

Big 12 Conference Football Championship Game: Oklahoma vs Texas

Saturday, December 1, 2018

Lincoln Riley
Tre Brown
Kyler Murray
Grant Calcaterra
Tre Norwood
Oklahoma Sooners

Oklahoma - 39

Texas - 27

THE MODERATOR: We're joined by the Oklahoma team. Congratulations, Coach, on your win. If you would like to make a couple of opening comments?

LINCOLN RILEY: Yeah, we're thrilled by the victory. I mean, it's been a challenging year, which they all are. None of the previous three here were easy by any stretch. This one certainly wasn't either, but to sit here now as the fourth time defending Big 12 champion, man, that sounds good. It took a lot from these guys here and the players and the coaches in that room. When the rest of the world didn't believe in them they believed in themselves and that's why we're sitting here with this trophy right down here.

That's part of the program. That's the expectations of this program with the great players and coaches before us built and it's just in every fiber of this program. You can feel it. It's a great place to be. I want to congratulate Coach Herman and Texas. What a tremendous year they had. They did a phenomenal job. We had two really hard-fought games with them, including the one today. It's surreal right now. I think everybody expected that we would be here. This is where we felt like we would be at the end of the year, but when you've got to go through the ups and downs, you've got to believe in yourselves. Our players did it, our coaches did and another big year for the Big 12, extremely competitive week-in and week-out. I think our conference right now is doing nothing but



continuing to get stronger, and I think you can see that across all the improvements these teams are all making and how good the games are every single week. This is great football. This was a great football game today and we got a great football team behind us here at OU.

Q. Kyler, your offense has been carrying the defense a lot of the time. Today your defense came up huge. Defense performance all day, what did it do for you and what did the Tre Brown safety in the fourth quarter do for you guys?

KYLER MURRAY: It's something we talked about last night at our meeting behind closed doors, but we felt like we played together on all sides of the ball. That's a good team up there in West Virginia, but I feel like we found ourselves. Defense came up big last week and this week. When we weren't scoring they got stops and that's how football is supposed to be played. I think it was a great team win today, tonight, this morning, yeah.

Q. Lincoln, to carry on with that, every week, although defensive stats didn't always look good you said they always contributed. Tonight they did more, got the stops, safety and all that. Talk about the improvement from this game from the defensive side.

LINCOLN RILEY: Like Kyler said, I thought we have taken big steps the last couple of weeks. Our defense has to play against what other people don't. Because people lineup against us and know that if they don't score 40, chance of winning that game aren't very high.

So they see the best and the most aggressive of each and every offense every single week. There is no doubt there's been things we have needed to do better. We haven't run away from that but we've also felt a lot of confidence of the coaches and players in that room that they would step up when it mattered the most and we did where with two big defensive touchdowns last week or we wouldn't be sitting in Dallas this week, or in Arlington.

Today, we continue to take steps. We're a young defense in that we've got a long of young players and we revamped at mid-season. I feel like we're improving faster than maybe you would expect this time of year because for defense in a lot of ways we're mid-season.

They were awesome today. They were. You take away a couple of those third and longs, I know you can't, but we put them in a lot of tough situations, made big plays, turned the ball over. They played just like we know they can play. I'm so proud of our guys there and excited about what they're going to do in the next one because I think we're going to do absolutely nothing but get better.

Q. Kyler and Lincoln, you lost Marquise along the way, the run game wasn't always operating as efficiently as it normally did. You had to grind this out offensively. Do you take pride in being able to do that on a day where it was a little more difficult than it typically is?

KYLER MURRAY: I mean, as far as the run game goes, they're a good team, but how much did we rush for?

LINCOLN RILEY: 129.

KYLER MURRAY: We threw the ball well. If they're going to sack the box, we got guys on the outside we can throw the ball. I thought we played well when we needed to, as far as running the ball. That one drive where we wasted a lot of clock, it's not easy when everybody knows you're going to run the ball and we still did it. Hats off to the linemen and the guys in the backfield that ran the ball well.

LINCOLN RILEY: We've been thin in some areas, no question about it, and had to have some guys step up and look what Grant Calcaterra did, Lee Morris did, Charleston Rambo did, made that huge throwback catch on the crossing route. Guys continued to make plays and that's the expectation here, no matter who we have, no matter who is playing for us, no matter who gets hurt. The expectations are the same. Our guys lived up to it and fed off our defensive energy and made plays when we needed to.

