

Baylor University Football Media Conference

Saturday, November 18 2017
Waco, Texas

Matt Campbell Press Conference

Q. How is David doing?

COACH CAMPBELL: We got it x-rayed. Everything came back positive. So that part is really good. If I know David, he'll be ready to roll. But that's an early prediction and we'll see where he's at.

So no breaks, no strains. No any of that. We'll have to play it by ear.

Q. Do you know if it was like a high ankle, like if they x-rayed?

COACH CAMPBELL: It was in the ankle is what they x-rayed. Like I said, nothing came back positive so that's huge for this team.

Q. How scary was that for you?

COACH CAMPBELL: Well, I think any time you have one of your best players who's kind of put the team on his back in the second half, you never like to see them go down. But, I mean, it's football and that's what happens.

Next guy comes up, and Sheldon came in, did a great job running the football. So I think we're kind of the football team that's kind of resembled that all year. It's kind of been our niche is the next guy's stood up and played really good football for us.

Q. Up until that point, how did you feel like he was doing, especially in the second half? You did some things (no microphone).

COACH CAMPBELL: Yeah, I mean, you know how I feel about him. I mean, he's as good as there is in a lot of ways. So he put the team on his back. I thought the offensive line -- you know, the offensive line, I haven't bragged about them very much. But I tell you, the last three weeks, they've started to play some really good football.

That group has done some really good things and, obviously, I think David would be the first one to tell you that too. But David's ability to break tackles and do what he does, I mean, that's what makes him really



special.

But that offensive line, tight ends, those guys are playing really good football for us right now.

Q. Did you feel like the run game was why you were able to win that game? I mean, the second half, that one drive, 61 yards was on the ground, I think.

COACH CAMPBELL: Well, I just thought for the first time in the game, I felt like we were kind of all over the place in the first half of the game on both sides. We just couldn't catch the momentum of the game. Little things were kind of shooting us in the foot.

I thought the second half, we played Iowa State football. When we played well, we're in and out of the ability to throw it and run it. We've controlled and been good in situational football.

Defensively, we've kind of dictated the pace of the game, and I felt we were able to do that for a lot of the second half.

Q. With Jones and Walker doing kick returns, how come?

COACH CAMPBELL: Landen was injured.

Q. With the defense, to get a three-yard line from Peavy, looks like he just pulled it out, and then Reggie, those two plays kind of kept you guys from --

COACH CAMPBELL: Well, I mean, Brian Peavy's play, I think that describes our football team. Our back's against the wall. We're on the 3-yard line, and it's really easy to bag it. We're on our fourth quarterback. Situationally, everybody else would bag it and this team never has.

So, to me, that was a defining play in the game because I think it really defines who we are, defines who our football team has been all year. Great thing is nobody can take that from us. I think everybody is kind of waiting to watch us fold our tent. Same thing, ball on the 3-yard line, first and three on the 3. Ready to fold your tent and our kids keep playing.

So I think that's kind of been our niche. It's what's allowed us to have success. Great play by Brian. Great job by our defensive line being able to kind of

bottle things up. Keep playing.

Same thing with Reggie. Great play by Reg in the second half. I thought that was a great pick and dinking, doinking, moving their way down the field. And boom, he steps into a play over the middle and does a great job.

So, you know, big-time by both those kid.

Q. What do you say about your defense that's been able to manufacture key turnovers in the fourth quarter so far this season?

COACH CAMPBELL: I just think it's mentality by our whole football team, really. I mean, I really do. I don't know if it's anything that's different or -- I think it just becomes about detail and becomes about our guys' ability to certainly continue to stay the course and play defense.

I think easily, I could freak out, especially when the teams are moving the ball down the field. I think at times, when we haven't played as good as we needed to, guys try to do too much. Instead, just keep playing the next play.

That's when we played our best defense and we did that in the second half for sure.

Q. How did you feel like Zeb handled his first start and all the ebbs and flows.

COACH CAMPBELL: I thought for a guy that's, in all essence, a freshman, missing his whole freshman year due to an ACL injury, not practicing, and a kid that goes in his first start on the road, Big 12 team that's starting to play a lot better, some of those throws he makes, you know, the one drive, he's 3 for 3 on third down, gets us all the way down the field. A couple of the deep balls that he's able to throw in the game. I thought he did a really good job.

