



OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

OKLAHOMA QUOTES • HEAD COACH LINCOLN RILEY

OKLAHOMA 56, UTEP 7 • SEPT. 2, 2017

Opening statement:

“I thought it took us a little bit to settle in, especially defensively there on the first drive but after that, I was really proud of how our kids responded. It was a complete effort. Offensively, we moved the ball well the majority of the day. We didn’t get the one fourth down, which was probably the big disappointment but I thought we did a good job at the line of scrimmage, thought we did a good job handling some of their pressure that they started to come at us with as the game went on and had a lot of young guys and first-timers make a lot of good plays, which I would say was probably the biggest positive. Defensively, had some chances right there on the first drive, a couple of third downs misaligned a few times. Again, there’s some young guys in there trying hard and I was really proud of the way they settled down. Our coaches did a great job of settling them down and they really settled in and played well defensively. Again, controlled the line of scrimmage, made competitive plays, didn’t allow another score after that which was huge for our team. Special teams were solid all day long. Were close to a couple returns that we thought were good but I was proud of the way our guys fielded the ball, proud of the way we covered on special teams, and probably the biggest thing – it’s fun to see this team get off to a great start, which has been a . . . very big point of emphasis for this group. We’ve really taken it personal the way we’ve played early in the year the last few years, so we know this is just one game and one start, but it’s a good start. I’m proud of the way we competed together and the way we finished the game.”

On his quarterbacks’ performances:

“We kept the ball in play. It’s only a few balls, a few plays in the game was the ball not in play. We stayed in front of the chains, we didn’t have many third downs at all – seven third downs, a lot of those were at the end of the game. We did a good job – protected well, again, they made some nice throws and some solid decisions. I was really proud, again, of the way our receivers stepped up, the way those guys played. The competitive plays, especially, that we made were a big point of emphasis. And then to see our young guys step up around those quarterbacks and make some of those plays was big.”

On linebacker Kenneth Murray’s performance:

“We were keeping a close eye on him. He made a few mistakes early, which is to be expected, but I was really proud of the maturity he showed in settling in. A lot of freshmen

wouldn’t be able to do that and he settled in after the first series and played very well for us. Did some nice things mentally, some good checks for us there, made some plays physically, which he’s going to continue to make more of as he grows and gets more comfortable. I thought it was a really solid first start for him.”

On entering the locker room after his first win as head coach:

“It was fun. Not because it was my debut, but because it was a great moment for our team. And again, our first chance to do this and we’ve all – the whole team, the whole program – has been through a lot in the past few months and so to finally just get out there and do what we love to do, to get a chance to compete together and do it the first one here at home was fun . . . We enjoy winning here and we don’t take it for granted. Wins are hard, they’re all hard, and we appreciate this one very much. It was a fun locker room.”

On how he’ll remember his debut as head coach in 20 years:

“It still doesn’t feel that much different. It feels like another fun first game and I’ll probably remember the young guys who stepped up and played well, again, part of the whole situation from June 7th up until today, the thing I’ll remember the most is how our team, our staff have responded to all this change, and so today was the culmination of that for me.”

On quarterback Baker Mayfield’s connection with the receivers:

“You guys have heard me say it a million times in the last couple of months – that’s been a huge focus point for us, getting him settled in with those guys and you can’t get settled in if you don’t trust them. You’ve got to give them chances. Baker did that today and gave those guys chances and trusted them. Their confidence is going to grow, Baker’s confidence in them is going to grow and that’ll be, obviously, a good thing for us.”

On tight end Mark Andrews’ performance:

“He played well. We felt like he was going to have a chance to be a big weapon for us. He’s grown a lot in the past few years from being an every-other-down type of guy to being out there and playing long stretches at a time. He played really well. I thought he was really good after the catch today. He’s been able to run away from some people in the past. I was excited



OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

today to see him run through some people and use not only that speed and quickness that he has and is very gifted with, but some power.”

On preparing for Ohio State:

“Regardless of who we play next, I think we know more about our team now. We’ll know even more as we get a chance to get back and study the tape. We’ll know what we’re going to become, and seeing the start of that and starting to find out where your strengths are and where your holes are and you’ve got to get better, and that’s kind of all part of this process. Again, regardless of who we play, we definitely learned a lot in that first game and we’ll find a lot of good and find a lot of things we need to get back to work on.”

On the running backs:

“We think they’re all pretty good players. I thought they were steady, we had some big runs. I think those guys will grow to pop more big ones. When you get those first ones in the game, it takes some time. All the sudden you come out on the second level where you run through a couple of tackles and now the next step is hitting some of those big ones and I think you even saw the growth of that even in the previous years from Joe [Mixon] and Samaje [Perine]. As they got more comfortable, older, more used to those situations, they got better at that. Our guys did a good job in pass pro, which is obviously always probably your number one concern with young backs... I thought they all ran hard, all ran well, all had some good runs and were all close to bumping a few. I think we have a deep room and we’ll continue to get a lot of competition.”