Q. Lincoln and Kyler and Grant, share your perspective on that clinching touchdown, the throw and the catch and the call, of course?

LINCOLN RILEY: We wanted to give ourselves some options. Texas had been pretty aggressive down there in that area. So we wanted to have an option for Kyler to get rid of the ball quickly if we had the match-up that we liked. We called a play that gave us a few different options. Kyler was decisive. We did a good job picking up the blitz, which I thought we were pretty good on the majority of the day. We gave him time and we made a competitive play. In those situations when somebody outblitzes you, that's what you got to do. It's going to be competitive, and Kyler was decisive, made a great throw. Grant, great catch. Didn't love the spike there, Scrappy. But the catch, that catch will live on in

Oklahoma history forever, what a play.

KYLER MURRAY: Yeah, it's a route I've thrown a million times. I can't tell you how many times I've thrown that route since I got to this school. Something we work on every day, one-on-one's, routes on air and with this guy, I trust him, I thrust anybody in the receiving room we got. They all outblitzed us, and I was taking my chance when I saw the match-up and Grant made a great catch.

GRANT CALCATERRA: There is not much I can say about it. It's something we do every Tuesday, one-on-one's, inside fade and all I had to do was make the play. The play call was there. It was up to me to make the competitive play.

Q. Tre, what were you thinking when you realized you had a clear shot toward Sam Ehlinger?

TRE BROWN: Everything went like, I don't know, I just see lights. Especially when I saw him do play-action pass, I was like, wow, I can't believe he just faked the ball, I got a green light and I took my shot and delivered.

Q. Kyler, do you think you did everything you could or did enough to win over enough Heisman votes?

KYLER MURRAY: I mean, I don't know. I just try to go out and play my game. Was worried about this game and this game only, all of that stuff will take care of itself. It was a great game today and I'm just glad we won.

Q. For Tre and Tre, you watch the West Virginia game, you come up with a couple of big defensive plays and everybody has been asking you when you're going to build on some momentum defensively. Can you talk about what that meant for you guys both to make such big plays down the stretch and what this means for the defense moving forward?

TRE NORWOOD: It comes with us playing as a whole. Our team played great tonight as a whole. I don't think he had any opportunities to get clean throws off and it's something we try to harp on each and every week to keep pressing forward and keep getting better as a group and coming out and playing our games. Those plays are going to come. I feel like we were in the right place at the right time and took advantage of those opportunities.

TRE BROWN: Yeah, looking back at the West Virginia game, seeing what we could do and bodying that the sky is the limit for the defense, we started clicking and coming into this game, defense held it down, did a real good job helping out the offense, you know, when the offense was needing our help and we came through

and did our job. Everybody was just doing their job and you see what happens. There's good results when you are doing your job and the defense comes through.

Q. Lincoln, could you update Marquise Brown's situation and you started out working Marquise a lot and then CeeDee Lamb got hot. Just the thought process in that you have so many weapons and they helped you out today.

LINCOLN RILEY: Marquise wasn't able to come back. I don't know anything further. It's a lower body injury, so we'll see how he does. Marquise was hot early, had a couple of things dialed up to him, we were close on a couple more and didn't quite make the play which was the story the first quarter for us, offensively. I wouldn't say there was anything more we tried to do, it was just the throw of the offense. Kyler did a great job getting through his positions and some of the balls were finding their way to CeeDee. He made some tremendous plays and I thought he was outstanding, other than the fumble on the sidelines, he was outstanding. We've got two good weapons out there. They've produced all year for us. That's been a big key to how explosive we've been.

Q. Tre Brown, on your blitz, that resulted in the safety. Was that the first time you had blitzed today? Was that is a called blitz or an automatic check when you saw that Sam was doing play action?

TRE BROWN: Yes, ma'am. It was the first time I blitzed today, and I felt like the coaches did a really good job knowing what was going on. They made a great call and sent me at the right time and I got home and made it happen.

Q. Both Tre's, obviously you heard about Breckyn Hager and everything he said. Was that something that might have been talked about inside? Kind of feel vindicated you all stepping up today?