He'll continue to get better, and he'll continue to grow. But, boy, I think you got to leave here just being pretty impressed with what you saw from Zeb Noland today.

Q. Where does that leave you with the quarterback situation for next week?

COACH CAMPBELL: We'll just reevaluate it. I think it's a situation I'd love to -- Kyle's obviously not healthy yet. If he's healthy or healthier, that will be a discussion we have to have. Right now, it's not even a discussion we can have until Kyle's 100 percent healthy.

Q. You said that there were some little things here and there. Seemed like the offense, after the first three-and-outs, actually moved the ball and there were little things that kept you to field goals. Did it

feel like a play here, a play there, and that game's maybe different?

COACH CAMPBELL: Yeah. You know, I think so similar to Oklahoma, to be honest with you. You got Kyle in his first two series and they're three-and-outs. Kind of the same thing with Zeb.

There's a young pup in there. He's trying to feel his way through it. I think you're trying to do a really good job, especially against this defense. They've been so multiple in so many different ways that you don't want to turn the ball over.

The best thing Zeb did today, more than anything, is he didn't turn the ball over. And those things were really big. It's been our formula for success offensively.

But, yeah, I think break here, break there. But, again, you make your own breaks and I've said that all year long. It comes down to detail, and you literally make your own breaks in football and the ball doesn't just bounce your way. You make the ball bounce your way.

Q. Hakeem caught that bomb there in the first half and had a fight through some contact to get into the end zone. How did you see that play?

COACH CAMPBELL: I saw it right in front of me because I was sitting there. I mean, my goodness, that kid is really special. It was great to see him come back home to Texas and be able -- I know he had a lot of family here. To be able to make a play like that, I thought that was a huge momentum swing for us, especially going into halftime.

Great play by him. That young man's made a lot of stride this year and it's been really fun to do it, and we're going to need him here as we finish off the season to continue to take his level that he can take it. But I think we've all seen this year he can be really special, and I think he showed why.

Q. Is that the same plays as the Oklahoma pre-half?

COACH CAMPBELL: Similar. Very similar in some way, shape and form.

Q. And then I guess defensively, what did you see from -- you guys really settled in, it seemed like, especially from the second quarter on, really settled in and contained them.

COACH CAMPBELL: Again, the credit's got to go to Baylor. Their kids, their quarterback, I really liked. He was able to make some plays and get out of the pocket. We had them in the first half, had them on third down and nine. He gets out and we had to spy on them and still couldn't tackle him.

The credit goes to him, and we just didn't -- we weren't very sharp in the first half, period. I put that on me. We've got to continue to do a great job. I thought our kids fought through it and certainly didn't succumb. That part I do appreciate.

Q. How was the bus ride over?

COACH CAMPBELL: It was a lot of fun. A lot of fun. I love this area. Anything else?

Q. Coach, this is the first time you guys will clinch a winning Big 12 record since 2000. I know it's not the end goal, but how important of a step is that for this program?

COACH CAMPBELL: Again, I don't even know what that means right now. I think the reality of it is we have such a big football game left to play against one of the, my opinion, premiere programs in our conference.

I think after the season's over, we can sit and evaluate what did we do, what didn't we do and, obviously, what do we have to do to continue to get better. But what you want to do is continue to push the needle and you want to continue to work your program in a positive direction. You want to start to create some momentum.

I think regardless of that, it's great to be moving forward, rather than backwards, in this football program.

Q. I know it was off to the side, but what have you seen from the growth of Sheldon, because it seems like he's kind of really come up when he's got his opportunities.

COACH CAMPBELL: Again, I think Sheldon, you go back to spring practice, Sheldon, I think you heard me say, man, this kid had a really good spring. And then fall camp had a really good camp.

Sheldon's one of those guys, it's not about Sheldon. I think he's really pressed to get better every day, and that's hard to do because at running back, there's one ball, right? You'd love to have 800 carries by different guys, but David's kind of pushed himself to the front of the pack in his ability to block and catch and run.

And what's been fun for Sheldon is he's kind of mirrored that and he's allowed himself to really have a niche and a role in this football team. I'm really proud of him. He's one of those guys that has really worked hard, because it wasn't easy for Sheldon. I was all over his case a year ago, to be honest with you.