On whether the Sooners will continue to spread the ball around the way they did against UTEP:

“We’ll see. Part of that’s on how the game goes and on how healthy you stay. We want to be multiple. We don’t ever want people to be able to say, ‘they can only run it’ or ‘they can only hand it to this guy or hand it to that guy.’ If you do, people are going to be able to take that away and expose you, so we want to be multiple all the way around.”



OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

OKLAHOMA QUOTES • DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR MIKE STOOPS

OKLAHOMA 56, UTEP 7 • SEPT. 2, 2017

On the first quarter:

"We were a little bit antsy and out of sorts. The guys were trying to do too much; I think they were too excited. We didn't play very fundamental football going into the first drive and that's what happens. Got out of position- some blitzes, lost contain on a blitz, didn't cover the right guys. We were just kind of out of sorts there and finally settled down and started playing, playing a little better. Schematically, we went in with very limited plan and didn't try to do a whole lot and just and go out there and execute and play fundamental football.

On celebrating Lincoln Riley's first win as a head coach:

"Oh, I think everyone is excited to get this, ya' know, out of the way and excited for him and let his era begin and like I say, he has great support from everybody inside these walls and everybody goes out and tries to do their jobs and make it easier on him because we know he has a lot to do."

On players getting a chance to play in the second half:

"That's always the most satisfying part of it, to see that many players get a chance to play and it's very meaningful to them. I know the scores out of reach but it tells you a little bit about them and how they go on the field and how they take it and I think you see we have a lot of young talent in a lot of different positions. So, we have to keep developing it, but Tyreece Lott, for a young kid, another guy that just handles himself so maturely...It's fun to see those guys play and get an opportunity."

On Jordan Parker's status:

"Well, Tre Brown and Tre Norwood have both done really good things, so, based on what happens to JP, we'll take that next step with one of those guys, but they've been really good in camp...It's going to be a learning experience for them as we move up and the competition obviously this week."



OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

OKLAHOMA QUOTES · PLAYERS

OKLAHOMA 56, UTEP 7 • SEPT. 2, 2017

SENIOR QUARTERBACK BAKER MAYFIELD

On his performance:

"Me and the receivers made some plays, a couple great plays. Mark (Andrews) had a catch that should've been a touchdown, my pass was a little high. The young guys made some competitive plays. CeeDee Lamb made a great catch and took a shot from the safety and held onto the ball. Plenty guys made plays today, Jeff Badet with the long post ball, went up and made a play when the ball was underthrown. Receivers played well."

On building chemistry with his receivers:

"It'll get there. It's the first game but it was a good start. Dede (Westbrook) last year was a special breed, but I think Jeff Badet and Marquise Brown are comparable. They're a completely different kind of receiver, they can run so you have to let the ball go early. All of our guys though, Grant (Calcaterra), CeeDee (Lamb), Mark (Andrews), I just wanted to give all of them a chance to catch the ball and make a play. Jeff Badet has some real speed, though."

On Mark Andrews:

"I don't know what the roster says but he's almost 260 (lbs.) and he's moving well. He's a guy that you look at the stat sheet and he's got seven catches for 134 yards so I have to get him the ball. He's going to make competitive plays. Him and Dimitri (Flowers) are going to play a big role for us this year. He's part of the great leadership we have here so it was great to see him come out and have a good first game. It was good for him to come out and prove that we're not going to just talk about it but we're going to be about it."

On Lincoln Riley's first game as head coach:

"He did pretty good, I'd say. The defense played well other than giving up that first touchdown but that's adjustments that we'll be able to make. Coach Mike Stoops and Ruffin (McNeill) do a great job on that side of the ball. You stay locked in and the result is going to be something like that. We have great players around here so we just have to trust them."

JUNIOR RUNNING BACK MARCELIAS SUTTON

On Oklahoma's depth at running back:

"It's the best unit in the nation I feel like. We're all strong. We've got our own strengths, but together as a unit I feel like we're strong."

On Lincoln Riley's debut:

"I just wanted to get out there and give him his first 'W' as a head

coach and that's what we did."

On mindset for Ohio State:

"My mindset is on Monday's practice to be honest. Taking it one day at a time for my team and that's it."

REDSHIRT SOPHOMORE QUARTERBACK KYLER MURRAY

On his touchdown pass to Lee Morris:

"Obviously, it is a special moment for me and Lee. I never thought that it would be Lee who caught my first touchdown pass at OU, but crazy things happen. The play that Coach [Lincoln] Riley called, we just executed."

