

Utah at Washington Post-Game Quotes

Husky Stadium

Nov. 18, 2017

Washington Head Coach Chris Petersen

Opening Statement

I'm proud of the guys. In a lot of ways, it was a frustrating game for us. We were not playing the way we were accustomed to. We gave up more big-chunk passes than we have all season. Special teams, they had us on that and made some really good plays. The nice thing is these kids battled hard, battled back. That's how football goes. I can't tell you how often we practice those two-minute drills. We try to cut down practice a little bit and it's a high-intensity drill. But we always feel that's something we can't cut. They came through. I'm proud of Jake (Browning). He did some really good things and made some clutch plays. All of those guys executed well. There was a lot of pressure on them to get things done. They made plays when they had to. Obviously, Tristan (Vizcaino) came through, which was great.

Tristan Vizcaino

I didn't say anything to him. We had nothing to lose on that stage. I think he's cleaner from the left hash. I really thought he was going to make it. It was great to see him make it. I think the team was really, really happy for him. I've been saying it for a while, it's been tough, but he has a powerful leg. He can be very accurate.

Final Drive

We wanted to run the ball and see if we could pop through with Myles (Gaskin) and maybe get a 10-yard run. I get what Kyle (Whittingham) was trying to do. You have to play aggressive in these situations. Who knows if we were going to hit the next pass or not. But we did and hit a few good ones after that and it was good execution. We had a play in mind before the field goal that if we had a good matchup, we would take it to get a few more yards on the short side of the field. It wasn't super aggressive, but Jake liked the matchup. He knows that he can take a shot like that. He was aware of the clock.

Browning's Flip

I talked to him and I thought he was fine with the questions he was asking me after he got up. He wanted to know what I saw on the play. I think he got a good hit in the shin. I'm not sure when he got it. He's a courageous guy. He's going to try to do everything he can do to get that first down.

On Utah

Credit to Utah. They did a nice job. They ran that quarterback. He's hard to defend. I'm sure there's some stuff we are going to put on the tape and see what we can do better.

Utah on Special Teams

I think they are aggressive on special teams. We've paid attention to these guys for a long time. I've seen them do it all. Credit to those guys. Not only did they call it, they executed it. I think it will be a big wake-up call. We had two guys right there on the surprise on-sides kick, so hopefully we learn some good, hard lessons.

Browning and Gaskin Breaking Records

It's nice that they come through with their best when their best is needed, right? Jake and Myles are both really good players and have played some great football. I think it is great that they both came through at the right time at the end of the game.

What This Win Means

These kids work hard. They practice hard, they study hard. I hope this gives them some swag back. They don't have to play so tight. They don't have to play perfect to come back and win. Just keep playing. November football is hard. We knew this was going to be a hard stretch. Utah is a good team. They have some players and they've had some injuries. They are a dangerous team, I said it earlier this week. Between them, Stanford and WSU, that's a tough stretch. I hope this win gives the guys a bounce in their step.

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HUSKY PLAYERS

K Tristan Vizcaino

How did it feel when you saw it go through?

I'm kind of at a loss for words for it. It felt great, one of the best if not the best feeling you can have as a kicker.

Were you hoping to get another shot this game?

I wanted the game winner. I wanted it last week at Stanford if we were in that position too. Our specialist unit, Race Porter, A.J. Carty, this is a moment we have been preparing for and a moment we have wanted. I'm just happy we got the opportunity.

How do you battle through misses during a game?

You just move onto the next kick. Nobody's perfect, you're going to miss kicks and you just have to forget about it, trust your practice, and move onto the next one.

How big then was the game winner for the entire kicking unit?

We all made some mistakes early on in the game, but we were able to execute when our team needed us the most and that was huge.

QB Jake Browning

Have you ever really had a true comeback like the one you just completed?

The closest thing would probably be the Arizona game, and I lost a lot of games like that my Freshman year. Probably haven't had something like that since back in junior football.

What does the passing touchdown record mean to you?

I'm more happy about the win. That was a pretty cool game to be a part of, and I'm emotionally, mentally, and physically just very tired. I'm definitely more excited about the win.

