



Texas Tech Quotes Student-Athletes

Baylor vs. Texas Tech
Saturday, November 24, 2018
AT&T Stadium, Arlington, Texas



QUESTIONS FOR QB McLANE CARTER AND DB JAH'SHAWN JOHNSON

Q. McLane [Carter], clearly, you looked like you reinjured your ankle or got hurt. Talk about that and what happened in the time and the process and how that affected you through the game?

QB McLANE CARTER: I came into the game, I was 100%, felt great, was able to move. Got a little nicked up in the first quarter, and it kind of limited me a little bit. Went out there and tried to compete for these guys and for this guy right here. He's put so much into the program. You know? So you got to go out there and battle.

Q. McLane [Carter], since we haven't really gotten to talk to you all season, can you tell us what has it been like with your ankle and at what point you got back to feeling you're 100%?

QB McLANE CARTER: It took a while. I mean, it was a long process. It was a grind. Got tired. I mean, it was just a long process. A couple weeks after -- I would say probably like the Iowa State week, I started to feel like myself again. So it was a process.

Q. When you went out there and played briefly against TCU, were you not quite ready at that point?

QB McLANE CARTER: I thought I was. I thought I was. It felt like, with a whole week of practice, I thought I was. I went out there TCU week and game speed was different.

Q. How big of a frustration or disappointment was it for you this season, given that you were the number one guy in the season opener and then, in the third series of the season, you go down and basically never get back out there until today?

QB McLANE CARTER: It was frustrating. It was a battle, but I came to work every day, rehabbing, trying to get myself back right, just trying to put a lot of work to get back to where I was.

Q. Nice touchdown pass to Ja'Deion High to start the ball game. Talk about what kind of receiver he is for you and what he's meant as an inspiration as a senior.



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QB McLANE CARTER: He's a great player. He speaks on -- he shows up every day and comes to work, one of the hardest-working guys on the team, humble. He's an excellent receiver. He gets open. he tries his hardest every play. There's nothing to say bad about that guy.

Q. Jah'Shawn [Johnson], clearly, you guys were 5-2 and it seems like things were going pretty well. To have the season end the way it did, five straight losses -- you had a couple of close ones to Oklahoma and Texas -- and the questions about Kliff's [Kingsbury] future that we've been there before, how do you put it into words where you guys are right now?

DB JAH'SHAWN JOHNSON: It's hard to put in words. It's been up and down, a lot of unfortunate events, a lot of injuries just about all over the place. But we went out there and we competed each week. Unfortunately, we didn't get it done, but wouldn't go to battle with anyone else but this team.

Q. Jah'Shawn [Johnson], can you talk about your final time at Tech and sum it all up for us. You've been through so much and battled through so much and it has to mean a lot to you.

DB JAH'SHAWN JOHNSON: Yeah, it was hard to watch the clock hit zero. I played with a lot of guys here, met a lot of great guys, great friends, a lot of long-time relationships with a lot of guys. We thought this season would be different, of course. Everyone did. But it's been tremendous. I mean, I wouldn't want to spend five years anywhere else. And if I could restart tomorrow, I surely would.

Q. Jah'Shawn [Johnson], what does Coach Kingsbury mean to you, and what type of a coach has he been to you over the past four-plus years?

DB JAH'SHAWN JOHNSON: He means the world. He's my first -- he was the first guy to offer me. I mean, I was undersized coming out of high school at 150 pounds. You know what? 5'8", 5'9". I mean, no one really wants a guy like that. But he took a chance, and I'm very thankful for him, one of the hardest-working guys I've ever been around. I mean, can't say good -- I mean, anything else but good things about him. And, like I said, I'll restart this whole thing if I could and play for him again.

Q. Jah'Shawn [Johnson], what has it meant to have the stability of David Gibbs as your defensive coordinator for the last few years?



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DB JAH'SHAWN JOHNSON: It's meant a lot. He's changed his defense a lot, fit well into what I like to do out on the field, create turnovers and things like that. He did a great job with us. I mean, this program is headed in the right direction, believe it or not. We got a lot of young guys that will be key players in this conference, in the nation, here soon. And, yeah, he's a great guy as well. I know I can call on him whenever I need him.

Q. McLane [Carter], obviously, you've been dealing with an injury. And I noticed out there that guys were slow getting up and kind of gimpy. What percent of the roster would you say is dealing with some kind of physical injury at this point?

QB McLANE CARTER: I mean, every team's dealing with all kinds of stuff, you know. It's just been unfortunate, stuff has been happening at weird times, and unfortunate at times. So it is what it is. And all these guys are out here battling for each other, for our coaches, just trying to go out there and win.

Q. McLane [Carter], you talked about battling for the coaches and wanting to win for them. How difficult is it getting done with the season and knowing there's the uncertainty, for the guys that are coming back, whether Kliff [Kingsbury] will be back or not?

QB McLANE CARTER: You just go out there and play; you don't think about that. You go out and play every snap, just every snap, every snap, just go out there and play and give the best effort that you can.

Q. Is it hard now knowing that it's over and there's still uncertainty?

QB McLANE CARTER: I mean, no.

Q. McLane, since you have a year left, there's been speculation this year that, with Alan's [Bowman] emergence and with Jett [Duffey] also showing promise and potential, that you would consider transferring. Could you -- what is your future, do you think?

QB McLANE CARTER: You know, I don't plan on it; I just take it day by day. You know? I come to work for the guys. I mean, these guys took a chance on me. I was at TJC (Tyler Junior College). They were one of the only bigger schools that took a chance on me and that means a whole lot to me. I don't plan on leaving this place.

Q. Jah'Shawn, Kliff [Kingsbury] did not really want to address his future before Kirby [Hocutt] makes a decision. If you were in Kirby's position, what would you do?

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DB JAH'SHAWN JOHNSON: Sign him to unlimited contract. Let him stay as long as he could. Like I say, he's a great guy. Everyone loves him. Everybody wants to play for him and win for him. We got a great coaching staff supporting him. And, I mean, I wish these guys could come back with the same coaching staff because, I mean, like I said, this program is headed in the right direction, believe it or not. And, yeah, I mean, he's a great guy, great leader.

QB McLANE CARTER: A player's coach.

DB JAH'SHAWN JOHNSON: One of the smartest guys in the nation. So, yeah, I'd sign him, keep going.

Q. Obviously, a lot of folks want to see a change. What would you say, either of you guys, what would you say? Jah'Shawn, you in particular. You kind of spent your entire career in a program that has just not been able to get over the hump. Why do you think that is? And how can Kliff do things differently to get the program over the hump?

DB JAH'SHAWN JOHNSON: I'm not sure. Like I said, we just have a lot of unfortunate things happen this year. Just about everyone was banged up in some type of way.

QB McLANE CARTER: Weird injuries, freak accidents, it has kind of set us back. If it wasn't for those, we would be rolling right now.

Q. Jah'Shawn, one of the most experienced players on this team, you've been through it all. Season doesn't end how you want. What do you tell the guys who come back next year?

DB JAH'SHAWN JOHNSON: Just go to work. We get back in school Monday morning. I'm sure we will have some type of workouts -- well, they will have some type of workouts. They just got to put their nose down and grind no matter what happens with this coaching staff. Just get in there on their own, in the film room, get this last game corrected. Just go through the season and see what they have done wrong and correct that and just get in the weight room with the strength staff and just get bigger, stronger, faster. I mean, it's very promising for this group.