

Washington vs. Ohio State Postgame Quotes
Alaska Airlines Field at Husky Stadium
September 27, 2025

Washington Head Coach Jedd Fisch

Opening Statement

I thought that our guys battled and competed. You know, it's a one score game going into the fourth quarter, seven to three at halftime. 14 to 6 after we just had one possession in the third quarter – one 7 play drive that ended in a field goal, and then they had the ball there. It felt like a very fast game, and didn't feel like a lot of possessions. We weren't very good on third down, which hurt us. We're not accustomed to that. We got to a situation where we were in the red zone and we had some penalties, and that hurt us, we took some sacks, that hurt us. So some situational football that we've been good at, we struggled with up this one, and when you play the number one team in the country - A team that knows how to win. They've won a lot. They win every year. And if you're gonna be able to finish the game and be able to win those games, those penalties can't happen, those sacks can't happen. The mistakes that were made, can't happen, and I want to learn from that. We're going to coach better. We're going to play better, and we have an opportunity to go do that next week.

What was the intention with the fake field goal? What was supposed to happen next?

We thought we had a look all week of how they were going to play – how they were going to rush when we were on the right hash and it didn't get executed well.

When you look at some of the games against top teams last year they were blowouts – this was anything but, you were competitive for a long time for a long time. What does that say about the growth of the program and where you guys stand?

Yeah, I think we're a really good team. I think that we have a great opportunity to continue on and have a really good season. And it's week four, I just told the team, I go, it's week four guys, we're 3-1. So now what? We play at number one team in the country and we played it really well, and it was a heavyweight fight until the last five minutes, four minutes of the game, I guess, is when it turned into more than, you know, two scores, but I feel like we got a really good football team, and I'm really excited about getting on the road on Thursday – flying to Maryland and then seeing how well we can play. It'll be a great challenge for our team to see how well we can play coming off the frustration of this one.

What happened with Zach Durfee and Carver Willis?

We don't know yet, we'll find out tomorrow after we do the MRIs and we check what's going on with them. Durfee – we have to check his elbow and Carver, I think it's his knee.

There was a stretch in this game where Demond completed 14 straight passes. Just curious how you evaluate his performance based on what you saw out there live today?

Yeah, I mean, Demond was 18 for 22. I gotta help Demond understand that an incompleteness is okay sometimes. He doesn't throw many incompleteness at all. Sometimes, sometimes, that leads to holding the ball, you know, a little bit longer, and unfortunately, at times, could turn to a sack. But Demond is exceptionally accurate, he's really good with the ball, he makes extremely good decisions. He protects the ball at all costs. So, I mean, if you're a quarterback and you throw it probably 80% for the year at this point, no matter who you're playing, you know, you're going to have a great year.

They kind of game you just had versus the number 1 – What can this do for you guys?

Yeah, guys are excited. We don't have moral victories, but they also know that like, okay, we went toe to toe, we were physical. We could stop them on short yardage. We were able to move the football. We were able to have drives down in the red zone. We were able to keep it a one score game, being a four point game at half. You just need that confidence sometimes, too, that it's real, that you're there. You know, forget what people are saying. You're real, and we believe we're real, and we believe we're really good. So we're excited about coming out there Thursday to the East Coast, and we're going to come out there on a mission to play our best football. And we're going to see if we can play the best we've played this whole season by being fully locked in this week.

Washington Running Back Jonah Coleman

Can you talk about what your issues were in the redzone?

Self-inflicted wounds. You can't get penalties in the red zone and You can't have negative plays or take sacks or just have anything near that. Everybody has got to be locked in when we get in the red zone, because that's the most important part of the drive. I feel like we didn't do a good enough job of that today.

What are the positive takeaways from this game?

We're a really good team. We know we can compete with the best, and We felt like we should have won this game. Plain and simple. It was self inflicted wounds at the end of the day we had more penalties. You got to be disciplined at the end of the day."

Even with the loss, do you guys think you put out the performance you wanted to?

No. It was our worst game. It's week four, and that was our worst game. 24 hour rule, flush it. You either win or you learn.

What do you think of the atmosphere here today?

Amazing. Amazing. I love the way Husky Nation showed up all game. We're gonna need them, you know, it's a long season, It's only week four. So, I'm excited to be back at Husky Stadium in two weeks, but got to go on the road and handle business.

Washington Safety Makell Esteen

How tough was it out there to get things rolling out there today?

