

WISCONSIN FOOTBALL

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POSTGAME QUOTES

WISCONSIN (5-2, 2-1 BIG TEN) VS. PURDUE (1-6, 0-3 BIG TEN) • OCTOBER 17, 2015 • CAMP RANDALL STADIUM • MADISON, WIS.

WISCONSIN HEAD COACH PAUL CHRYST

COACH CHRYST: Certainly appreciative of the efforts. Each game goes differently, and to come out of it and be able to go into the winning locker room, you appreciate that and all the work that's done by the players and the coaches and that's good. I think you've got to learn to win different ways.

But again, defensively, was really good. I thought T.J. (Edwards) was flying around and made plays. I thought Schobs (Joe Schobert) and Vince (Beigel), maybe showed up in different ways. When guys were challenged, I think they rose up to it. I thought that was good.

Offensively, early (we) got the run game going, did some good things. But some we didn't finish in the first half. First time in the red zone and we score. Second time, Joel (Stave) sails it over the cross; that's the pick, and I think we had the penalty down there and then the last one we don't finish on the field goal.

So we can get better, but appreciate this group and it was good to win certainly.

- Q. Was the plan going into today, did you expect Corey (Clement) to play, or was he just suited up for an emergency situation? What was the situation? COACH CHRYST: We were kind of just seeing how warm ups went. Corey was able to do with us -- two weeks ago, he was working, kind of rehabbing on the side and this week he was able to get some work with the offense. He was not ruled out. We could have played him today, but as it went on and doing what's best for Corey, and after warmups and sitting, decided not to go with him.
- Q. Any common threads as to why you're not finishing drives and leaving points on the field early in these games especially?

 COACH CHRYST: I mean, it's the execution, is the common theme, but I think that the penalties, I thought that we can still get better with Joel seeing the field and making some good decisions. I think it would be better with location and guys running through it. We're not getting a lot of yards after the catch.

I think that our inconsistency in the run game can hurt you. And at the same time, boy, I thought Alec (Ingold)'s run, and Dare (Ogubowale)'s touchdown; those two runs right there, it was not clean at all but great effort.

But I think we're not clean on all of our execution. We kind of have our moments, and that's where we have to be strong enough to overcome the adversity. I think the group owns it. I like that about them, and so I feel like we can get better and I think we will.

- Q. Is it more difficult when you're having issues maybe sometime with the drops, sometimes it's a missed throw, sometimes it's a penalty to get more consistent? COACH CHRYST: I don't know. You stumped me on that one. I mean, we've got to execute. And is it harder when you're not -- yeah, right. It's harder when you're not -- yeah, we are a team. We are all owning this thing.
- Q. How much have you gained confidence in Alec Ingold and how much confidence do you think he has gained himself personally as a freshman?

 COACH CHRYST: I think you gain confidence with doing, and we certainly feel confident enough to have him in, and in big moments. When you're down -- and he's been down in the goal line and he's been in third downs, so I think there certainly is confidence on the end of it. I think when you do it, you learn, but you also do gain confidence through that, and so hopefully he takes that and it kind of starts to multiply.
- Q. The offensive line -- just in general how do you think they performed with (Michael) Deiter at center and the guards, too?

 COACH CHRYST: I thought we were able to move the ball at times. I thought we were certainly better on third down and that's a big part of it, what they were doing. I thought -- I give Deiter a lot of credit to be able to jump in. We're talking about a freshman now that goes from playing left guard and now jumping in at center and didn't flinch on that.

So you appreciate it. I think there's going to be some areas we'll see where guys are doing some good things, and then the beauty of this game, especially when you play a on the offensive line; if you're on a target, it's one thing. When you're just a little bit off or maybe your help you thought was going to be a little bit heavier on one side and it wasn't; those things, it can turn a play negative in a hurry.

And so I think that the group, I do appreciate the group, the way they work. And they don't try to skirt it and make excuses for when it's not going well. And that's where I think it gives them a chance to be good.

We've got work to do but they are a fun group to work with and they can get better and guys are gaining a lot of experience. As long as we learn from those experiences, that can be encouraging then.

Q. With so much more passing over the past few weeks, how much focus is there on winning the time of possession battle, which was in your favor today?

COACH CHRYST: I've always thought that time of possession was just a byproduct of being able to move the football. It's never a goal, never has been for me, to: Let's win time of possession. It doesn't mean anything if you're not scoring with it.

But I think it's a byproduct of getting first downs, staying on the field. It's a by-product of your defense getting the opposing offense off the field. So I think it's totally a byproduct and not a significant stat on its own.

