



Texas Tech Quotes Coach Kliff Kingsbury



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

Q. Seems like you guys were competing well in the first half, but came out a little bit flat in the second half and weren't able to rebound. What do attribute that to?

COACH KINGSBURY: I'm not sure. I thought we had good energy in the locker room. I felt like we were in a good place, but got to give Baylor a lot of credit. They came out and made their adjustments and moved the ball well. And then, defensively, got some stops when they needed to.

Q. The unfortunate reality, obviously, is third straight losing season in this game. What do you know about your future, if anything, after this?

COACH KINGSBURY: That's a discussion we'll have with Kirby [Hocutt]. Right now, just kind of focused on the seniors and making sure they know how much they meant to us and this program.

Q. Coach, I saw you exchange words with Alan Bowman as the game came to a close. What did you say to him?

COACH KINGSBURY: That's between us. Just feel bad that he wasn't able to play this year for him. He's such a competitor. I know it's tough watching these last few weeks, but I couldn't be more proud of McLane [Carter]. He reinjured that ankle early in the game and stayed out there and did the best he could fighting through it, kept us in the game when he could have easily went to the sideline. It says a lot about that QB room, and all three of those guys fought through injuries and continued to play hard and gave us a chance all year.

Q. Along those same lines, how close were you to removing him from the game putting in Colt Garrett?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, we wanted to see if McLane [Carter] could go, and he felt like he could. We weren't going to run him much going in, even though that's part of his game, just based on lack of depth at that position. But it really limited to him moving around, making plays like he's able to do. But I thought he hung in there and made some good throws and kept us in the game for most of it.

Q. Talk about Ja'Deion High, six-year senior, of what he has meant to that. I know you want to focus on the seniors. But, specifically, what kind of game and year and career has he had for you?



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COACH KINGSBURY: He's been incredible. What a great young man. He's going to be wildly successful, whatever happens next with him, but has meant so much to us and then been a real role model for all our younger players.

Q. Did Jett [Duffey] practice at all this week, or how did you handle that?

COACH KINGSBURY: No, he had had a knee injury, and then tried to play through it at Kansas State, then he injured his foot in that second quarter. So he wasn't able to do much in that game either. So he didn't practice this week; he was out. It was McLane [Carter] and Colt [Garrett].

Q. Following up on the quarterbacks again for a moment, when McLane [Carter], looked like he aggravated the ankle again early. And when he went in, looked like Colt [Garrett] was getting ready. Would Colt have gone in if that Baylor drive had not taken so long?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yes, he was the next guy up. Those were the two, and then Nick [Gerber] would have been our third.

Q. How big of a gap is there in ability between McLane [Carter] and Colt [Garrett]?

COACH KINGSBURY: I don't want to get into gap and ability, but just lack of experience, I would say. McLane [Carter] started some games and played in the Big 12, and Colt [Garrett] hasn't yet. So we felt like McLane, if he could power through, gave us the best option there.

Q. Regarding your future, I think a lot of people feel like if Kirby [Hocutt] does decide to make a change, your phone will be blowing up with offers within minutes. Can you make the case for how close you feel this team might be given that y'all lost to a bunch of good teams by single digits and make the case for bringing Kliff Kingsbury back.

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, I mean, this isn't the forum I want to do that, but I do think this is a very competitive team. I felt like this year was the first year we could line up with anybody and compete. We didn't finish games, we didn't close some out, but the guys fought hard. and they played with everybody all year long. Lots of really good players coming back, as you can see. But this isn't the place to debate that.

Q. The game at this venue has provided for a lot of recruiting exposure, a lot of kids get to come out and see Red Raider football when they otherwise wouldn't have been able to and see a college football atmosphere. With the game going away, do you see that as a blow? Where do you net out as far as its impact on recruiting for your program?

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COACH KINGSBURY: I'm not sure how it will affect the program. I think our players really enjoy it. I know recruits enjoy coming to see our fans, the pageantry we have with our program. But I'm not sure how it will affect it moving forward.

Q. At the point that your team was 5-2 this year, it looked like you had a couple monkeys off your back with the wins at Oklahoma State and the win at TCU and looked like things were going well. At any point, did you feel like the team relaxed at all either mentally or whatever?

COACH KINGSBURY: No, I didn't. I think we had a quarterback playing at an elite level, really, if you look at [Alan] Bowman. I don't know if I've ever seen a true freshman play better and the kind of run he had. And then we got to our third guy. And I thought Jett [Duffey] did some good things and battled, but we lost the turnover battle in several games and then just weren't able to recapture kind of how we were rolling. And that was tough. That's on the coach to make sure whoever is the quarterback, he can maintain that. That's hard if you lose a guy who's playing at that elite level. In this league, it's hard to keep up.

Q. Just following up on that, obviously, all the quarterback changes are a big detriment. But as competitive, as close as y'all were at Iowa State and against Texas and against Oklahoma, were the last two weeks possibly a result of not being able to sustain that level of emotion and intensity that you had to have in those three games?

COACH KINGSBURY: I'm not sure. I didn't think we had the same levels as we had. And, once again, you got to give Kansas State and Baylor credit, because they did and they took it to us. We weren't able to get it done in either one of those games.

But I don't really have an answer for why we didn't play as well or have the type or intensity and energy that it took in some of those other games to hang in until the end.

Q. Is there any way to categorize the conversations you and Kirby [Hocutt] have had? And do you have any idea when you guys are going to sit down and have that conversation and when it might happen?

COACH KINGSBURY: I'm sure it will be soon, but I don't know. He's been phenomenal to me and supportive and given me everything I needed to be successful at Texas Tech. So I have the utmost respect for Kirby [Hocutt] and what he's done for this university. He's the best A.D. in the country, and we're all lucky to have him. So we'll have our conversation and go from there.



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Q. Are you saying you have no idea what to expect?

COACH KINGSBURY: I mean, I'm not going to, like I said, get into that here. I want to talk with Kirby [Hocutt] and take it from there.

Q. Dakota [Allen] played a little bit today, not a whole lot. What was his status?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, he still has that lingering injury, but one of those guys which we appreciated him giving us what he could. It wasn't the full speed there for the last month or so of the season, but he came out there and played for his teammates.