TRE BROWN: No, we just control what we can control. We're not worried about the outside noise at all. Everything we do it in the locker room with our teammates and they're going to do what they're going to do and we're going to handle ourselves well and do what we do.

TRE NORWOOD: Like Tre said, we don't worry about the outside noise, about what other people have to say. We know we have to come in each and every day and prepare ourselves and leading up to the game I felt like we did that very well this week.

LINCOLN RILEY: Well done, boys.

Q. For Grant and Kyler, several drives in this game you guys are nowhere without Nick Basquine at

one point, Lee Morris on another drive, without Myles Tease on a couple of others. Charleston may have had just the one catch, but you can't do it without it. I mean, we are used to Marquise and CeeDee constantly, and Grant, but just, what does that say about you guys and whatever? Speak to it.

KYLER MURRAY: I said it all year, we've got a great receiving room. Everybody sees the flash of Marquise and CeeDee, but they're not the only guys in that room. We all know what we have. These guys go to work every day and come to practice every day and work hard, work on their craft and you saw when the time came, we needed everybody today, and they stepped up.

GRANT CALCATERRA: Yeah, I mean, I'm just going off that, we're really deep at the wide out position. I think that's something that gets overshadowed sometimes. We have guys everywhere. Like I said before, it's a matter of who is in the right spot at the right time. If you do your job you will make plays. It's just your job to make those plays when they come.

Q. Coach, you've done the College Football Playoff thing before and you know what's ahead of you. Do you think you guys are playing good enough defense right now to win a national championship?

LINCOLN RILEY: Yes, yes, I do.

Q. Based on what?

LINCOLN RILEY: Based on we've beat everybody on our schedule. You've got to win by win point in these games last time I checked. I feel like we can score points on people and I feel like we can stop people and kind of like in the previous question a few minutes ago, I feel like we're gaining traction defensively are. I feel like we have our highest performances in the last couple of weeks in huge games against dynamic offenses, and I don't think we've played our best yet this year and I think we're going to get there.

I absolutely feel like it. I know how close we were to it last year, to being right there in the last one, and I have every bit as much confidence in this team, this offense, this defense and special teams as I did sitting on this stage last year at this time. I know we can. I have zero doubt.

Q. Lincoln and Kyler, there's quite a few conference championships still going on this afternoon. How is the excitement of winning this maybe shadowed by the fact that you don't know if it's enough to make the playoff?

LINCOLN RILEY: It's two separate things for us. It's goal number one for us was winning the Big 12 Championship for the fourth straight time, and we did

that. No matter what happens for the rest of the day, no matter what they tell us tomorrow, there is another banner going up in our indoor, and another ring going on these guys' finger and another championship trophy going back to Norman, Oklahoma, and you can't take that away from us. I'm proud as hell of that. I think we have a playoff-worthy team and there are other factors we can't control.

We've done all we can. We're 12-1 and one of the best teams in the country, and it's going to fall how it does and we will be excited for the next challenge, regardless of where it is.

Q. Kyler and Lincoln, they started rushing three and dropping eight in the second quarter, and you picked 'em apart. How excited were you to see that? How clear was it to see the field?

KYLER MURRAY: Yeah, I think, you know, the first game it was -- I don't want to say we weren't prepared, but it was just something different that they didn't really do. They weren't familiar with. We prepared this time. You play a lot of teams, a lot of teams started run willing the bring 3 drop 8 against us because at some point you've got to stop the throw. Like I said, we were more prepared this time coming around and the more you play against something, the more comfortable you get with it and I think as an offense, no panic when you see it. We kinda know where to attack it and on that drive we moved down the field, we needed to, it was crucial drive for us and put the ball in the end zone.

Q. Lincoln, you're probably going to be going back to the Heisman ceremony next Saturday. Did you want to make a case for Kyler and why you think he should win it?

LINCOLN RILEY: I know how these things go. This will be the third straight one we've been at. Most coaches, players, you don't every get to go to one of those in our life. I appreciate what it stands for. I know that one, you have to be a great player and you have to be a great player on a great team and Kyler is a great player on a great football team here and I know that would be the first thing he would say. I don't want to compare it to anybody else, because this guy has done a lot of special things. He's done things in college football that have never happened before, but I think the biggest thing for me is he had to do it in big moments. He had to do it with all the talk about Baker and replacing him and there is no chance you're going to be this good and he's had to continually make big plays in big games throughout the entire year and he's done that. He's been the most dynamic player in the country. The things he does, moving, the things he does throwing the football, how good he is mentally, I mean, you saw it today. You saw it today. There's a lot of other great ones out there. I get this, but our guy right here is

pretty special.

