

Washington State at Washington Post-Game Quotes

Husky Stadium

Nov. 29, 2019

Washington Head Coach Chris Petersen

Opening Statement:

I'm really happy for the seniors, there are only so many groups of guys who can go through here and say they never lost to their rival. We played good team ball today, our defense did a great job once again, playing that 'bend and don't break' defense, it's about points and not yards. We forced turnovers, and they got one too but that made it a lot easier on us. We did a good job holding the ball, dinking and dunking, running the clock, and I'm just proud of how our kids finished.

Did Washington State do anything different strategically from past games?

They run the same offense every single game, and they do a great job of it. I thought our guys were patient and tackled well, I knew that was going to be a big key. Their guys are slippery and hard to tackle, but we did a good job of playing to that.

How do you think Jacob Eason bounced back today?

I thought we took a step forward with him. He set his feet a little better, he had some good balls. It is still hard against those ones that are really open with a chance to score. There was a lot of progress there for him. That is what it is about, progress and moving forward.

Why did you have so much success going to your tight ends?

We have good tight ends. It starts with that. When you have good players in certain positions, you just have to figure out how to get them the ball. Sometimes we try that play action game where we slam the ball in the air and slip the tight ends behind the linebackers.

What influenced you to have more throwing yards than rushing today?

I always say this, we will take what they are going to give us. We see what the matchups are. I think it is no secret that everyone is going to play 11 guys, 80 yards from the ball and pack it in there. We still have to try to run them a little bit. I knew we were going to have to hit some plays down field. We did that today. It is the only way to operate. If you cannot throw it then you have big problems.

Did you sense any greater confidence today?

I don't think it is greater confidence. But I do think that those kids played the way that they needed to play and the way that they are capable of playing. It is expected to go into four quarters, you have to go win it in the fourth quarter. Don't expect it to all go well because we have a "W" on the side of our helmet. There was just a little bit of that at times this year. There is tremendous parody in this league and I really think if you don't show up and grind them out then you are going to get beat. I think the mentality was that we weren't going to get beat today.

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Husky Players

QB Jacob Eason

What was the feeling like after that sneak for a touchdown?

It's huge. We came into this game and talked about it all week. It just means more. Going into the stadium the energy was high. Apple Cup week getting into that end zone it was a lot coming together and it was awesome. Let out a little emotion there and everybody was fired up. It was pretty cool.

Did getting your helmet ripped off fire you up?

A little bit. I hope someone got a cool picture of that. It was awesome. Super proud of this team. Our defense, offense, everybody. We played well. We operated today especially in this kind of game. What it means to Husky fans and the state of Washington. Just an awesome experience.

Can you break down that long pass to Bynum?

Yeah that is the energy we needed. The momentum changer we needed. They went down on the opening drive and scored and we had a three and out on our drive. We were chipping away. O-Line protected well and Terrell ran a great route and gave me an opportunity to throw him the ball and he made a nice play. So, that was kind of the spark in the first half and we went after that.

LB Joe Tryon

What changed after the first drive?

Honestly, we did the same thing but we were a lot sharper. All doing our job. They did a good job in the first drive but after that I can't say they did well.

Did you put more defensive backs out there?

Yeah, we did. We were rushing three the whole game pretty much.

What was it like trying to stop them?

We just all had to work together as a defensive line. Coverage was great and we had a lot of time to get after the quarterback. We had to rush together and play off each other. We had a lot of fun.

DB Elijah Molden

What does it mean to send your seniors out undefeated in the Apple Cup?

It means the world. Those guys really got us here in the first place. From when they got to the playoffs to all the bowl games we've been to. We're so grateful for them and we've got so much love for them. It means the world.

What changed defensively after the first drive?

That's a good offense so we knew they were going to hit us a couple times, but it's all about how we respond and how we finish.

Did you change your scheme at all?

For the most part we stayed the same. We stayed with six defensive backs. We made a couple adjustments.

DB Myles Bryant

What is it like to never lose an Apple Cup?

It is a great feeling. This is a pretty heated rivalry for both sides and it's just a credit to our preparation. It's a credit to our coaching staff and our players, the strength staff, and just everybody in that locker room getting together and persevering.

What is it about WSU that allows you to succeed defensively?

I think it just means more. It means more to the guys in the locker room. Like I said, the coaching staff and the strength coaches it just means more to everyone in there. Playing in that kind of game is a DB's heaven. You get a team that

throws 60 to 70 times. Once we started Monday morning we were just licking our chops knowing Washington State was going to throw the ball. It's just a credit to the hard work we put in.