They're a number one team, they play very good. you win, you lose. we lost, but we learned. That's the most important thing right now.

What can you learn from a game like this?

It can help us learn who we are, knowing that we have fight to the end. Knowing who would do what throughout the whole game. I think most importantly, it's just that fight that we had, and not giving up.

Did Ohio St. do anything that surprised you?

Our goal was to make sure that we have a roof on the defense. You shout it every week, but that's what they're known for. But to have a roof on the defense, I feel like we did a good job, but just gave a few little plays here and there.

How was the noise down on the field? Do you think it impacted Ohio St?

Yeah, for sure. It impacted them. Especially, like, the first half. It was very loud. It felt like it could have been louder... Husky nation, but you all did y'all thing. It messed with them a little bit.

Ohio State Head Coach Ryan Day

You guys have won three different games now in three different ways, but the constant has been defensive excellence. What are you attributing that to right now and where do you see the defense going now that you've seen it be so good through four weeks?

Just growing; we've got to grow. It's a great reference point to come into a stadium like this. It's a great environment. I thought that the fans on their end were loud and showed up in a big way. It was great for our guys to see some red here. Any time you take a young team on the road, it's great to have familiar faces in the crowd and they had a presence, and that was great. The guys believe in the system. You have some guys in there like Sonny (Styles Jr.) and Caleb (Downs), and now Caden (Curry), IGB (Davison Igbinosun) that have played a lot of football and they're the guys that are leading the way, and then quickly these guys are following, because they believe in them, because they've seen it. You mix that in with the chemistry of the defensive staff and the game planning and the execution of it all, you're seeing that. Now, we're not where we need to be in terms of down the road. We've still got a lot of work to do in all areas. We have to continue to work to get better, but you're seeing the potential of where we are, but each week we're going to have to continue to get better because that's our first conference win. Got a lot of work to do, but it does give us something to refer back to. You just went into an environment, they won 22 straight games here, and this team won. If we can do things a little bit better, we're going to come out of this film session thinking that we could have played a little better in certain areas, but that's it. This time of year, you've got to continue to figure out what the issues are and continue to get better. The confidence is there, it should be.

Washington came into this leading the nation on third down conversions. What are you specifically doing in some of those spots to get the stop on third down, hold them to a field goal?

It starts with first and second down. Trying to get them into third long. It's playing situational football and the way that we're playing now, and most teams are playing, they huddle, we huddle. You're not going to get as many plays. Yeah, you're talking about 53 and 62. So there's not a lot of football. That means the percentage of plays is going to be situational. We've got to be great in the situations. It's something we worked hard on in the preseason, certainly Matt (Patricia) and the defensive staff understand that part of it and work hard at it. We do as a team. But that's what it comes down to understand your opponent. That's always about us, but you've got to understand how they're trying to attack us. A big part of it was stopping the run on first and second down and forcing them into third and long situations.

What does a defense like this allow you to do offensively?

It's important that we continue to grow on offense and figure out where the identity of this team is and where it's going. It's something that we'll work on week to week, but when you have a defense that is playing the way it is right now, you can play with confidence knowing that you don't have to score every single possession. You can control the clock and play it, I wouldn't say more conservative, but you understand time, score and situation. In that second to last drive, when we took the penalty, which we can't be doing this, we can't be having these self-inflicted wounds. It's going to cost us a game. That happened too many times in this game. We had five penalties and so we can't do that. When we found ourselves in that situation, you want to push the ball down the field and possibly create a turnover or run it twice and kick the field goal and make it 14 point game. We ran it there, and on third and 17, and got 16 yards on it, and then once it was fourth and one, we decided to go for it. It allows you to play the game knowing that you have a good defense, and you don't have to score every time. Now, the goal is to score every time, and we've got to continue to figure out ways to be more explosive. We will. That's something that we're going to work hard on this week.

Ohio State Running Back CJ Donaldson Jr

What was the feeling of running into the endzone on that play essentially sealing the game?

To be honest, it was, you know, electrifying, just having an opportunity to seal the game, for us to sing the song, it's special.

Do you remember when you guys installed that play and maybe what you thought about it at that moment?

You know, we read plays, all through camp, you know, in the spring, so when we finally got the opportunity to run it and I was definitely cheesin' I was like, man, hurry up, hurry, call the play. I had the opportunity and I made the catch.