Q. This is T.J. Edwards' best day. What did you like from him today?

COACH CHRYST: It sure seemed like it. He was flying around. He was flying to the ball. I thought it was a heck of an effort play on the one pass to the flat on the kind of busted coverage and just kept coming, and a heck of a strip.

But I think he's just -- he looked like he was playing confident and was believing what he saw, and certainly has some talent. I just felt like he was playing fast and playing the game, and found myself in watching him. Uou kept see him show up and watching it -- I thought he was fun to watch today.

Q. Any further indication of the severity of (Derrick) Tindall's injury -- he was on the stationary bike, so can't be too bad.

COACH CHRYST: Walking him off the field. It seemed a lot better. I talked to Derrick during the game and he told me it was just kind of a bruise, he thought. So hopefully we're all right on that one. They weren't sure when he was down. But I think he'll be all right.

Q. Your defense played as well as it did today; how much pressure did that take off your offense?

COACH CHRYST: Well, certainly, it's a big part of it. And I don't know if it -- I mean, I think our guys know on offense. Our guys know that our defense has been playing well and yet, you still have to do something. I think that you've got to be productive. But I think they certainly have a lot of trust in those guys.

And when they take the field, I thought it was a big sequence when we stalled again and we punted and we were on like the 37, 38, 39, and did a nice job. Natrel (Jamerson) did a good job of -- Drew (Meyer) put it up there and we got it on the five. Then the defense had a stop. I think that's what led to Dare's drive. That was good. The offense can play off the defense, especially when they are playing well. That's what we've got to be able to do and maybe do more.

Q. Rob (Wheelwright) and Jazz (Peavy) both stepped up as of late. What have you seen from them that gives you more confidence in the passing game as a whole? COACH CHRYST: I think that when their number is called, they have been able to deliver, and that gives them confidence, I think which can give -- Joel some confidence. Jazz did a nice job after the catch. He had the shallow cross he took and on the first third down on the dig and that was good.

I really enjoyed seeing Jazz's growth, kind of jumped out in spring ball, came back in fall camp and I think he's certainly a player that Joel trusts. That's a big part of it. Rob's had a number of opportunities and he's come up in them. But we need everyone to be as good as we can be.

Q. Joel threw for 300-plus yards this week; given the inconsistencies in the run game, are you getting more comfortable with the offense flowing through Joel and throwing it more?

COACH CHRYST: I think it's our job to make sure however, whatever way we've got to win; and to win, you've got to score points, right. So whatever way that is, you've got to be able to do it.

Yeah, I've got confidence; had it for a long time in Joel. I still think that it's not necessarily how you want to keep playing the game but if that's what the game dictates, then got to be able to do it and we've got to be good at it. And I think we are doing some things in the throw game to give ourselves a chance and yet I still think we can get a lot better there and certainly get better in the run game, and I think we need to. Got to keep taking steps forward.

Q. You mentioned how Schobert didn't really fill the stat sheet today. How nice is it to have guys like (Chris) Orr and Edwards that can step up and be impact players for you?

COACH CHRYST: I think it's big for us. Talk all the time and guys believe this on defense, 1/11th, and that's team defense and whoever gets that stat, so be it. I think Chikwe (Obasih) had a sack and Joe (Schobert) was a big part of that disruption.

And those numbers, they are real, right. You keep them and all that. But I think this defense, the reason it's playing well is that they don't care about the numbers. They care about playing together and being a part of a good defense, and I think that starts with the leadership from the coaches to -- you guys know, a lot of you guys know, that's who Mike Caputo is; that's who Schobs is. It's a group like that.

I still think that they don't care about the numbers. They just care about playing well and playing together, and boy, you love that.

Q. You mentioned the punt -- is that a simple play or a difficult play to execute? Any update on (Andy) Endicott?

COACH CHRYST: No update on Endi. Didn't want to put him back in. That's where Jack took it at the end.

The play, I think guys are getting better with it, and you're seeing it, we are not the only team that does it. I think all that stuff, you never want to take it for granted, but I think they are getting better at it. We practice it a lot -- good awareness, he knew, once the gunner pulls off, he got turned around, found the ball. And so they executed it.

But you are seeing it more; we should be able to do that, but you also appreciate it when it gets done.

Senior QB Joel Stave

On increased workload last two weeks:

"It's fun. I've really enjoyed it. Whatever we got to do to move the ball, whatever we got to do to win, that's the way Coach Chryst calls the game. Whatever he calls, we run."