If you'd have asked me that question a year ago, I probably wouldn't have the same response. But he's taken that, he's got two great parents that have been, I think, a key asset to why he's stayed the course rather

than go the other way, and it's been really fun to watch him. I'm really proud of him.

Q. Coach, Allen Lazard set the all-time Iowa State record for a senior today. Can you put into words what he's meant to this program?

COACH CAMPBELL: No, I can't. We've had to play -- for us to be really successful, we've had to play a little bit of a different style of football at times. I think the thing that I would tell you from Allen's standpoint is you talk about an MVP and you talk about a guy that literally steadied the ship.

I mean, four different quarterbacks throwing the football this year. When you have a guy like him who can stand up and lead the way and be the same guy every day, that's really impressive. And you talk about the growth he's made in the last 12 months -- he's always been a great player, but the growth he's made as a leader and the growth he's made as a guy that comes to work every day, a guy that has ability to showcase leadership, that's been really fun to watch about Allen.

All the records are great, but Allen's got a chance to leave here, because he did those leadership ability, those little things way better than I've seen in a long time, and I really appreciate him. He's done a great job.

Obviously, those records are all things he'll have to come back to Iowa State and be really proud of. But what he's done to this culture is maybe as good or better than any record he'll be able to leave here with.

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Joel Lanning Press Conference

JOEL LANNING: I mean, continuing to play hard the whole time. Not give it up. I mean, honestly, I feel like the game definitely changed after that first turnover when they were driving on us and on the 5-yard line, when Peavy stripped it. I think that was kind of like the game changer right there.

And then, obviously, Reggie just kind of ended it right there. Just kind of keep at them, like Coach Heacock says.

Q. Coach Campbell said Peavy's play just epitomizes the season and the team that a lot of teams first and goal at the 3 would kind of bag it.

JOEL LANNING: Yeah.

Q. Does that feel right to you, that that play epitomizes what this team has been so far this year?

JOEL LANNING: Absolutely. I mean, I just, like, Coach Heacock's always saying, his big thing this week was lay your heart out there. You do that, you'll give us a chance to win. I think our guys did that.

We're just going out there, playing hard every single snap. We always talk about play harder, longer. And Peavy made a great play. Like you said, people can bag it on the red zone when teams are driving on you pretty good. It's a long drive too, and it's kind of frustrating as a defense.

But, I mean, props to our guys for sticking to it and keep playing, and we needed that big time.

Q. What turned around for you guys? It seemed like defensively in that first quarter, Baylor was kind of doing what they wanted. By the second quarter, that's when it all changed.

JOEL LANNING: Yeah. Honestly, I don't know what it is about our second half defense right now. I mean, I feel like we're a different team in the second half defensively, for whatever reason. We've got to figure that out and make it a full game as a defense, playing

like that.

We know what we're capable of doing. We've seen it. In October, our defense was pretty stout. When we got to November, for whatever reason, it's kind of fallen off a little bit, but we'll get it back to where it was. This great coaching staff, and we know we've got great leaders and great players on this team that want to make it better. So we'll be fine.

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Brian Peavy Press Conference

Q. You see on that play, seemed like you just pulled it out.

BRIAN PEAVY: Ten other guys on the field. They did their job and my job was to fill my gap and my number was called, and I answered.

Q. Is that kind of what happened? You just ran into him and just ripped it straight from him?

BRIAN PEAVY: Yeah, that's basically what happened.

Q. Coach Campbell said he felt that kind of epitomized this team, where they had the three first downs, could have given up the touchdown and moved on. Do you feel you guys have fought even when teams get in that situation?

BRIAN PEAVY: Oh, yeah. You can see it all season long looking at the film. Our teams think they have it their way, but we refuse to just give up. So we use the motto, one step, one breath. Just play another down.

Q. How are you guys able to stay poised in that situation where they're moving the ball a little bit and getting to that point? What kinds of conversations do you have on the field as they're kind of moving?

BRIAN PEAVY: I would say it's less on the field and more of just experience. Early games in the season, we kind of -- I wouldn't say shut it down, but, I mean, we learned from our mistakes so it's kind of just engraved in us, and that's one thing Coach Heacock and Coach Campbell emphasize and I think that's one thing we execute.

Q. I know Marcel had back-to-back weeks of big picks. This week it was you. Is that something you guys take pride in, being the defense that deliver kind of the dagger, almost?

