. They battled. They held them to field goals. They stood up whenever we fumbled the ball in the red zone and then held them to a field goal. Oklahoma State, they did a nice job on offense, but I think Warren, our guys against the run, showed up again and did a good job on defense and holding them to field goals. Because if you do that in this league, then you should have a chance to be in the ball game in the fourth quarter and have a chance to win it and we just didn't give them enough help."

Q3: On seeing the defense continue to play well

"Well, I think it's just a testament to coach Patterson and the staff there that they've continued to inspire and engage those young men, and that's what we want to try to do for these next couple of games, is to keep them playing hard, just to keep them fighting. You look across the landscape of college football and you watch how teams finish their seasons. And this game, the result, is not what we wanted, but is your team fighting? Are the kids playing really hard? Are they playing really hard for themselves and each other? And that's what our group did tonight. Our production on offense held us back more than anything else."

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Offensive lineman Josh Burger

Q1: On the battle in the trenches tonight.

"It was a battle. And respect to them they are much improved. They were legit and a really good defensive line."

Q2: On how Oklahoma State improved from last year when Tech faced them.

"I think schematically they are doing a lot more. They have a lot of the same guys, but honestly and not to take anything away from them and all respect to them, I think we just kind of shot ourselves in the foot too many times tonight."

Q3: On the Tech run game.

"It just seemed like we never got anything clicking, we never got in a groove. It seemed like it was us up front, that we messed something up, or something going on in the back, or a miscommunication. It just seemed like it was one thing after another, and it was tough."

Q4: On the next two games upcoming.

"First and foremost, obviously we want to take care of Baylor, that's another big game and we have to go to their place so we definitely want to go in and take care of business and we will worry about the bowl game later. Baylor is our main priority right now."

Cornerback DaMarcus Fields

Q1: On the performance from Tech defense.

"I feel like we did well but it's not just a defensive game, and I feel like it takes all three phases to win a game and we will get back on that Monday at practice."

Q2: On playing one last time at the Jones.

"I loved it. Regardless of a win or a loss, it's something I will remember forever, and I have won plenty of times in there so I will always remember those."

Q3: On the Tech defense playing well and giving Oklahoma State a tough time.

"We just try to do our job. I feel like that's one of the most important things we try to do. We played really well, but we could have played better. We had some missed opportunities out there as well, but I am proud of my guys whether it's our offense, defense or special teams. I like how they fight regardless of the situation."

Q4: On how quickly you move on from this game.

"Honestly, I've dropped it already. I don't like to dwell on things. Usually, we will watch for corrections and fix those corrections by tomorrow."

OKLAHOMA STATE POSTGAME QUOTES

Head Coach Mike Gundy

Opening Statement:

"A really good win for us. I don't know what else to say about the defense. I am running out of things to say about them on Saturdays. Hopefully they can just stay the course. Someone told me it's the first time they have been shut out here since '87. Last week they ran up some big numbers and played a new quarter back. That's the third week in a row we have faced teams who have played their best games the game before us. Never easy playing out here at night, we all know that. That was the topic of discussion during the week. Those of you who have followed Big12 football for a long time know there are a lot of good football teams come out here at nighttime and lose. They've been in shootouts till the end. So, these guys continue to work hard, they like each other, they care about each other, the culture is through the roof, they practice hard. I don't really do much anymore I just sit back and not mess it up. They are really really good and I know they are excited right now. Like any other Saturday, I know this is a big Saturday for the team we still have a job to do. We got to go to work tomorrow and once we start with the team we got to get to work and get rolling and get ready for the next one."

Q1: "What does securing the big 12 championship game mean to you?"

I just think it's hard to get in there. It is hard to win games with the parity in college football. Teams compete against each other, teams beat teams who shouldn't beat teams, close games and it is hard to predict. For these guys to be able to find a way to get into that game is an accomplishment. And they did it, this is their team it's not the coaches team. We had a tough week because we did not have everyone out at practice. Our practices on offense were average because we did not have everyone out there. So, coach Dunn and his staff had to work hard to manage to put somethings together to 1. Run the clock and 2. Find a way to score enough points. They did a good job of stopping us and make us kick 3 field goals. So, we felt good about if we could get it to a three-score game, that just seeing what was happening it would be tough for them to catch us.

Q2: "Coach, was there anything that stood out about tonight's defense performance?"

"I mean they are the first team to shut them out since '87, pretty impressive. They can score points out here well we know that. It is hard to shut people out at home, so they just keep playing well and stay the course."

Q3: "What did you think about the offense?"

"We ate a lot of clock in the second half. Particularly in the middle of the third quarter 'till the end of the game. We should have eaten more clock a couple times when we should have just run the ball, we ended up throwing it. That is based on some RPO read stuff we have, it is not anyone's fault in particular. We could have used more clock and been a little more efficient in that area."

Defensive Lineman Tyler Lacy

Q1: "A shutout is never easy; how did you manage to pull it off tonight?"

"This whole season we've been talking about shutouts, but the guys were really locked in today. The objective today was to come out firing. We wanted to strike them in the mouth and put them down, starting with the first play. That's what we wanted to do and it's how it played out."

Q2: "When you see a young quarterback, as a defensive line, do you light up a little more from having that ability to get to the quarterback?"

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“Any time you have a quarterback coming in - especially a young guy - coach [Jim] Knowles tells us all the time that you want to put pressure on him to make him feel uncomfortable. You want to make him get out of the pocket or do things that he’s not capable of doing.”

Linebacker Devin Harper

Q1: “A shutout hasn’t happened here [for Texas Tech] in a long time, what does that mean to you?”

“Like Tyler [Lacy] said, we’ve been looking for it all year. We finally got it done against a good offensive team and a team that we have struggled defending the pass against as of recent. It’s a great accomplishment for us and the whole Oklahoma State staff.”

Q2: “How hard is it for a young quarterback to play against your defense?”

“When we get [to play against] a young quarterback it makes everyone’s mouth water, to be honest. It gives everyone a chance to make plays and [we can] get in disguises, do what we do, and work our magic. It worked today, and I’d say it’s worked a lot.”

Q3: “How have you guys avoided a potential letdown and kept the defensive momentum going to this point?”

“We have a very motivated defense. Everyone is out there ready to grind, and if someone is down, we always have someone there to pick us up - as Tyler [Lacy] said. We practice our butts off and it ends up displaying on the field.”