On missed red zone opportunities:

"We just got to do a better job executing when we get down there. I thought we did a great job moving the ball, a great job sustaining drives, converted a lot of first downs, but again, when we got down in the red zone, we didn't come away with as many points as we need to. That's something that we just got to keep working on."

On whether the game plan was to throw as much as he did:

"Coach Chryst just calls it as he sees it. We have a lot of run plays in the game plan too, it's just kind of whatever we think will help. There's not necessarily, 'We want to throw it x many times.' It's just however the game plays out."

On confidence in Alec Ingold:

"I think he's really comfortable with his role. I think he's done a great job just working his way into the offense. I know it's tough as a true freshman to probably switch from linebacker to running back. But he's done a tremendous job competing and I think he's really come into his role very well."

On the play of Michael Dieter at center:

"I thought he did a good job. That's really tough, a tough task to fill in for Dan [Voltz] and make the calls that Dan was making. And snapping before every play, that's a big difference between just coming off the ball and blocking. So I thought he did a really good job of filling in that spot."

Junior OL Beau Benzschawel

On if he felt more comfortable this week compared to his first start last week:

"Yeah, definitely. I just knew what to expect and this week of practice was really good for us. We knew our jobs and what we had to do, so that really helped out."

On play of Alec Ingold:

"When he came in he wasn't even supposed to be a running back. All the offensive lineman really like how he runs the ball hard. When we make a hole for him, we know he's going to hit it hard."

On pass blocking:

"I think we had a much better day up front than we did last week. At least me personally, I did."

On improving running attack:

"Everybody has to do their job and we're just one hit away from making a big play. Everybody's just got to do their job, and once we do that, our big plays come."

Sophomore WR Jazz Peavy

On how much more comfortable he feels in the last two weeks:

"I feel like my comfort level is going to keep on rising. It's getting better and better each week, just keeping the ball rolling with each week. More things are being done with me, so I just got to keep on making strides with that."

On two big catches in first half:

"First one was a third down. We know third downs you have to make. Just get open on those, make sure you make the third down catches and try to get yards after the catch. Second one, same thing. Just catch them and go."

Freshman RB Alec Ingold

On transitioning to college football:

"It's tough coming in from senior year of high school and being the big guy. But everyone goes through it. It's different for everyone but the one similarity is that you come in as a freshman and you got to earn yours."

On his second touchdown:

"I wasn't really thinking much, it was all instincts at that point. I just had to do what the coaches trusted me to do on that fourth down and get in the end zone."

Sophomore K Rafael Gaglianone

On his kicking percentage this year compared to last year:

"Different year, different outcomes. It doesn't mean we haven't been working, we're progressing just as much. I feel like I became a better kicker than I was last year, sometimes it just doesn't really show off for everybody. But I mean, we know we've been working, we've been getting better on a weekly basis. I feel today I was on the same tempo I had all season."

On his overall performance:

"You can only control what you can control, so I'm going to go out there and I'm going to do what they tell me to do and what I've been doing my whole season. If somebody jumps the gap, we can worry about that but we just got to focus on the next one and trust our protection."

On the field goal attempt a Purdue player got a piece of:

"It just sucks because it doesn't really translate the work we've been doing. But you can't control it—my coach knows that, my teammates know it. We're going to see that in film so not really too worried about that. Numbers—they're just numbers. Numbers don't always speak for what's really going on down the line. We've played in tougher conditions and had games with different outcomes. We just live to fight another day, that's what coach always tells you, just focus on the next."

RS Freshman ILB T.J. Edwards

On how he felt about his performance:

"Yeah, it feels good to just finally let it loose, start making some plays, it's about time I think. So I'm glad I could do that today."

On what factors went into today's performance:

"All week we focused on being disciplined with our eyes. Purdue's really good with moving around and making sure you're disciplined, and today I think we were able to stay disciplined and communicate well."

On how much better the defense can get:

"I think that's the goal. I mean, you want to be perfect and it's never going to happen like that, but you just want to do as best you can. Our biggest thing as inside backers is just making sure we're watching our keys. I think as time moves on we'll be more disciplined."

On feeling more comfortable and how that helps his performance:

"It helps a lot. I feel a good chemistry with the rest of the guys on defense. They've been really good at helping me ease into it, so I think we're good right now."