BRIAN PEAVY: Oh, yeah. If the offense don't score, then we win the game. That's kind of how we look at it. Our offense is doing a tremendous job. So at the end of the day, defense have to get a stop. Like I said, it's 11 guys out there and we're playing together, I feel like we're one of the best in the country at doing so.

Q. What allowed you guys to settle in after the first quarter, especially?

BRIAN PEAVY, JR.: What was that?

Q. What allowed you guys to settle in after the first quarter? I think the second quarter, you gave up 43 yards and it seemed to kind of get better as the game went.

BRIAN PEAVY: Just getting back to our tradition and what we believe defense is. Like you said, the first half, guys who kind of just everywhere, we just kind of settled down and played poised and the outcome shows it.

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Zeb Noland Press Conference

ZEB NOLAND: A win's a win, no matter what the offense or defense does. It's just great to get a win.

Q. How would you grade your personal performance?

ZEB NOLAND: I mean, I won't know until I watch the film. I feel like I played good enough to win, and that's what it's all about.

Q. Coach Campbell said your start reminded him of Kyle's a little. Took a couple drives to settle in, but once it got going. Did it feel like that?

ZEB NOLAND: Yeah, I mean, you know, as your first start, sometimes especially away, Kyle and I's first start were both away. You kind of just got to settle in. Your practice there, you played there, everything looks the same, and it was just good once I got settled in and got ready to go.

Q. What did you see on that bomb you threw to Hakeem and him kind of having to fight through a few tackles and get in the end zone?

ZEB NOLAND: Well, I knew that he was going to be there and be open. I just knew I had to give him a ball good enough to catch. I didn't even realize that he was breaking tackles and scoring until I looked down. I was looking at the sideline for the next play. So you know, it was awesome to see him get a big touchdown like that.

Q. Did you know you were going to him the whole time?

ZEB NOLAND: No, it was just the coverage. Whatever the coverage was, go to him or go to the other side.

Q. What did you think about the run game the second half? It felt like that's kind of what carried --

ZEB NOLAND: Oh, yeah. I mean, the run game in the second half was absolutely unreal. I think it's been a long time coming in our offense because some games we've been back and forth between pass and run. But when the run got going, I like seeing what David and what Sheldon did. It's unreal. I really like watching

them run.

Q. What have you seen from Sheldon when he gets his shot?

ZEB NOLAND: Well, I mean, Sheldon's practiced great. He's earned the right to play. I knew when he got in there, he was going to hang on to the ball and give it everything he had, every play.

Q. What was your reaction when you see someone like David go down and I guess then to find out his x-rays were negative.

ZEB NOLAND: Right. It hurts because best player on offense with the ball in his hand. I know how David is. He's tough as nails and I know that he didn't want to be laying there on the ground.

I knew he was going to get up and walk off the field regardless of what it was. Just I hope he's all right, because I haven't even got to talk to him yet. But I'm really proud of the way David played today.

Q. I know Coach Campbell had talked a little bit about before the Oklahoma game, when he told you, he called you into his office and said you weren't going to be the guy. How well do you remember that meeting?

ZEB NOLAND: I mean, it was short and quick. He said I'm going to start Kyle this week. I started smiling, because I knew it was Kyle's time and I was happy for him, because me and Kyle are pretty close.

So just to see, I knew Kyle after he got told he was going to start, he would come out shining. I was just excited for Kyle. Just like he was excited for me today, I was just as excited for him.

Q. What was your communication with Kyle when the defense was on the field between series for you today?

ZEB NOLAND: We just talked. We didn't really even talk about football that much. That's like our thing is we talk a little bit about what happened that drive, and then we go, you know, we talk about life or whatever. Just try to keep each other's minds off what's going on and keep each other calm.

Q. (No microphone) really fresh. Was there any kind of big takeaway or learning moment from the

game that you have right now?

ZEB NOLAND: Just stay poised and take what they give you and you and just not get too high with the highs or too -- I mean, there were some low points where we got stopped on third down. And those are things that happen in the game so just staying poised through it all.

I know we had two really big turnovers and trying to stay poised on offense was our goal. That way, we didn't, you know, nothing bad happened. You know, bad snap or anything. So that's really where I think that I'm going to take away from the game is staying poised through touchdowns, whatever. Just stay poised.