Q. Lincoln, you said you have confidence in the team --

LINCOLN RILEY: Don't let that get to your head.

KYLER MURRAY: I won't.

Q. You said you have confidence this team can win a national championship. You have to get to the playoff first, 12-1, won the Big 12 title, beat the only team you've lost this this year have you done never in your opinion to get into the playoff?

LINCOLN RILEY: My opinion doesn't matter and I'm not on the Committee. We've given it everything we have. We have left everything that we've got out there this season. We got a great resume. Again, kind of like the Heisman question, I get there are other great teams out there, but I feel very confident that this team can go forward and continue to win and I think our best ball is ahead of us. Being able to do what this team has done is really remarkable. It really is. We've got some great players behind us. I think a lot of people don't want to play. We'll let the committee do their job. They've got a lot of good things to look at from this team today, I'm sure they were tuned in and watching this and if they did they saw one of the best teams in the country.

THE MODERATOR: Congratulations, guys, and good luck at the next level.



Oklahoma Quotes Coach Ruffin McNeill

Texas vs. Oklahoma
Saturday, December 1, 2018
AT&T Stadium, Arlington, Texas



Defensive Coordinator Ruffin McNeill

Q: *After everything everyone has said, what can you say about this defense after a win like this?*

A: I think the kids, regardless of what people thought, they really have grown a lot as young men. They have learned to face adversity and not quit. Think about how many controversial situations this group has met and faced and didn't quit, when other people may have. I'm very proud of them for that. I like their mentality. They have worked hard every day and their focus never wavered. We have been talking about having great effort, making sure fundamentals were continuing to improve, understanding the game better, and remembering FADO, forget and drive on. I'm proud of the boys.

Q: *Can you take us through the Tre Brown call?*

A: I have called that particular blitz at least eight times before today. It's a blitz where particular players and parts of the field determine who may rush and who may not rush. I thought it was great execution. It proved to be huge late for us.

Big 12 Conference Football Championship Game: Oklahoma vs Texas

Saturday, December 1, 2018

Tom Herman
Sam Ehlinger
Collin Johnson
Chris Nelson
Texas Longhorns

Oklahoma - 39

Texas - 27

THE MODERATOR: Coach Herman will make a brief opening statement, then we will take questions from the floor. Coach?

TOM HERMAN: Hard-fought game. Really proud of our effort. Proud of our physicality. We obviously didn't make enough plays down the stretch. That's a heck of a football team that they have there with an unbelievable offense. I thought for the most part we stopped the run decently. I don't know what they had there, 129 yards rushing for a team that was I think over the last six games they were 290 yards or more a game.

Extremely disappointed in the outcome for these seniors, especially. This is something they had worked so hard for the last 12 months. To come up just short is a tough pill to swallow, but I told them that losing is supposed to hurt. We're going to play -- we've earned the right to the play in a big-time bowl game, and we can't let this game or its outcome affect our preparation as we get ready to play in that bowl game.

Q. Sam, did you see the blitz coming on the safety?

SAM EHLINGER: Absolutely not.

Q. Was that anything they had shown?

SAM EHLINGER: Yeah, that was something they had been -- they had shown it a little bit, not consistently. It seemed to be their game plan blitz. Unfortunately, we didn't pick it up in our slide and it was my fault for not seeing him, because I was looking the other way.



Q. You and Collin obviously, it worked well today. Was it as simple as going after Motley or were there specific play calls? Did y'all want to pick on Motley?

SAM EHLINGER: No, we weren't trying to pick on anyone. We were running our offense. Collin is an incredible athlete, and he's done a lot of great things this year. We knew when the ball was in the air he was going to go get it. I was just giving him a chance, and he had a great day.

Q. Tom, was two of the biggest factors the big plays that erased some of the plays too little pressure on Kyler Murray in the passing game?

