

TEXAS TECH ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS



TEXAS TECH VS OREGON

September 9, 2023

Jones AT&T Stadium

TEXAS TECH POSTGAME QUOTES

Head Coach Joey McGuire

Opening statement

"Really proud of the players, I thought they fought their tails off. We didn't bounce back with a win, of course, but bounced back from a really tough defeat last week. I was proud of how hard they played. I know they're extremely frustrated with the loss because it was right there to go win the football game. We'll look at the film tomorrow and go through our plan to win, but a lot of it is what we talked about. We've gone through two games and we're 0-2 and I asked them 'Is it us or them?' and it's us right now. We're beating ourselves with untimely penalties and turnovers, so we've got to do a better job of that, and then we're not creating enough pressure on the quarterback and we're not creating enough turnovers, so those are the things that have got to be addressed in a hurry. Because it really doesn't matter who we play the next week or the next week, if we keep these self-inflicted wounds then we're going to have a hard time getting better."

On the impact of four turnovers...

"You can't win. I mean, it's amazing we were in that game. When you start thinking about that, it says a lot about our players and our team, how resilient they are and how hard they play. Because you look at any other game that you have four turnovers, and you don't have the lead 30-28 that late in the game."

On quarterback Tyler Shough's performance...

"I hate it for him on the turnovers because he played his tail off tonight. I was proud of the way he played. Not only that, I thought he threw the ball great."

On moving forward after an 0-2 start...

"I've never gone into a season and said 'Man, my goal is to go undefeated.' It's hard to win. Our goal is to compete and win a conference championship, and as bad as we wanted to beat Oregon tonight, that's still in front of us. The only way that can happen is for us to improve and be more disciplined — take care of the football and eliminate as much bad football as possible. If you compare last week's bad football to this week's bad football, I thought that we eliminated a lot. That was a really good football team that we played tonight, and we should've won the game. Again, it goes back to all of us. Whenever I asked the question 'Us or them?' I made sure that they understood that the 'us' definitely starts with

me, and looking at how I can be better and prepare these guys better. And I'm going to challenge our coaches and everyone in this building to do that."

Quarterback Tyler Shough

On facing his former school...

"It was a blessing to be out there and face a really good team, including a lot of old friends and family. I'm really thankful for this opportunity. It didn't end the way we wanted it to, but it was really fun out there."

On overcoming drops and interceptions...

"I just keep saying 'What's next?' It's part of the game when you throw a bunch, there are going to be tipped balls, dropped balls, and interceptions, but you have to keep moving on. The receivers played really well and made some good catches - I'm proud of the way they played. At the end of the day, we have to be better and find ways to execute in those moments and finish off the game."

On the second half offensive success...

"We have to be aggressive and have confidence in our guys to make plays. All it comes down to is eliminating bad plays. I'm really proud of the way Coach Kittley and the whole staff put together a great game plan. It's on us as players to find a way to get it done. We're going to get better - we have a lot of season left in front of us."

On playing against Bo Nix and the Oregon defense...

"I've known Bo for a while from the Manning Passing Academy - he's a really talented player. I was just looking forward to going against that defense, with how talented they are across the field. They gave us some really good looks and hats off to them for playing really well."

Defensive Tackle Tony Bradford Jr.

On Texas Tech's pass rush...

"I think sometimes we all get excited to pass rush that we sometimes forget that it takes a unit to make a sack. There's rarely a time when it's just an individual player that just so happens to make a move and he gets to the quarterback. It takes all of us whether its three, four, five, however many people it is rushing the passer. It just takes all of us to work together and get to that quarterback. So, I think we just struggled with that a little bit and so that's just something that we've just got to practice more on."

On what's the message to the young players after an 0-2 start...

"We're so close. We're right there to where you can almost you can feel it, you can taste it, whatever you want to call it. We're right there, like we've competed with two really good opponents these past couple of weeks and Oregon is ranked as some of the best of the best with everything they've got going
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on and we're right there, we're so close. But obviously, we're still so far and I leave both of those games with a smile on my face because I love this team, I love the work that we've put in. I love my coaches, my brothers, and everybody on this staff because I understand how disappointing it is to lose but there's no one more disappointed than the men and women that are in this building every single day that are putting the work in at five o'clock in the morning to nine, 10 o'clock at night. But, one thing I do want the fans to know is that we're going to figure it out. It's not a matter of if, it's just a matter of when. Whether that's next week or the week after, we're going to get it and we're so close and that's why you practice every day. That's why you watch film, that's why you continue to bond together and have these tough conversations and watch the film, because that's just what it's going to take to figure out what we're missing, but we're right there."

On forcing Oregon numerous penalties on offense...

"Absolutely, our goal is to always see if we can make the offense jump and I think our fans played a big part in that and we appreciate each and every one of them that showed up and showed out today. Because of those false starts that those guys got today, it was just because they couldn't hear. That's just how loud it was in this environment, and I just expect the same thing every home game this season and we just want to continue to do that."

OREGON POSTGAME QUOTES

Oregon Head Coach Dan Lanning

Opening statement

"We talked about a game that took all 60 minutes and it took every second. I think that game could look a lot different if we didn't shoot ourselves in the foot so much. A lot of penalties on defense and offense alike, we could be better on third down in some situations. I thought their quarterback played with incredible toughness - he was able to run the ball on us. But that being said, really tough environment to go play, and a lot of teams would have lost their cool when things weren't going well. And our guys kept their composure throughout the game. They were calm and composed. They had a plan for adversity, and they went out there and executed when it mattered now down the stretch."

On tonight's environment...

"Their team has a lot of fight and Coach McGuire's guys play with extreme toughness, and they create issues - they've got some good players on that team. I think they're a their two headed monster and a different team when they play at home, they have a lot of confidence, they feed off the crowd. They can ride momentum waves, and they created some momentum tonight. What was good about us is we didn't let that momentum stop us. And we had to create some takeaways tonight, those takeaways ended up being huge. It was a game where we almost had a critical takeaway for us there at the end, we got to do a better job taking care of the ball. But we created takeaways, and they didn't have the takeaways. So those are the plays that are going to help us."

On the visiting locker accommodations...

"It was fine you know - Texas Tech has been unbelievable as far as accommodating the trip with the situation that we have here. Put us anywhere, we'll go lineup in a grass field, we'll get our shoulder pads, and we'll throw them on.

Oregon Quarterback Bo Nix

On the team's resiliency...

"Each new team you have to go see what kind of toughness you have on the road early on. These kinds of games are great for a football program. You go out there and beat a tough team, it's down to the wire. That's a good moment in your schedule if you can go into those and get a win."

On the team's comeback win...

"We had a lot of leadership tonight. You saw it over and over, guys leading. We were never out, we never started being negative. We never felt a bad vibe on the sideline. I was happy to see us respond - I was happy to see us win and it was a whole team win. It wasn't like the offense or defense carried us one way, each side did what they had to. It was a complete team win and that is all you can ask for."

On the visiting environment...

"It was a good atmosphere. It was unique and interesting. It's always tough to go into a road environment. I've played in loud stadiums and this one was really one that you had to lock in and communicate."