On playing for the first time in two years:

"It was a little weird. It was like I was out there two days ago. It did not feel like I had not been out there in two years. I was comfortable. The guys were behind me, everybody played good; the line blocked good, the receivers did their job, and the running backs ran the ball so it was all good."

On the newcomers' first performances:

"I think we have been preaching it all camp. Coach Riley has been preaching starting fast and I think that is what we try and come out here and do. Obviously, last year and the year before that it has taken a loss to get us going and we did not want to come out here and disappoint and we want to start fast and the guys were really ready to play another team."

On having Coach Lincoln Riley as the Head Coach:

"It felt normal. I think that all of the guys trust him. I think that shows that he is a great coach, great to the quarterback room so he obviously relates to us well, and we can trust him and we know that."

SENIOR FULLBACK DIMITRI FLOWERS

On the win and the offense's performance:

"It was great. It was good to finally go against someone other than our own defense. I felt like we did really well offensively; a lot of players stepped up. Everyone played well for us and at the end of the day that is what we are looking for going into the game."

On the quick start after slow starts the past few years:

"It was huge. You look at the past two seasons; we lost at Houston and we stalled in that first quarter [vs. Akron in 2015] a couple of years ago. I think our first two drives were touchdowns and that is



OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

the epitome to us is starting fast and we think we accomplished that task.”

On the depth of the team:

“The depth of this team is just amazing. We have playmakers all over the ball and we have people that can step up and they did not even touch the ball today. That speaks volumes to this team and how deep we are.”

REDSHIRT JUNIOR TIGHT END MARK ANDREW

On Riley’s debut:

“Incredible. It was a great start and fast. It was a good game.”

On other receivers getting involved:

“It’s tough. You know there are so many guys that are explosive. There are a lot of young guys. I thought everyone stepped up. There were a lot of doubts about this receiving corps and I thought it was big for us to come out and catch the ball and play really well.”

On Baker’s performance making his job easier:

“You know when your quarterback puts it right in the bread basket it makes it easier on you. It makes life a lot easier. For him to do that, it makes our job easier so that we don’t have to do too much. We give him credit.”

On receivers chemistry with Baker Mayfield:

“Anytime you have a group of guys around the quarterback more often . . . I mean I’ve been around for four years now and I feel confident. I know what he’s thinking. It’s a big part to have that chemistry with your receivers. It has helped a lot.”

REDSHIRT SENIOR WIDE RECEIVER JEFF BADET

On being involved with the offense:

“It feels great for how long I’ve been away from football. Finally being able to go against someone else rather than our defense for three and a half weeks. . . it is kind of hard for guys to stay focus. It was fun. I had a lot of fun today.”

On what you learned from the team:

“I learned a lot. Just seeing everyone come together. . . like Coach Riley was telling us that we get a chance to go out there and play as a team. That is what I saw today. We played as a team.”

On being surprised about all the new faces performance:

“I was not surprised at all. Those guys are making the plays that count.”

REDSHIRT JUNIOR OFFENSIVE LINE ORLANDO BROWN

On team’s performance:

“It felt really good. Obviously to come out here and play with these guys. . . you know finally, like Coach Riley has been saying, play as one. . . play as one whole unit. I mean we were super happy. Going out there and being able to score and knowing that the defense was going to hold them to a three and out. . . it makes our job a lot easier.”

On Mayfield’s performance:

“I am always amazed. He takes a lot of pride in what he does as a quarterback. He has been very consistent for us over the last three years. I’m proud of him. I’m just glad he is the quarterback.”

On the offense’s performance:

“Consistency is the key. You know I think that is what will put us in the Big 12 Championship contention. Obviously, for the playoff contention and for the National Championship. It being our first game, we’ve got 11 more that are definitely in the book but we got to wait until we get there. We have to get better everyday.”

REDSHIRT SENIOR FULLBACK JAXON UHLES

On his opportunity to play:

“Just to be out there with the offense for the last couple years, especially on special teams. It’s fun. It’s what we’ve been working for. It’s a pleasure to be out there in front of the fans.”

On how crazy his week has been:

“It has been a great week. Not too crazy. I have a lot of friends and family in Norman that are very supportive and I’m thankful for that. I try to stay focused on the game and doing my job.”

On scoring a touchdown:

“It was awesome. I was happy to get in there and look for some lineman to celebrate with and congratulate them. They helped me out big time there.”

SOPHOMORE RUNNING BACK ABDUL ADAMS

On getting the season started:

“It felt great to go up against an opponent. Just to go out there and ball with my teammates felt good.”

On the running lanes:

“First and foremost it starts at practice – high intensity. If we practice high intensity than it will go into the games.”



OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

On being the starting running back post Joe Mixon and Samaje Perine:

"It definitely means a lot. First and foremost I need to thank God. I really have been working hard all off season."

On the biggest improvement from the off season:

"My pass protection. I strengthened my speed."

On nerves of today:

"I was not nervous at all. I was ready from last year from traveling with the guys and I was encouraged. I was used to the setting and the environment. Coming from high school, I never really played in front of 90,000 people. It was always like 400 or 500-plus. I just felt ready from experience."

On lessons learned from Joe Mixon and Samaje Perine:

"I learned a lot. The way they carried themselves on the field. I just used that toward my game and getting me ready for this season."

REDSHIRT SENIOR DEFENSIVE END/LINEBACKER OGBONNIA OKORONKWO

On how he felt about the game:

"We were pounding on them. Got a bunch of guys going in their first start. Got them back to the sidelines and told everybody to keep their poise, you know how we play, you know what we do. Just keep playing hard and everybody do their job. That's what we do."

On somebody messing up:

"I saw what was going on out there, so I knew exactly who messed up. I told everybody just keep our poise and we'll be fine."

On freshman Kenneth Murray:

"After the first series, he was really upset. He didn't like that we got scored on. He was really upset. I told him it's football man you just got to forget it and go on. I told him you can't control everything out there, you can only do your job and do your job as good as you can."

On the energy the young guys bring:

"The young guys, they're scrappy. They love to compete. They bring a whole new edge to our team. They brought the competitive fire back. I like what they've done to the culture of our team."

SENIOR DEFENSIVE BACK STEVEN PARKER

On the first game as senior captain:

"I have emotions going through my head. I had a lot of family friends here and was with all of my brothers. I was just playing for all of the people who have sacrificed so much for me to be here."

On Ohio State next week:

"Ohio State is a great team and very well coached. We are going to come out with a great game plan and do what we have to do to come out on top."

On any differences between Lincoln Riley and Bob Stoops:

"No, I would not say there is any at all. It really is the same exact thing. We still run the same defense and everybody is ready to play just like they were with Bob. Coach Riley is a player's coach and we all love him. We showed how much we love him and each other. We also have guys who are going through other stuff like the Houston hurricane, so it brings us all together."

On the pre-game message Friday night:

"He (Riley) basically just put it on us. We all had a say and he called a couple of guys out. It was one of those things where you see that we are brothers when it comes to this. It is not just about football, it is about life. We came together even closer than we have been as a team and we really appreciated each other."

On the performance of the freshman class:

"They have done a fantastic job. We have had a lot of competition throughout summer, camp and these past couple of weeks. They have done a great job and have really helped the team. I would say they are ahead of most freshman classes."

SOPHOMORE CORNERBACK PARNELL MOTLEY

On settling in:

"After that first drive we tried to do some stuff to slow it down and get back to playing Oklahoma football."

On his performance:

"I think my performance was good but it could've been better. There were some technical issues. We've just got to be better and keep pushing forward, especially when we're playing a better opponent like Ohio State."

On getting his first start:

"It was a great relief, just to get the feet wet and just to get things going. The game slows down after the first thought and the first drive. Now everything's coming to me and I'm back to my old ways."

On the tone Steven Parker set:

"That's what a team leader does. He stepped up and set an example for how to keep them from scoring. That was great for Steven Parker, who's a team captain and a great leader."



OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

UTEP QUOTES • HEAD COACH SEAN KUGLER

OKLAHOMA 56, UTEP 7 • SEPT. 2, 2017

Opening Statement:

“We were outmatched. I knew going into the game that’s a potential national champion quality offense, that’s one of the better offensive lines that I’ve seen. They put things together, they have an outstanding quarterback, he can move on his feet and he really understands the game. He (Baker Mayfield) made some great throws, some really accurate throws, and really accurate deep throws. They have an outstanding team, we weren’t physically matching up with them, especially defensively. We had one good drive, but then had some penalties and some drops. I didn’t think our quarterbacks played inefficiently we just didn’t do much to help them out.”



OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

UTEP QUOTES • PLAYERS

OKLAHOMA 56, UTEP 7 • SEPT. 2, 2017

JUNIOR QUARTERBACK RYAN METZ

On the start of the game:

“Yes, first drive, driving down the field and score a touchdown, that was big for us. We’ve got to keep that consistency through the game and I’ve got to do a lot better job of making some better throws and better decisions. I don’t think I threw risky balls, but sometimes I have to make those kind of plays to get us down the field.”

On OU wearing them down:

“They had some big guys, I think we still matched up pretty well, but they just had some bigger guys. I think we still did a lot of good things, a lot of good things to come from this, but it’s a progression we’ve got to make.”