What did you do in the red-zone to hold them?

I think it was just the calls Coach Lake was calling for us and we just understood what they were going to give us in the redzone. We watched them all week and we understood what they want and what play they want, so it was just a credit to our preparation.

OL Nick Harris

What changed as the game went on?

We started taking what they were giving us. They knew that we were going to roll them up front. Their two tackles are 250. They had to bring down two safeties and play with a packed box. That is what they did and we started throwing bombs over the top of their head and started scoring. We had to take what they gave us, we can't force anything on the offense. We did a good job at making adjustments and making plays on the outside.

How did the momentum shifting after the first series?

I have full faith in our defense all the time. It has been that way over the four years and they came up huge. Elijah Molden played amazing, Joe (Tryon) played well, they all played well. I wasn't tripping at all.

TE Hunter Bryant

On winning the Apple Cup:

That has become a staple here. The seniors expect not to lose, everyone on the team expects not to lose. We came out and showed up.

On the play of the tight ends:

It was the details of us tonight, we were open on a lot of different plays tonight and the ball just came to us. Cade and I had a lot of fun out there and enjoying everything that we do.

WR Terrell Bynum

On winning the Apple Cup:

It was pretty cool that the seniors have never lost to the Cougs. I am not really from here. I am talking to a lot of the other alumni and people that have come in to talk to us, it is a pretty big game. It showed us what it meant to us as a team, but also the community that is from here. It is a divide between us and them.

On his big catch early in the game:

I mean we were watching film this week, we knew that we had to take some shots. They were going to stack the box and putting the safeties up. We knew that we were going to have to throw it over a couple of times. We made some plays.

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Washington State Head Coach Mike Leach

Opening Statement:

Well, I think they are good players and did a good job mixing in their blitz. We didn't execute consistently. We played with nine rather than 11. I think we went out there and tried to make too much happen.

This is the seventh loss to the Huskies in a row, how frustrating is that?

It's frustrating. I find it interesting though that they have a top-10 ranked recruiting class and you are always surprised when they win, so I would think that has something to do with it. We did force some stuff and didn't get separation at times. Then, our tackling had trouble on their ends.

What do you think of Jimmy Lake saying that you don't change things up from year to year?

I think the Huskies are good, and they deserve some credit for that. I think this was probably a team effort by the Huskies, he likes to take a lot of credit for everything but I would say those other Huskies played a very important role as well. The other thing is they have loaded the NFL with defensive players and they are one of the finest defenses in our conference.

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Cougars Players

QB Anthony Gordon

What happened after the first drive?

We just squandered a bunch of opportunities and fell behind the chains. They're too good of a defense to fall behind the chains. When we were successful, we didn't let negative plays take place.

What can you say about their success rushing three players?

They twist and play games up on the line that helps them get free. They're a talented group, so hats off to them for playing good defense. When they're able to drop eight and rush three while getting pressure, that can make it tough for us.

Does a game like this mess with your receiver connection?

Not really, it was a tough one and we're able to accept that. We're going to come back and improve and make sure we're better for the bowl game. With eight guys dropping so often, sometimes it's a little clouded so I just need to trust myself and pull the trigger.

WR Renard Bell

What's it like losing to this team again?

It's really tough and very frustrating losing to them in consecutive years. It's very annoying. I think when you look at the execution, we had to settle for field goals and turned the ball over on down one time. We needed to execute and bring better energy throughout the game, we let our bad plays get to us.

What do they do that is different than other teams?

Defensively they drop 8 and get to the ball. They're a very competitive team and they bring big energy. We need to be matching their energy.

What's different about their dropping 8?

Nothing in particular, they just really know what they're doing. Most other teams switch their defense to that, but these guys really know it and play it really well.

LB Willie Taylor III

Can you talk about the explosives they did and how that was a problem?

It starts with technique and eyes in the right spot. Guys in good position, it's nothing that we can't fix we just have to keep improving in practice. And get ready for the bowl game.

How tough is it to get this result year after year?

It's not the result we want, but they're a good team and they played better than us so they deserved to win today.

How was your pressure better in the beginning of the game?

We had some one-on-one matchups that were beneficial for me and I took advantage of, tried to get him off the spot and keep him rattled because he's a pretty good quarterback, so we focused on that in practice.