TOM HERMAN: Yes. I echo your sentiments. We had some aggressive penalties that were called that certainly hurt us, and you know, first and second down pass rush on Murray for him to sit back there as long as he could, and you know, he gets a ton of credit and deservedly so for how quick and elusive he is. But, you know, his release and accuracy are elite as well.

His guys did a good job of getting a tiny bit of separation, and he put the ball right where he needed to.

Q. You're a perfect start and you're up 14-6. What went wrong after that where the offense wasn't able to put up those kind of points for the rest of the way?

TOM HERMAN: I don't know. I would have to look at the film to tell you. I felt like we weren't running the ball like we thought we would be able to. That was certainly an issue. When you're kind of playing one-handed a little bit, throwing the football. There are things that can happen. I think the thing that they did well was with their drives in the first half. When their drives stalled, they stalled in the red zone and they were able to get field goals out of it. When our drives stalled, we were just outside of field goal range. It's a matter of 10, 15 yards on those drives to kind of match those points and they got field goals out of them and, you know, we wound up having to punt.

Q. Sam, can you describe the range of emotions you felt in that very short time span from the time Texas defense got the turnover and just a short time later the safety?

SAM EHLINGER: A lot of emotions. Throughout the

whole entire game, that's what is so special about these type of environments. Yeah, we had an opportunity, our defense did a great job of getting the ball back to us, and then offensively we didn't take care of our part of the bargain. That's on us. That's on me. I will make it my mission to never let this team or this school feel this disappointment again.

Q. I know this wound is fresh, but what did you learn about your program this year?

TOM HERMAN: I learned that our guys love each other. I learned that our guys believe in our plan, that they are completely and utterly bought in. I've learned that, you know, we're the kings of close ball games. I know that. I learned that these guys have a ton of confidence in themselves and their teammates' preparation, and we never feel like we're out of a game.

SAM EHLINGER: I think that we learned that we can hang with anybody when we play well. So that's going to give us a lot of confidence heading into the bowl game and heading into next year. I think, like Coach said, we really bought into what the coaches preached and we loved each other and we've learned that the only thing that can stop us is us. The games that we've lost we've hurt ourselves. I think that, while that's very frustrating, I think it's enlightening to know that we are going in the right direction. We can fix those things.

Q. Coach Herman, how do you balance the disappointment that you have right now after a 9-1 season, but also knowing that two years ago this was a 5-win program that many people didn't expect would be here. How do you balance your disappointment now understanding the progress that has been made?

TOM HERMAN: It's difficult. Losing is supposed to hurt, and with a 1-0 mentality that we have we don't worry about the big picture. We went 0-1 today. When we wake up tomorrow, it's our job to prepare to go 1-0 in the bowl game. After the bowl game, I think we will do some reflection and be very proud of where we've come. But there's just not anytime for that right now. We've got a game to prepare for starting tomorrow. I do know that whenever we're done with our bowl game we will reflect on the season and realize truly just how much progress we have made.

Q. Tom, Kyler had another big game today. Do you think he deserves to win the Heisman? And as far as OU as a team they're in the playoff mix. Do you think they deserve to be in after this win?

TOM HERMAN: I don't get to vote in the Heisman, so I haven't been following any other teams or players. But I do know he is an elite player. He's really good and he deserves all the credit in the world.

As a team, I don't know what else is out there. I unfortunately don't have time to watch a lot of college football for our opponents, so it would be unfair for me to comment on where they stack up in the country.

Q. Collin or Chris, due to your penalties, do you feel like this is one where you shot yourself in the foot and let get away from you guys?

CHRIS NELSON: Obviously, yeah. Penalties are never good, hurts the team. But we are going to look on and correct it and move forward from it.

COLLIN JOHNSON: Those penalties definitely hurt us. But, again, we have no say on the call. We just gotta kinda figure out a way to overcome it and we weren't able to do that today. But it definitely hurt us, that's for sure.

Q. Nelly, what was the plan to Kyler today? You guys used a three-man front a lot. How would you describe what y'all wanted to do?

CHRIS NELSON: We pretty much wanted to contain them, stop the run first, but we just wanted to contain them, get pressure.

Q. What did y'all expect out of Kennedy Brooks and Trey Sermon, their running game. What were y'all's thoughts about how well they could run the ball coming into this?

