



## **Texas Tech vs. West Virginia Nov. 9, 2019 Postgame Quotes**

### **West Virginia Head Coach Neal Brown**

#### **Opening Statement**

(It was a) frustrating day all the way around. I don't have any great words of wisdom or anything. You all watched that. I think if you watched it, it pretty much sums it up. We got off to an extremely poor start defensively. They scored on, I think, their opening five drives of the game. We settled down and did some things better but we've got to be ready to go defensively and we weren't. We didn't get any pressure on the quarterback all day. He stood back there. They were able to run the ball efficiently on us. The run totals were just okay, but they ran the ball efficiently. Offensively, here's the deal. We did some good things offensively. But we do things to beat ourselves over and over again. Drops. How many did we have? Seven? Seven drops. The turnovers - some of the turnovers happened because we have missed assignments. And then missed opportunities in the red zone. To me, the game came down - it was 21 points - the game comes down to turnovers and missed opportunities in the red zone. We had three trips to the red zone. I think we went for it on all fourth downs. We lose by 21 and we leave 21 points out there. (Give) credit to Texas Tech. (Coach) Matt (Wells) had his guys ready to go. But, we've got to be better. Period. I'll take our fair share as coaches, but we've got to make plays when it's time to make plays. We didn't do it. We didn't do that today. I thought we had some good individual performances but at the end of the day, it's not good enough. It's not good enough.

#### **On the difference between the defense last week vs. Baylor and today**

They came out and clearly had a good plan. They tempoed us. I didn't think we handled the tempo very well at all. I didn't think we played with the same sense of urgency up front. We're limited in the secondary as far as bodies. Some of those guys are beat up. Here's the deal: that's all excuses. They made plays, and a lot of those plays were one-on-one. Whether it was 28 (redshirt freshman running back SaRodrick Thompson) running through tackles, them blocking us up front... I knew their offensive line was good. They blocked us. We had multiple opportunities to make plays in the secondary and we didn't make those plays. I thought schematically they had us on a couple things when we were playing in that three-safety look, and they did a nice job. Just like we had them schematically in their three-safety looks and that's why we threw the ball for however many yards we did.

#### **On the mental preparation of the team**

I don't know if they left it mentally (in Waco)... I'm worried every week to be honest with you, Alex. You've watched us play. You've been to every game, right? I'm worried every week. At the same time, we don't have very many guys. We can't practice for very long. This wasn't a deal where the guys checked out and they didn't practice all week. We had decent practices. I wouldn't say they were great, but they weren't poor. This isn't one of those deals where you came back and you look at practice and going into the deal, you know you're going to play poorly. That wasn't it. Was I worried how we were going to bounce back? Absolutely. I think "fragile" is the word that I use with our staff. I think it's fragile and I think part of that's because you're playing so many young people. They're sometimes getting exposed and sometimes things aren't going their way and it's the first time in front of a big stage that's ever happened.

#### **On making the switch to junior quarterback Jarret Doege**

He's got four games (to redshirt). I just wanted to get him reps. I thought he did some good things. The same things that plagued Jarret are the same things that plagued (redshirt junior quarterback) Austin (Kendall). We dropped the ball, we didn't do a great job in protection. I'll say this: I wish quarterback was our problem. Because that's an easy fix.

## **Texas Tech Head Coach Matt Wells**

### **Opening Statement**

(I'm) just proud of our guys, really proud of them (for) what they did all week. I think they practiced really hard. I think that gave us a chance before we ever got on the plane for a victory. (I'm) really proud of that. These guys just continue to fight, and I respect that locker room. They fight. They're a bunch of fighters. Their backs have been against a wall. They responded in a great way during the bye week and obviously this week. (It was) a strong opening first half performance. (I'm) really proud of the turnovers, and our offense was able to capitalize with the touchdown. We've struggled with that a little bit this year. We turned it right into a touchdown and got that big lead. (The) second half was just kind of back and forth. We got some penalties on offense, and we got behind the chains a little bit. Again, (I'm) proud of our guys (in terms of) the effort and tenacity that they continue to play with. Hopefully this will be a win that springboards us for the way we practice for next week and the way we think about things. (I'm) just really proud of our guys.

### **On being successful in the month of November**

I want to put an emphasis on November. I truly think you have to run the ball and you have to stop the run in the month of November. Holding them to 51 yards rushing, obviously 500 yards passing is not good for us - it's good by them - but the interior of the defense is playing well right now. Stopping the run is important in the month of November, as well as running it. I think just the mindset with your players is just a belief. Hopefully it's a spark that starts a big fire. It's a belief, you just have to believe. As coaches, we are just trying to speak victory into them every day and talk to them about winning every day. How you walk into the building and how you practice and deserve a victory. I also think at the end of the year, it's how you practice. I think it's the discipline that you show off the field, the accountability and all of the things that everybody has at the beginning of the year. I think just the human spirit and the body get tired at the end of the year. It's very natural. The teams that don't let that set in have a little bit of extra juice because they practice a little bit better. I think that gives them juice. You get to Saturday and you have a better chance to win, then it's another win. That's what you're really trying to do is just create a belief. That's all I know to do with these guys.

### **On his team's ability to bounce back after a loss**

Like I said earlier, I'm learning more about them every week. I respect them. Their backs have been against a wall. A lot of people are kind of counting us out. (We have) a little underdog mentality right now. I think they feel like they're earning it during the week. We're going to continue to push that in them. I like this group. They're led by some good seniors. (Senior defensive linebacker) Broderick Washington (Jr.), (senior linebacker) Jordyn Brooks, (senior defensive back) Doug Coleman (III). (Senior defensive linebacker) Quentin Yontz plays on three special teams. Nobody in this room even knows who that is except me and Kirby. I don't even think the SIDs know who that is, but that kid is the epitome of this program right now. He's tough, he's hard-nosed. And what a great leader on the sidelines, too, keeping everybody in it. Those senior offensive linemen continue to keep grinding. How about (senior tight end) Donta Thompson tonight? (He had) some really remarkable catches across the middle. (Senior wide receiver) R.J. Turner across the middle. There's another senior stepping up. I'm really proud of those guys for making some competitive catches.