

UTEP Football vs. NAU
September 1, 2018

NAU Head Coach

Opening Statement...

“An FBS opponent is always a challenge for and FCS team. The number of scholarships, the value of their players and their program. We know that they are just getting started. Dana Dimel is an excellent football coach from an excellent coaching tree. They have talent on their team and that talent at times gave us issues, but I think that we’re further along. We’re a mature team and we’re a little more developed. We just kind of caught them on the right day today. I have no doubt that team is going to win its share of games this year. They believe in what they are doing, they played hard and they didn’t quit. We were fortunate we could get an early lead. They answered back and created some problems for us. Our defense was on the field for 50 plays in the first half, which kind of shows the ball control that UTEP is capable of doing. Some of the adjustments that we made going into the second half enabled us to get back on top and create some short fields with some defensive turnovers. Ultimately, we put the ball in the end zone. I’m really proud of our football team. This is a big accomplishment for our program. We have our sights on having one of the greatest football experiences ever.

On answering 10 unanswered points from UTEP...

I think our players showed some real maturity that they didn’t succumb to the shift in some of those plays that went against us. We had penalties that cost us and they made some good plays. They broke some tackles and broke free. We didn’t panic, we made some adjustments, did some things offensively to create more production by running the ball and getting them out of that coverage, and then we were able to throw it a little bit better. At the end of the day the lead played into our hands not theirs. It was a good win for us.

On offensive performance...

Case Cookus continues to show why he is a high-value quarterback. Made some great adjustments at the line of scrimmage. We lost a couple of guys early. We lost a starting running back and Malik Noshi. Offensively, I was proud of the fact that other guys came in and stepped up. Logan ran very well and Case made some key throws. Emmanuel is a big time receiver and he played the way you want a big-time player to play, and come up with plays in big-time situations. I think we are still shaping as an offense. We have some great development ahead of us and I am anxious to see what that looks like.