CHRIS NELSON: At the end of the day just game tackling, making sure we wrapped up and coming into the game we wanted to stop the running game. That was our mentality.

Q. Sam, as explosive as Collin was today, is it tempting to throw to him nearly every darn play?

SAM EHLINGER: Yeah, it is, until they double and triple team him. Make an effort to take him away. I have so much respect and love for Collin. He's an incredible athlete.

Q. Chris, you've watched Sam grow into one of the better quarterbacks in the Big 12. I know you got one big bowl game left. What do you think it's going to look like with him assuming the reigns again next year and becoming one of the better quarterbacks in the country?

CHRIS NELSON: I feel he's going to lead this team to greatness because of his competitiveness and I like his fight. He has great effort for the guys and has a love for the game, so I feel like this team is going to be a long ways.

Q. Collin, since you broke the Big 12 record, no one has ever had more receiving yards in the Big 12 Championship game. With that said, can you think about that kind of thing when -- better

question. Can you celebrate the fact of how much you guys have changed? It was kind of like what Sam was talking about earlier and Coach Herman. Can you celebrate any way of how much you've seen this program change in your time here?

COLLIN JOHNSON: You know, I wouldn't use the word "celebrate," but that's definitely a positive in the direction this program is going.

Coach Herman has done an unbelievable job of bringing his culture in. The guys bought in, and we're sitting here at a championship game. We haven't done that in a long time. Obviously, we fell short today, but there's definitely positives. In a time like this, you've got to focus on the positives and get back to work.

Q. Tom, for both you and Sam, it's looking like you guys should be in the Sugar Bowl, just the fact that Texas is going to possibly be in a New Year's Six bowl, how do y'all feel about that?

TOM HERMAN: I've never been to a bad bowl game, so they're all good. Obviously, those New Year's six ones are special and the ones that I've been a part of they are phenomenally well run, great experiences for our players and, you know, it would be an honor to represent our university in one of those games.

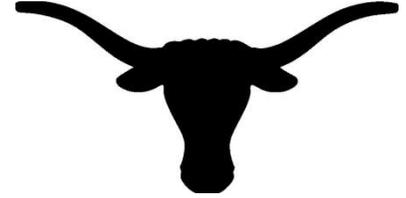
SAM EHLINGER: I don't really have a comment. We're still at AT&T Stadium.

THE MODERATOR: Congratulations, guys, and good luck at your bowl game.



Texas Quotes Student-Athletes

Texas vs. Oklahoma
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AT&T Stadium, Arlington, Texas



Sr. TE Andrew Beck

Q. Do you think penalties played a role in the outcome?

A. Yeah, I always think it's hard to win when you have ... I don't even remember how many penalties we ended up having. [Reporter: 13] Uhh yeah, that makes it hard to win when you're going backwards that many times, so I do think that had an impact. So we'll watch the film and see how we can improve. Usually when there are penalties, it's technique issues which thankfully are fixable. So we'll look into it and see how we can fix it.

Q. How would you describe that momentum turn when Gary got the fumble and they got the safety?

A. Yeah, they did a good job dialing up a defense that we hadn't seen from them. I think they've run -- this entire season sitting down with the coaches and watching film -- they've run corner chop once. One play. So they just so happened to dial it up at a good time for them and our slide couldn't quite get there. So it stinks and one we'd like to have back. But it's a game of chess and they got that one.

Q. Is Oklahoma better than they were in October?

A. A lot of credit to them. They're a good team. But I don't know how much better they've gotten like I said when we were talking on Tuesday. They didn't sign anybody else since the last time we played them. They made a couple of adjustments and we shot ourselves in the foot a couple of times with penalties.

Q. What are the biggest differences you saw in them defensively today?

A. Not a whole lot.

Q. What did you see from Sam Ehlinger in the locker room after the game?

A. He's bummed, just like everybody else is. Thankfully for him, I'm excited for his future. He's going to play in this game a couple of more times before he leaves here. So he's got no reason to be bummed. I know he wanted to win it. Everybody that was in that locker room wanted to. But like I said, I'm excited for him and this entire team's future because they're going to be back here real soon.

Sr. LB Gary Johnson

Q. When you chased down CeeDee Lamb, did you just think "make a play"?

A. Yes sir. We practice that every day. Always swarm to the ball, no matter what. You never know what could happen and that pretty much showed why it's important to always swarm to the ball.

