



FOOTBALL

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WEST VIRGINIA VS. BAYLOR / POSTGAME QUOTES MILAN PUSKAR STADIUM / OCTOBER 25, 2018

West Virginia coach Dana Holgorsen

Opening Statement

(I'm) really proud of our guys - coaches and players - for what they've done in the last 12 days, (They were) pretty determined after 12 days ago. (We) thought at the time that wasn't who we are, and that's not who we are. There's about 12 older guys that I really lean on and they really stepped up and took this team and said 'we're going to practice hard, we're going to work hard and we're going to go out there and play hard' and that's what we did. We finally played a complete game, four quarters. Overall, I'm just happy with what we did today.

On tonight's offensive performance

We didn't just three-and-out and stink early. We moved the ball, had good field position, played really good defensively. (We) just sputtered a little bit and had to kick field goals. I was a little disappointed on a couple of those field goals, but I've got a lot of confidence in (redshirt sophomore kicker) Evan (Staley). We stuck with it and ended up getting some field goals. That's not really what this team has been doing all year, but there's going to be times where we need to do that. (We) made some adjustments, kept plugging away and started doing a better job of finishing some drives. That's just football. It's just the way things go.

On the defensive effort

It's hard to argue with what they did. (They) created turnovers and won the turnover battle 4-0. I don't have the field position numbers, but I'm assuming we dominated field position with turnovers, with making them punt quick. We tackled better. That's one of the things that we came out of that game with last week. I didn't think that's who we were, but we just didn't do a good job of tackling. We missed 31 tackles, I think. I knew that's not who we were. Same thing with blocking. I said this all week and have been saying it to them for 12 days: block and tackle like you did in the first five games and that's pretty much what we did. Numbers-wise, it's hard to beat

On redshirt senior quarterback Will Grier's performance

I thought he was solid, I really did. He managed it well. The thing I liked about it is we had a whole bunch of people touch the ball. There were a lot of guys that went in there and touched the ball. He's spreading the ball around a lot. He did a good job of preparing all week and made a lot of good checks at the line of scrimmage, which is one that he does great. (He) threw completions, managed it well and brought a lot of energy. I was really proud of how he played.

On the play of the running backs

All of those guys need to be involved. (Junior running back Martell) Pettaway looked as good as I've seen him look. He broke through, stuck his toe in the ground, made a safety miss and scored. All four bring something to the table. The good news is we don't have to rely on just one of them. We're a running back by committee team and all of those guys bring a little something different to the table. It's nice to have all those guys healthy

Baylor coach Matt Rhule

Opening Statement

Obviously, it was a disappointing night. We didn't play very well. A lot of credit to West Virginia. I thought they played well in all phases. We'll have to go back to the drawing board, regroup and try to get ready to go beat Oklahoma State next week. Obviously, everyone in that room is disappointed. We didn't see it coming. We thought we practiced and prepared well. I thought our defense hung in there early. The offense had some uncharacteristic turnovers, but eventually, it just proved to be too much. There is not much you can say about the game other than credit to them and disappointment on our end. We'll go back and get back to work.

On if there is an update on sophomore quarterback Charlie Brewer

He came off, and I was talking to him. He looked a little bit out of it on that pick. I said 'are you ok?' I called the trainer over, and I know that is an evaluation process. They haven't diagnosed anything to me yet, so they just said 'hey, we are evaluating him, and he is done for now.'

On how frustrating the turnovers were

Playing against a great offense like that, you just can't keep giving them layups. They were about to be big plays for us. They were going to be 15, 16, 17 and 18-yard gains, but they made the plays. On the third one, we took (sophomore quarterback) Charlie (Brewer) out. We didn't really see it, and then we started the second half with a kickoff return. A lot of credit goes to them. They knocked the ball out and picked it off. We still have to win those games.

On the defense being on the field too much in the first quarter

Really, it was the penalties. We had a bunch of defensive offside calls that hurt us at crucial times. We held them to some field goals. We probably were on the field a little bit too much. They have some dynamic guys. (freshman cornerback) Kalon (Barnes) was right in position. That deep ball he threw to (redshirt senior wide receiver David) Sills (V), and he jumped up and caught it. That's a grown-man receiver making a great play. They didn't look tired. If you just give them too many opportunities, too many exposures, eventually they are going to make a play. They are one of the best offenses in the country, and I thought our defense went back in there and played in the second half. Our defense went back out there and hung in there. We turned the ball over at the 20 on the kickoff return.