

Washington vs. Oregon Postgame Quotes
Alaska Airlines Field at Husky Stadium
November 29, 2025

Washington Head Coach Jedd Fisch

Opening Statement

First of all, I want to acknowledge our seniors. We had about 23 guys up there walk today, and couldn't be prouder of them on the way they've handled themselves. A lot of them have been with me and our staff for four years from the time that we recruited them in high school, in a different school in 2022, who were a part of changing an entire culture. Really, changed it twice. I want to appreciate the guys that stayed here when we arrived and bought into what we were trying to get done and had become team leaders and captains. I appreciate the guys that just transferred in here this year, and were part of a good season. I'm proud of those guys. I appreciate those guys as well. I also appreciate all the young players that we played today. They'll continue to shine, there's no doubt about it. They're getting better and better and better. As we continue to build the program the way we want it, our program will continue to elevate. Oregon's a good football team. Coach (Dan) Lanning does a great job. It was not a surprise that there was going to be a good football game today, very physical. Two teams that were competing at a high level, running the football, trying to run the football. There were a few plays in the game that were difference makers for us that didn't go our way. We had some momentum on first and 10, from the 20 yard line in the first half and ball didn't go our way and threw an interception there, and then had momentum 19-14 on third and nine and thought we had a great opportunity for a stop, get the ball back, and hopefully take the lead, and they hit a 64 yard touchdown there. There's a couple plays here and there, unfortunately, that were game changing. I thought our players competed as well as anybody. We've got to coach better and we have to continue to improve as players, but we've got a lot of the good things ahead of us.

What are the next steps to turn some of these close losses into wins?

That's kind of the way it works. You lose big, then you lose small, then you win small, then you win big, and that's the progression of how these turnarounds occur or how these films occur. I think we had some interesting, big wins, throughout the year, but these type games against the top 10 teams, they're challenging and they're going to be like this. I saw a little bit of Ohio State Michigan game and we looked similar in a lot of ways. You've got to get over the hump. You want to beat Oregon, you want to beat Ohio State, you want to beat those teams. You've got to get over the hump, and you've got to be able to score one more touchdown, probably hold them to one less touchdown, and then you're over the hump. I don't see these games being much bigger than that in terms of scoring margin. But we're getting close.

You started three true fresh on defense. Was Zaydrius Rainey-Sale just ready for a promotion?

Yeah, he's earned it. He's going to be really, really good, really special. We started RDA (Rylan Dillard-Allen) as well and Dylan (Robinson). Unfortunately Tacario (Davis) wasn't able to get back and we weren't able to get him to feel comfortable to open up and run full speed. We're continuing to play young guys. Dezmen Roebuck had a great game of offense as a true freshman as well. Adam Mohammed is a true sophomore, he ran the ball exceptionally well today. And Demond (Williams Jr.) is a true sophomore. We've got a chance to do a lot of cool things.

What did you think was the biggest challenge in the passing game today?

They played us early with a lot of coverage and wanted us to check it down and wanted us to get caught in the pocket and they had spies that were preventing him (Demond Williams Jr.) from getting out of the pocket. Early on, we needed to be more patient in the pocket and feel like, 'Hey, they're not really rushing internally, it's more of an external rush.' That was a good plan. We missed some check downs, the interception, we had Raiden (Vines-Bright) sitting right there that we could just pop it to and then not throw the one on one there. The safety made a good play. I think 10 out of 10 times that ball is going to get thrown, nine out of 10 times. When you have Denzel (Boston) and a linebacker one on one, you're going to throw that. Safety did a great job covering. We had some other chances in the passing game that maybe we might have passed up early, but we felt like we only had a few plays that we had third and longs, so we needed to get some things going on in the second half.

Washington Quarterback Demond Williams Jr.

Demond, a tough game just what are your initial emotions and reactions to the game and the outcome?

It definitely hurts, definitely stings, you know? You want a lot of plays back, but you just can't go back and change it. So, the only way to move forward is to accept it and understand it. In those types of games you just got to play better and I take that 100% blame as far as just going out there, being able to be on our A game, when the A game is needed. So yeah, I would just say, it hurts a lot. I definitely feel like I tried to battle today.

Geirean [Hatchett] said that you guys have been fighting uphill a lot against these top teams when you've faced them. How do you guys get off to better starts in the future?