Were you expecting to just run out the clock on the last drive?

You'd have to ask both Coach Smith and Coach Pete but I think we thought they were going to play really soft so we tried to rip a run off for 10 yards to get the drive going. Then they called the timeout, and I'm not sure what was decided but I'm glad it worked out.

What's the feeling like within the team during those last four minutes?

You just have to keep attacking. We practice that a lot just going through clutch drives in practice. We just have to keep battling. No one was saying much, we just knew we had to respond. It was awesome to see Tristan hit the game winner. I think he was getting booed at one point by the fans but he made it when it mattered.

WR Dante Pettis

How did you guys come together at the end on offense?

We just dug deep and found a way. We knew we could win the whole time.

What was said in the huddle before that last drive?

Well nothing really. We all knew what we had to do and looked each other in the eyes and went out and put our team in position to win.

Did you know coming in they were going to try to bottle you up given what happened last year?

Coming in we just knew they would try to kick the ball high and limit what I can do, so unless it was rolling there wasn't touch to get out of the punts.

LB Keishawn Bierria

You guys really buckled down at the end, can you walk us through that?

Well you can't really prepare for that. We've formed bonds throughout the season and when it came down to it we had total faith we'd get it done.

How did it feel to get such a close win tonight?

It felt awesome but what really made it special was winning on a kick given some of the struggles we've had on special teams.

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Utah Head Coach Kyle Whittingham

If you hadn't called timeout do you think they would have run another play?

I don't know. Good question. Probably. I don't know. You'd have to ask Chris that. I don't know. But if they were not being aggressive they would have taken a knee. What's the point in running a play if they're not going to try to at least maneuver into field goal range. So we called timeout, had them in decent field position, second and eight, second and nine, and one incomplete pass and another timeout if they decide to run the ball. So it was a longshot, but we're just trying to win and it obviously didn't work out. You know, they were making some plays after that timeout and we just couldn't find a way to stop them. In hindsight, I probably wouldn't have called the timeout. But at the time, just trying to be aggressive and get the ball back to a guy who has about a sixty-yard range field goal wise.

You did a lot aggressive things that did get rewarded in this game, what was your mindset?

Had to be aggressive against a team like this. On the road in particular, it's a tough place to play, and you have to be aggressive. We went for some fourth downs, converted them, had the onside kick and fake punt. So yeah, we're playing to win. Like I said just came up short. I thought we played very well for fifty-eight minutes.

Did Browning do anything different in those last two drives?

Not really. He threw the ball up and those receivers made some terrific plays. Like I said, they made the plays and we weren't able to at the end. You know, we had a chance to salt it away if we could make a first down. One more first, I don't know, a lot of ifs. Bottom line, they made the plays they needed to make to win that football game.

UTES' PLAYERS

QB Tyler Huntley

What have you seen from these receivers that have really stepped up for you?

They did a good job just warming up, they keep doing a good job of just catching the balls.

What enabled you guys to have so many explosive plays against their secondary?

We were just ready to play, we were ready to execute the plays down field.

Is this loss even harder to overcome, consider how well you guys played and how effective you guys were?

Every loss is tough. We just weren't doing enough.

Do you think you did enough off the fact that they are the number one defense in the conference and you guys came out and still scored.

No, we didn't do enough. We still left a lot of points off the board.

CB Julian Blackmon

When the coach called that timeout, was that something you expected?

That was the coach's decision, we weren't really sure what was going on.

You had Browning in check most of the game, was he doing anything different, or was he just able to extend plays?

He was just able to extend plays like he's been doing all year. We would break down the defense, one thing that we learned a lot we made sure that we covered our guys because he was really good at making those plays stay alive and that's what he did those last two drives. We have to make more plays.

On that one pass to Gaskin, did you misread that ball?

Yeah I read the play from the beginning and I jumped it and came down at a bad angle and missed it.

What does this performance mean for you guys?

It makes us want to win the next game more, I felt like we played well as a group we just didn't come out with the W. But if we play this way next week I feel like we could do a lot better.