



Duke University

Head Coach David Cutcliffe Quotes

Sept. 16 – Baylor Game

Head coach David Cutcliffe

On moving to 3-0 with a win on his birthday ...

“Those sure do help, no question, because it can actually be my birthday tonight which is great. We also have Matt Guerrieri on our staff [celebrating a birthday] and I’m going to mention that. Happy for Matt to pick up the win. Happy for our team and what was a very hard-fought game against a dangerous Baylor team. I’ve told people all along, we’ve got to stop explosives. And we did it, except for when they scored. That’s literally what occurred. Nobody in this country is catching number 14, [Chris] Platt. It was a hard-fought victory and as I told them in the locker room, this game will make us better. But it can be even more useful if we take it in practice and correct the things we see on Tuesday and Wednesday, etc. Then it’s going to make us better.”

On how the defense responded to giving up big plays on touchdowns but shutting Baylor down in the run of play ...

“I’ve thought about this a lot as our program has grown. This is probably the team that has had the most competitiveness between the offense and the defense. It’s not the first time that the defense has given up some plays – great spring practice and camp. It’s also not the first time the offense has had it handed to them, which we had some out there. I think that’s the critical part of the growth of the program. We hope we can maintain that kind of balance. The best teams I’ve ever been around resulted from that kind of competitiveness.”

On Shaun Wilson’s performance and leadership ...

“Every time we get Shaun healthy, it kind of shows. He felt good today. [Athletic trainer] Hap [Zarzur] told me yesterday that he said it was the best he’s felt and that showed. He’s dynamic. And I don’t think we’re there – we’re not at an arrival. Shaun Wilson can continue to get better and better. He’s an outstanding receiver, he’s a broken field runner, he’s a tough runner. There’s just so many things that he can build on, and if he’s going to be back there returning punts, we’ve got to work on that a little bit. We saw a strange guy today that can just flat bomb it. But overall, Shaun Wilson may have played as well as a back’s played for us since we’ve been here.”

On the team’s fourth quarter performance on both sides of the ball ...

“And in the kicking game, which I told our guys at halftime, ‘That’s what it’s going to come down to.’ And also there when we had the timeout in the quarter change, I went everywhere and I made the statement, ‘It’s not holding four fingers up. What we’re getting ready to have to do is understanding how we’ve got to play to win this game. It’s going to take all three phases to get it done.’ And we were able to do that.”

“I like the fact that it was hot. And it was really hot. It was different, it was unique in that regard. And I thought both teams did that. And let me say this, [Baylor head coach] Matt Rhule and that staff did a tremendous job of rallying that team. And I could tell before the ball game talking to him, he felt good about their response to the staff. Their defensive staff, we saw hardly anything we had seen or prepared for from the first two games. So Daniel [Jones], it was a difficult. He really was mentally tough and was able to hang in there. It wasn’t pretty always, it wasn’t perfect, but we were able to get it done.”