Yeah, I mean, I think it's just attention to detail over the off season and just understanding that, we've been building this team to compete in those types of games and we have to continue to take it one day at a time and figure out how to win these games.

When you look at the progress of this team, certainly we've seen growth this year, right? Maybe you want to win a few more, of course, as well, but where do you see that growth and how do you feel about this program heading into 2026?

I feel like the growth is evident as far as offensively and defensively, just execution as a whole throughout the whole season. Being able to bounce back from adversity and try to play on the road and everything like that. So I feel like just going to this off season, we have

to understand that a lot of us have played in these games now, so we understand what it takes and we have to spread it to the whole rest of the team.

Your fourth down touchdown pass to Denzel. Was it your first option? Can you break that down for us a little bit?

A little bit, we were trying to give him man coverage and we got what we wanted and just executed the play how we wanted to.

When you lose a game like this, how much motivation does this give you to bounce back and win these sort of signature, ranked games?

Yeah, it's something about me, you know, all of our losses, all of my losses in life, the only way is to bounce back and find a way to get better from now until the next time we play, which is the bowl game. So that's all my focus is on now is just trying to figure out how I can be better for the team.

Washington EDGE Zach Durfee

Can you talk a little bit about the atmosphere today and the excitement of the fans?

I thought that was great. You know Husky Stadium's always bumping, super electric. Especially a game like this. I thought the fan energy was amazing.

Zach, what was the key in keeping their run game under control?

Just playing more physically than them.

How disappointing is it to lose to Oregon?

It's the worst thing ever, especially on senior night in the last game. It sucks.

Washington Offensive Lineman Geirean Hatchett

What are your initial emotions coming off that field and after that game?

Right now, I'm trying to process everything. It's heartbreaking. To play as hard as we did as a team; have a week like we did in practice and we were confident about this game and I thought that was great. This is tough. I'm proud of how everybody on offense and defense, young guys, old guys, everybody to send the seniors off the right way. Unfortunately, we came up short.

What was working so well for you guys up front?

We wanted to be the most physical front out there, and I think we did that today. I thought we played good as an offensive line. That was our goal all day all week; be more physical.

What do you think made it tough in the passing game at times?

There's a lot of different variations of fronts and pressures we were getting the whole game. I thought overall we did a good job picking it up. It was tough sometimes, plays just weren't being made. Sometimes it doesn't go your way.

Oregon Head Coach Dan Lanning

Opening statement

This environment is really good. Our players handled the chaos extremely well. I don't think the noise affected us. I even heard our fans chanting there at the end, which is awesome to be able to come into somebody else's stadium and create that. We talked about how this game was going to come down to takeaways. I thought that was obviously a big piece of this game, being able to take the ball away twice and own the ball on offense. Our kicker obviously played outstanding, four kicks in a tough place to kick. He's been really solid for us down the stretch, but several players coming up making big plays. I know at the very end, you could ask, why, why not kick the field? It's kind of a tough angle for the field goal kicker that tight and ultimately, fourth and one, you want that opportunity to go get it, but I thought our guys handled the environment extremely well. They did a good job eliminating the run game, which is something that showed up, we got to be able to run it in tight situations. I thought Washington was outstanding there, so we'll have to make sure we can show that up. But defensively, we played well. Offensively, we made some big plays down the stretch. Obviously, that pass to Vincent was huge. Altogether, the sideline was incredible. The focus that these guys had. It is just a really fun group, and the great part is we're not done playing yet. So I'm excited for that next opportunity.

You make it a point, on the road, to celebrate wins. What did that one feel like?

I told the players before the game, I said, "History's great, but what's more fun is writing history," We got to write some history today, which is awesome. And they showed out of hand. Everybody had each other's back. Certainly, this is a big game. It's a big rivalry, one of the best that I've been a part of, so it was fun to go out there and take care of business today.

Malik comes through again in a big moment. He just kind of the story of the year and coming through big. Talk about that play that moment, and obviously Dante's contributions on it too.