Sophomore TE Troy Fumagalli

On the team putting together drives:

It's really good. Just moving forward trying to figure out our identity. I think it definitely plays an important role. He (Joel) trusts the receivers so we're throwing the ball a ton, that's

On the offensive balance:

When we're able to do that we're tough to beat. So I think it's really good that we got out there and established the run and being able to throw the ball when some of them are almost wide open.

On Joel Stave's performance:

That's unreal, two 300 yard games in a row. I don't know how many throws he had today but last week 50 throws, so there's a lot of trust in Joel and he's the leader of our offense and he's doing a great job.

On the Badgers' performance:

Yeah at halftime we had to make some adjustments. It kind of stinks but we have to finish which we did a better job of in the second half. Alec was running hard, a couple of those big runs, including that fourth down run were huge.

Junior RB Dare Ogunbowale

On the Badgers' offense:

"I feel like we might've left some yards out there but overall we're happy with the results. There's definitely some plays out there that we'd like to have back but we can't change those, we got the win, Joel played an outstanding game again so we still have good film to watch and things to learn".

On Alec Ingold:

"It's exciting! He's worked hard and he's earned it. He's asked me a lot of questions about how I dealt with the change and he's doing great and he's making some great plays for us. I mean you guys saw his second touchdown, that was some special stuff so we're excited to see how he keeps growing."

"You see I'm not that surprised, a lot of people are but I kind of knew about him coming out of high school, I mean as the Gatorade Player of the Year he made a lot of guys miss at quarterback in high school so I knew he knew what he was doing with the ball."

Senior WR Alex Erickson

On the Badger's passing game:

"Whatever it takes to win. Yeah we slung it around a little bit but it was good. We did some good things, third downs were a lot better, which really showed, we really sustained drives, now we just have to get some more touchdowns and get some more points on the board but we're getting there, slowly but surely we're getting there."

On finishing drives:

"I don't know I just always feel like there's one play every drive whether it's a penalty, a missed opportunity to make a play, there's just something like that that's just stopping us or putting us to a halt. But we'll watch the film and clean it up and we'll go from there."

Purdue Head Coach Darrell Hazell

"I thought our guys came out early in the game and executed the game plan offensively and defensively. We knew they were going to run the ball early. We thought we had to get a lot of hats in the box. I thought the defense played extremely well the first half and got the stops that they needed to get. Offensively, our game plan was to try to run the ball to shorten the clock, not put ourselves in vulnerable one-on-one passing situations, to slide to protections, and to get it out of the quarterback's hands. I think two things that really were glaring to me was that we just weren't making those third-down plays that we need to make. The other thing was our field position - it was putting a lot of strain on both sides of the football."

On if it's difficult to see the team's progress by solely looking at the record:

"I'm sure it is for a lot of people who don't see what we see. I'm sure it's difficult for some people when they look at the record."

On if it's disappointing to not be able to get anything going with the opening kickoff in the second half:

"I don't know what the stats were, to be honest with you. I didn't look at the stats at halftime, but in the third quarter, when they had the long drive and then scored right at the end of the third quarter on that last play, that put them up 17-7 and then we tried to respond back and started getting some short fields."

On if he felt like Wisconsin took advantage of their inexperience at the linebacker position:

"They hit some seam balls when we were in cover two. We were in pretty close proximity, but we didn't make those plays in cover two. I thought they did a good job, and we need to execute just a little bit better in those situations."

On if they were surprised at Stave's passing game because of their expectation of the UW running backs:

"Any time you commit too many guys to the box in the run game, you've got to be really good in the back end. A lot of those big plays they were making were seam throws, versus safety coverage. The linebacker may not be in the exact place, or we can't rally to him fast enough with the safety, so Stave was doing a good job of hitting the seams. We were committing a lot of guys because we knew what their number one priority would be... at least we thought we did in terms of running the football."

On his impression of the Wisconsin defense overall:

"I thought that was probably the best defense we've faced coming into the game on film. We've played some pretty good defenses at Michigan State and Virginia Tech, but I thought this one put as much pressure as teams on film coming into this one as anybody did, just because of Joe Schobert and Vince Biegel. People have not been able to block those two guys, and that's one of the reasons we wanted to put hands on them and not drop back in pass and let those guys pin their ears back."

On what needs to happen in the by-week to set them up for the last five games:

"A couple days of rest will help our guys. I think we have to reflect back on the first part of the season, but then we have to come back even hungrier than we've ever been. I think that's very key for us. We'll figure out some of the other things, but I told the guys that I think the most important thing is that we stay together, don't point fingers, look in the mirror, and figure out solutions to some of the things that we have to get fixed."