Q. Did you feel like that was going to be the game-changing play?

A. Definitely thought it swung the momentum. But momentum is illusion so it wasn't like that. I just wanted to make a play, and once I did, bring some juice to my team.

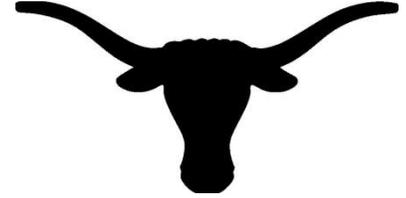
Q. What did you think of the emotional swing when they got the safety?

A. Just try to go get the ball back again. Things happen. Adversity hits. That's something I was telling my guys. You know, 'let's go make a play.'



Texas Quotes Student-Athletes

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Sr. LB Gary Johnson (cont.)

Q. What were you thinking after you forced that fumble?

A. We practice that every day – we always swarm to the ball no matter what because you never know what can happen. We always try to hustle.”

Q. What would you say about the team’s overall performance today?

A. We came to play today, we played physical. We came up short, which is something that hurts the most, but that’s a tremendous offense.”

Jr. WR Lil’ Jordan Humphrey

Q. How did the penalties play a part in the loss?

A. I thought we kind of shot ourselves in the foot and we can’t do that. They played a big part in the loss so we have to do better in that aspect.

Q. How does this game stack up compared to other big games you have played in the past?

A. With the rest of them. Every game means a lot to us and this was the Big 12 Championship, but we didn’t come out with the win.

Jr. DB Brandon Jones

Q. How big was the Gary Johnson forced fumble as culture play?

A. It kind of set up some momentum as a team. We kind of strive on making those culture plays to make a statement and try to be the most physical team on the field at all times.

Q. You rushed three and dropped eight and Oklahoma got some massive plays, is that just not the personality of this defense?

A. Honestly, I’m not sure. I think overall we have to do a better job of finishing. There were a lot of mistakes on myself in man coverage, which I should have made – plays that I’m capable of making that I didn’t make. I just think it’s the little stuff that we have to correct mistake-wise. If you minimize the mistakes, it takes away a lot of their big plays.

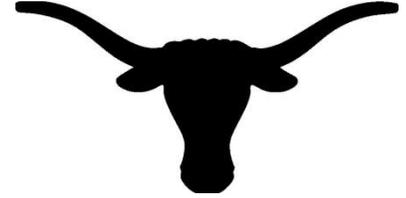
Q. What was the emotional swing of the turnover, then allowing a safety and having to go back on the field?

A. It is what it is. We thought that would be a momentum bringer to the team. Stuff happens. It’s football. It’s not always going to go your way. You’re always going to face adversity multiple times, so you just have to play off of that.



Texas Quotes Student-Athletes

Texas vs. Oklahoma
Saturday, December 1, 2018
AT&T Stadium, Arlington, Texas



Sr. LB Anthony Wheeler

Q. What was the turning point in this game?

A. Coming out of the second half, we made too many mental mistakes. Against an offense like Oklahoma, you can't make mistakes like that.

Q. Do you feel like a New Year's Day kind of bowl team?

A. I feel like we are. Regardless, if we lost, I feel like we won by the way we played. I feel like we played hard and never gave up.

Q. What did you do to make Oklahoma one-dimensional?

A. The game plan was to stop the run first and then get back there and get to Kyler Murray if we could.

Q. What was the mood like in the locker room after the game?

A. Everybody in there hurt. It was really emotional. Just thinking about this game and what we could have done better. We know we have to get back to work on Monday to get ready for the bowl game.

Jr. OL Zach Shackelford

Q. Are there things you can take forward with you from this game?

A. Yes and no. Yes, in the fact that we can find some positives in the fact that we got here from where we were last year. No, in the fact that we didn't just come here to take part. We came here to win, which was disappointing, but we have to learn from it and get better.

Q. What was the atmosphere like?

A. I thought it was an electric atmosphere, one of the best I've ever played in.

Q. How much did the penalties hurt?

A. It takes us back five yards every time. In that sense, it hurts, but at the same time we just have to move on to the next play. In terms of long term, we have to learn from it and get better.