That play was as impressive as any. And just a composure, man, I even saw the ball security there. For him, having that ball up and tight, it's a coaching moment, just all the coaching moments that showed up. We had a couple aggressive penalties there that I'm disappointed in, lost our composure. I didn't think you'd see that from our team today. One of them was an aggressive block that went a little long. One of them is one that we just can't absolutely can't do, which is disappointing. But overall, really proud of Malik, man. What an unbelievable teammate he's been for us this year. What a great throw by Dante, great protection there. Our guys handled it really well. Our coaches prepared him well.

how has it been managing the razor engine this the last month and a half and where you didn't know you'd be secure in the playoffs until now?

Ultimately, it's always felt the same way. You win, and it's up to you, and it's good to be in charge, being in control of your destiny. If you don't win, you have no excuses. There's nobody here complaining about what the situation is. Go win. Ultimately, the team that

gets the opportunity to play in the playoffs, that's the way it's supposed to work, the team that earned it. That went out there and played and won games. Like, that's what you have to do to get there. It's not supposed to be easy. It's supposed to be hard. The whole season matters. The playoff spectrum has changed a lot over the last couple years, where it was always about the team that played the most consistent throughout the whole year, got that opportunity, and now it's changed a little bit. You can have some hiccups. We had one. We learned a lot from it. You don't get second, third, fourth tries, and we knew that, so we had to play a certain way to make sure that we had that opportunity, and the guys wanted to make sure we did that on the field.

Do you feel like that you've seen this groups fastball yet this year with everybody that's been out and kind of the nutrition you've had to go through? Like how much, how much more is there for you guys? Tom will tell. What I do know is this group will come to work, right?

They're already anxious to get back to work right now, which is pretty awesome. I think our group realizes how special it is, I hope you know, everyone realizes how special it is where we're at right now, but the only things we can control are what we can control, and that's what we're going to focus on.

Oregon Kicker Atticus Sappington

Walk us through the emotions of today. On a couple of those field goals you were starting at the 50 yard line, running like 20 or 30 yards all the way and practicing a kick. What does that do and what's your mentality?

I start far back because it's an optical illusion. If you look at the uprights from far away, and you put your head down, then you run closer, the uprights look bigger. So that's why I do that, and then I'm just breathing the entire time, and know God's out there with me.

I know you don't concern yourself with the past but how much was the confidence you built in Iowa there for you in the past three or four weeks to help you with a day like today?

Just focusing on the next cake, you know, Iowa, that was a great game and I'm super blessed that I was able to deliver in that moment, but at the same time as my coach always says, next kick mentality. So, coming into this game is whenever my number is called, it is my turn to go out there and execute for the team and help get the victory.

Atticus, for you to have the performance you did, it felt like the field goals did generally make a difference. A 12 point game and every one of your field goals mattered. What did that mean to you to have a game and a performance like this final game in a season to beat Washington and secure your spot in the college football playoffs?

It's awesome. Just coming up here and in a tough environment, and, you know, that's a great team, they held us to a lot of field goals, but at the same time, it's my job to go out there and deliver and, I was just super blessed that Coach Lanning trusted me to go out

there and bang the kicks and it was just my job. I can't say enough about Basso (Luke Basso LS), Ferg (Trent Ferguson, OL) and the protection. They were lights out all day to help me do my job. It made the job a lot easier, and I can't do it without those guys.

Oregon Wide Receiver Malik Benson

It's a new area of college football with the portal, you have some guys, like you, who have a short time to believe and impact. To come into a rivalry game, did you have a sense for what this game meant to fans and to make a play and come through and help secure a win like this? What does that mean?

It's crazy 'cause I was talking to Poncho (Oregon C Iapani Laloululu) and just him being here for how long he's been here, I didn't really know that this was a big rivalry like that. So, I just got well educated and things like that. And, just to know what this game means to Oregon fans, I'm just glad I could put my stamp on it and my team could put our stamp on it.

What's this last month been like for you? You kind of mentioned those stamps you've left on this game, a bunch of other games too. So just how are you enjoying this moment and obviously it leads your team to the opportunity to play some big football in December.

I just know that I'm an older guy, and that guys look at me. So just making plays when my number's called and just the work that we put in all year, we're finally getting the "we're gonna be remembering November" and things like that. So just not letting each other down and knowing that it's one play at a time and we just got to do what we got to do..

Dan was saying, this game isn't about a lack of emotion, it's about controlling emotion. As someone who just had to learn why there's so much emotion in this game. What was that process like for you? What did you see today?

