

# ULM WARHAWK FOOTBALL



## POST-GAME QUOTES: ULM 42, NORTH TEXAS 16

### ULM Head Coach Todd Berry

#### Opening Statement...

"Obviously excited for the team. I thought we did what we needed to do against a very, very good North Texas team. Offensively, created some explosions which is something that I thought we hadn't done in a while. They keyed in on stopping the run, which allowed us to throw the ball a little, which is fine. Like I said before, I don't care how we get there as long as we get there. I got to play a lot of guys tonight, even early on and needed to out of a health standpoint. I think our kicking game played really well too."

#### On Browning's Return...

"Well, I knew he was going to play well. He was very focused on doing the things he could do, and he did a nice job of playing within himself. Is there some pain? Sure, but I don't think he was in a lot of pain. It's painful, but winning helps that."

#### On Having a Team over .500 Three Years In...

"I hoped so. I think we had a plan in place from day one about what we were going to do in our first recruiting meeting. We stuck the course. I thought we had a pretty decent team last year if we had stayed healthy, but I felt really good coming into this season. The idea was to kind of build the program to where next year would be the year with the senior dominated class."

#### On Defense Performance...

"I think you look back at NT over the course of the season, and they are hard to tackle. Everyone has struggled tackling them. The fourth down stop was huge, and not just for this game. It is huge for the next game and moving forward. Our defense had been maligned lately and we needed that one. Those are the emotional plays that bring you back up. I think we had a nice pass rush, and it was exciting. We aren't completely back but we are getting there."

#### On Senior Class...

"It is a great group. Some of them haven't played as much as I hoped this season, but it is a great group of young men. This was important to them, because they know they will remember this game and look back at their legacy with the first 1A winning season. Lots of senior classes have tried to do that. It is big in the sense that these walls get put up over time, and you have to break them down."

### Senior R.J. Young

#### Preparation for the Game...

"We just did the same routine. Come out practice hard, go through the mental reps and physical reps and do everything right in practice so you do it right in the game and we had a good week of practice."

#### Taking Away Run Game...

"When the offense is one-dimensional, you can hone in on what they are trying to do and that worked well today. Everything about our defense is about starting the run, and then you can kind of tighten up the passing game."

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### Junior QB Kolton Browning

On Pain Level...

"It was about a three. I felt good out there. Just getting in the training room, doing rehab to get right and be at full speed. The trainers did a really good job of getting me back out there, and it felt good tonight. The foot didn't even cross my mind, I was going off of instinct and it didn't even bother me out there."

### North Texas Head Coach Dan McCarney

Opening Statement...

"They're a fine football team; they have been all year long. I thought Kolton Browning did a great job leading them. He's just a quality player. He's a great young man and an even better football player. I thought they really executed when they needed to. We did have a number of opportunities we didn't capitalize on. My message to the team was that we will continue to embrace the challenges that had eroded this program to its core when I got here. If somebody does not want to follow that plan and embrace those challenges, I don't care who they are, old, young, black, white, walk-on, scholarship, they won't be in this program anymore because we have a good foundation in place. We do know what we're doing, even though sometimes tonight it didn't look like it."

On the Second Half 4th&Goal play...

"I was very disappointed, obviously. We have a darn good Sun Belt offensive line. We have to find a way down there. They O-line, the backs, whoever has the ball, someone has to find a way to put the ball in the end zone. That was a 14-point swing. They made back-to-back big plays and scored at the other end and iced the game at that time and put it away."

On Derek Thompson's 300-plus yard game and offensive efficiency...

"We need to work on efficiency and work on the things we've been struggling with all season. When we get down in the rezone, we have to be more efficient and more consistent. We have one last game with this football team and this group of seniors. We only get seven days left as a football family. We're going to do everything we can to rally and embrace the opportunity that we have at this time to go try and win another football game at the end of this season."

"We just couldn't seem to get it done today. They are a good football team; there is no question about it. You've seen their track record and the success they've had all season long. They have lots and lots of positive things going on here. I send my congratulations to Coach Berry and the job he has done here in his third season. We were not good enough to make the plays we needed to tonight to go toe-to-toe and have a chance to win the game in the fourth quarter."

On Kolton Browning...

"He's an outstanding football player and a great young man. I made sure I found him after the game. Obviously, that will be the last time in the Sun Belt I coach against him, but hopefully we'll get to see him again in post-season some time. What a tremendous representative of college football and ULM. It didn't surprise us at all that he would play. Everybody seems to get healthy for the Mean Green, no matter whom we play or where we play them."

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On Carlos Harris...

"He's getting better and better. He's a freshman that grows and grows and matures and learns and listens. He has a lot of pride and a lot of talent. He's a guy that continues to improve this time of year, and you like to see that, especially out of a true freshman. You look at him out there now; he's not playing like a true freshman. He's starting to look like a veteran. That means confidence, maturity, knowing what you're doing, and making big plays when you have a chance to do that."

On Offensive Struggles...

"It's easy to make excuses with missing players. That's an excuse for failure, and I just won't do that. We have to do a better job, coaches and players alike. We have to do a better job of executing. We have to put more points on the board. It's been a struggle all season long for us. It's just easy in those situations to say "he's not here". As a head coach, I'm not going to do that."

On missing the .500 mark...

"Obviously, I'm disappointed. There are lots of things that we're trying to do to get better. This is not about the future right now. It's about this team today. This is about this team in the last game. It's going to be a real challenge against Western Kentucky next weekend. We have seven days together as a football family. We want it to be a positive experience."