



**West Virginia vs. Robert Morris
Aug. 30, 2025
Postgame Quotes**

West Virginia Head Coach Rich Rodriguez

Opening Statement

Well, I'd like to say that was a typical first game, but I don't know if I've ever had or seen three fumbles in four plays. That's what I think we had. I know we had three straight fumbles. So, we obviously didn't play well at all in the first half. West Virginia beating West Virginia. There were some things we did okay, but you know, obviously not playing like we should've and the second half went like it should've. So we'll take the win, learn from it. Obviously, there are a lot of things to clean up and fix, but there are a lot of guys playing for the first time and there are a lot of things we've got to do as a staff to be better for next week. We'll take the win and grow from it and see what happens next.

On how the emotions of this game felt compared to others

Yeah, it did a little bit. Of course, I think coming back, The Mantrip, you know, we didn't do a Mantrip when I was here (the first time) and that was pretty neat. I mean the crowd was, I mean, I'm talking about unbelievable. I mean, great crowd, dressed in gold, into the game. You know, unfortunately, we didn't give them enough good moments in the first half, but I thought West Virginia fans showed up today. They showed up on the Mantrip, they showed up tailgating and really, really appreciative of that.

What his message was during halftime

Yeah, I didn't like, you know, try to scrape paint off the wall or anything like that. I just said we have to take care of the football, play a little bit smarter. The penalties were really frustrating, you know. I'm just as or most frustrated with that because that's a lack of discipline. We're gonna get that fixed right away. We have to. So correct the penalties and the turnovers and just relax and run the offense.

On junior running back Jahiem White's performance in the game

Jaheim ran hard, you know, I'm a little disappointed that we didn't get him loose for some longer runs... I'm gonna have to see what the reason was, he might've been getting outnumbered... I don't know what the case was, but he's an explosive guy, we didn't get him enough explosive opportunities.

Robert Morris Head Coach Bernard Clark Jr.

Opening Statement

I was pleased with the first half. I obviously wasn't pleased with our second half. We forced three takeaways, you know, three turnovers in the first half, but couldn't capitalize on them. Guys played hard in the second half. Poor tackling, wasn't executing. I don't know if we got a first down. So it's just one of those things that, you know, kids are excited, ready to go, and then all of a sudden (they) just get back down (in the) second half. So it kind of ticks me off a little bit, but you know, that's why they call it a season. Got to get ready for the next one.

On the team's overall performance

I get all that. It's just, you know, it's not in my DNA. We're playing college football, that it's just this thing in my DNA to make a difference. Like I said, I thought we had a great first half. A lot of guys played tough. We're going against an opponent like West Virginia. First half, we were down 10-3. Anyway, to come back out and then, disappointingly, not play the way we are capable of playing. If we played the first half like the second half, maybe a little more exciting, but the fact is that we didn't.

On how West Virginia impacted the game

They kind of overpowered us. They started running the ball more, quarterbacks started carrying the ball, running backs started playing a whole lot better. I was more worried about that to be honest with you, because I thought a young man last year, (WVU junior running back Jahiem) White, was an outstanding running back, and he kind of proved it today more than anything else. So, it's kind of old powers up front, you know, their defensive line against our offensive line. The front four really did it more than anything else, and I think in the second half, it just wore us down. But again, it goes back to, it's not so much them wearing us down as us making tackles when we're supposed to make tackles. You know, getting open, when we're supposed to be open, making the catches we're supposed to catch. Those are the things that frustrate you because those are physical things. Those aren't coachable things. Those are things that they're capable of doing, as opposed to things we're asking them to do. So that's the thing that drives me nuts.

On preparing for West Virginia's tempo

It is something we worked on. All we've been working on over the last week and a half, but at the same time, it's one thing to have a scout team doing it, and it's another to have a team that practices and does it all the time, and that's what they do. That's what coach Rich Rod did at Jacksonville State. It wasn't a secret what they were going to do. It's still once you get in the game, you get under those lights and that heat starts coming out on you, you start going to play after play and your adrenaline is pumping after the third play, and really becomes an issue more than anything else. So they're able to execute because that's what they do. Our guys have to catch their breath a little bit. You know, with their first drive, they drove right down the field with no problem. They caught our breath a little bit and came back out.