I'm very emotional when it comes to my journey, how my journey's been. But just telling my teammates and telling myself, don't let the game be bigger than what it needs to be. Like I said, we put in the work all year, and at the end of the day, we do all the work during the week. However many thousands of people were watching, we just got to go out there and execute. We know we're the best in the nation and we just got to keep going.

Oregon Linebacker Bryce Boettcher

Talking about how that loss two years ago here in Seattle, knowing what this rivalry and this history has been, How sweet does this one feel to come away with senior season win in Washington with this team, clinching the spot the college football playoffs?

Yeah. It feels pretty good. It's stuff you dream about, season on the line. Coming up here at UW, I'm one and three against these guys in my career at Oregon. They're a good football team and ending in that fashion, with these guys by my side, it's pretty dang special, especially, being in my senior year. I'm just grateful. It's awesome.

What do you think it's gonna be like playing the football game in December with these stakes?

That'll be a first time ever, so I'm excited. Obviously, we have senior night against SC, so it's gonna be full focus, full business on this game that's coming up. I'm hoping it's gonna be the loudest game I've ever played in the Stadium, and probably one of the most fun, I'm juiced for it.

What's the mentality that you guys had coming in to UW just to sort of maintain and keep Williams in the backfield to keep him from killing with the legs?

Yeah, he's a heck of a quarterback, man. We had our hands on him so many times, and he found a way to escape. That was the number one must, just caging him. We did a solid job at times, and at times he got out because he's a great player, but at the end of the day, we did a good enough job of caging him, and DT was a big part of that, and our D line did great. So, I think it just starts with Coach Toss, and to emphasis of it come Monday. We showed down and played well.

Oregon Quarterback Dante Moore

What is the high of this field? When you punch a playoff ticket, this is the biggest thing you've accomplished in football to date. What is this feeling?

Yeah, it's an amazing feeling, but without these guys next to me, without the guys on the team, we wouldn't have gotten it done. But overall, this is very emotional at the end of the game, just how much this win meant just for the team and just the state of Oregon, playing for the PNW. It was a great competitive game. Playing on the road, Bryce kept bringing up the situation that happened two years ago, and I kind of feel like he had so much emotion that I use it as fuel to make sure I'm pushing myself every day, to make sure the offense is pushing ourselves. But at the end of the day, I think the best thing for us is just to recover, make sure we get our bodies back, and watch our film.

What does this game not being about a lack of emotion, but being about controlling emotion look like on the field today?

Yeah, it's just the players are from Seattle. It can be with them, it can be just this game, how it's a rival game. At the end of the day, of course, Washington, what they have and their ability to beat Oregon. I know it's a very emotional game, but we can't let emotions phase us as a team. We are trying to do more execution. At the end of the day, you know, I feel like we did a great job just pushing ourselves, and when good plays happened, we got a pat on the helmets, and when Bad plays happened, we made sure we communicated. It's a lot of emotions in this game, but we're thankful for each other.

Once you guys get everybody back, how dangerous this team could be from your perspective. What can this team be in December?

Yeah, I got to give credit to the ones that had to step up. The guys, knowing his next man mentality, when it comes to our front, when it comes to even the defense or just the receiver, it's just in general. Of course, you're at you're strongest when everybody's

healthy, and we have some time to make sure we're getting people back and getting recovered. So only God knows what happened from there.

Oregon Defensive Back Dillon Thieneman

Can you speak on the transfer portal and being thrust into situations like a rivalry like this? What was your process of getting up to speed on the emotions of it, and what does it mean to come up with a huge play at the end to help a win?

All week, I was talking to different guys who have been in the program for multiple years. Bryce here was getting me right, and then, just to come into the game and make an impact like I did, just means the world, and come away with the W.

How many hits in your career have had as big of impact as the one on (Dezmen) Roebuck there, and were you at all surprised when he just popped right back up, too?

I was surprised. I was like, "I thought I hit him pretty good", but he got up, he got the ball. It was a hell of a catch by him.

Can you speak to (Defensive Coordinator Tosh Lupoi)'s impact?

He's always finding a new edge for us where we can grow and always looking at, like, whether we do good, like, what can we do better? What can we keep getting better and better? and he he'll talk to each of us like one on one, bring us aside and be like, "All right, this is what we're looking at, this is what we need to do. This is what we should communicate. So I think he's just really good at looking the details and really good at helping players develop."