How frustrating was the way the game started, you had it right down there, but couldn't punch it in. And then, of course, there was the fumble on the kickoff return. Y'all didn't get the ball back. What did y'all get straight, you think that second quarter, especially the end of the second quarter drive?

You know, definitely on that fourth and one. I got to do a better job getting my pass down. That's something I need to continue to work on. Coach Day always tells us to weather the storm, so I think that's something we did as a team. We weathered the storm very well, and we responded quickly.

What is it like to see Jeremiah catch that drag route over the middle and look like a freight train turning up field. What does that do for the whole team – to have a player like that make a play like that?

Man, that alien gives us some juice, man. That guy's different. He works hard every day, you know, he's pushing us each and every day, to be our best. He's a South Florida guy, you know, he's got that swag.

Ohio State QB Julian Sayin

What was it like for you out there today, first road game?

That was mindset going into it. Coach (Ryan) Day has been preaching that to us all week is 'Having poise in the noise out there.' I think we did a good job of having poise in the loud environment. Our mindset was keep swinging. Things aren't going to go our way the whole time. There's going to be momentum shifts, so we've got to keep swing.

Your first touchdown pass to Jeremiah Smith over the middle as that free rusher is coming, what's going through your mind on that play?

We kind of knew what look we were going to get there and they ended up bringing it, so I had to drift and get out of there and Jeremiah (Smith) did a nice job of finding the window and our receivers made some great blocks and our offensive line did a great job up front as well.

You scored right before halftime; you come out and score again. What was the message in the locker room at halftime?

We were excited to score right at the end of the half, and then we get the ball coming out, and we have a 15 play drive to go down there and punch it in. Offensive line did a great job. It's a long drive for them, they did a great job on that drive.

Ohio State Defensive End Caden Curry

What was going on with the defensive line today?

I mean, first and foremost, just seeing Ohio State fans out there, you saw sea of Red, when it was supposed to be a crazy atmosphere, and just seeing all them was a great atmosphere to see. We just took accountability of our actions today and we make the plays when it is called.

What was the defensive strategy to keep Demond Williams hemmed in?

I mean, honestly, just the way we practice all week. We knew we were playing a great athlete and a great playmaker, so we knew we had to contain the quarterback, and we knew we had to do our job. Plays just come off of that. I mean, when you cage the pocket that well, he's gonna come to you eventually.

You were people's upset special today, did that motivate you?

Our defensive line, we're always motivated. The whole defense is motivated. We feel like we always have a chip on our shoulder, because we lost so many players last year. We have so much to gain now. We have so many players that have an edge, we have such a good defense that he needs to play, and just keep playing.

Ohio State Defensive Line Kenyatta Jackson Jr.

You've been here with Caden Curry for three years. To see him have the game that he did today, how exciting is that for you?

It's very exciting. I've been seeing this freshman, so I'm not surprised, but I'm very excited for him.

You make the play where you wrapped up Demond Williams Jr. around one of the offensive linemen and the rest of the guys corralled. Is that one example of the way that you guys are working together right now?

That's what coach has been preaching to us all year. Play as one, don't be selfish. You're seeing it today.

Playing as one, do you guys have to give up some of yourself a little bit at times.

Explain how that works.

I'm not playing selfish football. You've got to give up some plays. We do things that we don't like sometimes, but hey, as long as the team win, we're good.

Ohio State Defensive Line Kayden McDonald

When you have a quarterback as mobile as him, how hard is it to have the discipline to stay in your pass-rush lane and not get too far up field?

Coach (Larry) Johnson, this whole week, he was preaching on rushing as one. We got Caden Curry, C.J. (Hicks), Eddrick (Houston), all those guys, we play together. Big 10 play, quarterback's good, but we all rush together and we made a play.

Seems like you and Caden Curry were feeding off each other all day. How does he help make you better and vice versa?

Caden Curry, he's a hard worker. How you practice is how you play, and we work hard. We always push each other to go as hard as we can and it shows."

To make that final play that mattered right up the gut, you pull the Demond Williams Jr. down, what's going through your mind there?

It was fourth down. I was like, 'Bring out my best move.' I got past the center, and the rest was history.

Caden Curry called you guys the no names, all the defensive line. To see what you guys are doing now through four games. What does that mean to you guys?

First and foremost, got to thank God. We're at Ohio State, number one team in the country. Being ready for the moment, the opportunity to go make a play it shows.