37





21

POSTGAME QUOTES

Head Coach Lance Leipold

On the offensive line and Devin Neal's physicality and dominance...

"We talked about it, for us to have a chance to win this game, we were going to have to be able to run the ball and be the more physical team on both sides of the line of scrimmage, offensive and defensively. And I think we did that today. I thought we established ourselves and got ourselves into a good rhythm. To never punt, you know coming out of the gate, even after the first kick, I thought we got off to another good start. We moved the field, but we built a lot of confidence."

On the uniform combination...

"Devin picked this combo because we talked about it. I asked him what he'd like for Senior Day, and after discussing it, he chose this one. It was a productive conversation. I think we wore it against Oklahoma last year, maybe even Oklahoma State before that. We've had some other lucky combinations too, but this one has been pretty fortunate, so we plan to keep it in heavy rotation."

On winning three games in a row against ranked opponents...

"I'm so proud of this group and our coaching staff because so many people had written this team off. Everyone was frustrated, pointing to things that should've been changed or done differently. But this group stuck together, stayed committed to the process, and did everything we asked of them. We saw on film where things weren't going our way, but they came in and worked at it. They were coachable and knew we were close. That's probably the best feeling—that we were close, and they stuck together. I'll always be thankful for and remember this group for being that special"

On the strong defensive performance...

"I think we found some good things that we can build on, and the guys are gaining confidence. Getting people around the ball has been key, and Sanders does an outstanding job of keeping plays alive. It's very difficult to get a hit on him, and he made it tough. But for us to hold them to only 42 total snaps was a sign of both sides of the ball doing what we needed to do on a day like this. And while they're very dangerous, as they showed at times, we were able to neutralize that threat for most of the day."

On the senior class...

"In Kansas, their program has evolved, and so many of these guys stuck around. Some of our fifth-year players, as well as those who came in later, chose to believe in this program. They put in the time, the effort, the leadership, and the dedication. Their belief in what we were doing is truly special. We also had a good number of committed players here today—future Jayhawks—as well as some strong recruits. It was a great day to see what the future of this program could be about."