

Postgame Quotes

Baylor 33, Texas Tech 30 (2OT)

Saturday, October 12, 2019

Matt Wells Texas Tech Head Coach

Opening Statement

“Proud of our guys. I thought they fought. They spilled their heart and their guts out on that field. It was a tremendous effort by both teams. It is a very well-coached Baylor team. Matt Rhule is a really good coach and he did a great job. It is a program that I think is on the rise, but our guys went toe-to-toe with them. We matched every punch, countered every punch and I thought our guys played their butt off, and for that I am so proud of them. The only area we didn’t show up in is that final score, obviously, but that doesn’t take away my pride in the effort that our players played with. I thought they played their tail off.”

On if he second guesses anything...

“I am sure as I go back and look at the tape we will find some stuff. It is easy to second guess in a close game, both sides, but nothing really sticks out immediately. If you have something in mind go ahead.”

On what they need to do better...

“We have to play better in the red zone. We need to come away with touchdowns.”

On if he thought about going for two at all in OT...

“No, not for the first one. I thought we were playing pretty good on offense. I thought our d-line got a little stronger. I liked the way they played. In the beginning of the first overtime after they hit that shot over the middle, the second play they got down there. But no, you kick the extra point, get to the second overtime and keep playing ball.”

On the crowd...

It was a good crowd. They had some good support. We had a lot of red and black in the upper deck. Proud of our Red Raider Nation, very thankful for their attendance and presence and we could hear them too. So I think they contributed to this atmosphere as well.”

On if he got an explanation on the fumble...

“Not much of one. And I can’t wait to get one from the league as we get going and I know I have to be real professional here, but I can’t wait to see and hear. I have already seen it to be honest with you, so there is going to have to be a lot of explanation. I think a lot of people have seen it walking on the way in here. I was told it was an illegal snap and I am going to leave it at that.”

On what the call should have been...

“Depends on the call. If they shut it down and it’s an illegal snap then it’s a dead ball. If it’s not an illegal snap and he thought the QB was under the center and the ball hits the ground then it is a live ball recovered by the Red Raiders, first and 10, here we go.”

On if he thought it was a live ball...

“I absolutely did. And I just watched the replay on two phones. I am sure you guys have already seen it and we will just leave it at that.”

On the fight of his team...

“You know, six games into year one, this is exactly what you want. I mean, I looked back two weeks ago, we took a big step last week and one could argue that we didn’t play as well in this game and didn’t take a step, but I think we did. I appreciate and respect the effort of our guys. We were down a few guys. Thought Jett [Duffey] played well again. I thought our o-line protected him well at times. We had some breakdowns, that is a really good defensive line. [Lockhart is good. 90 is good. Those guys inside are really good. And they are old, when you have a senior-dominated defense, that is what we want to get to. They have eight seniors on that defense. Once 3 came back in the game, that is eight senior starters on that defense. They are big and they are strong and that is what I would like to get ours to at some point. We matched them, blow for blow. To take that drive at the end, with the crowd and the noise and Jett, it was precision. They threw and caught the ball. SaRodrick Thompson picked up some blitzes and we made plays all the way down the field to send the thing into overtime. Really proud of our guys.”

On the play of Baylor QB Charlie Brewer...

The guy has some moxie. He was coached very well in high school. I have a lot a respect for his high school coaches. He has poise, patience, sits in the pocket and then if you don’t have a contained rush, we had a spy on him for a little bit of the game, sometimes the spy got caught up, but the guy is elusive, throws it very well on the run once he gets it out of the pocket.

On the play of TJ Vasher...

“I thought he had some big-time catches. Proud of him. Probably his biggest moment in six games. I thought No. 2 showed up really good.”

On the play of the defense to hold Baylor to a field goal at the end of regulation...

“That was probably the biggest stop. Forcing that field goal was huge. They made a couple plays right there on second down and Broderick [Washington] played about the whole game. I thought the play by Jordyn Brooks and Doug Coleman was big. Those seniors played well. We obviously have to clean some things up. We need to have tighter coverage, we had a couple breakdowns on the edge of the defense in the run game and there will be plenty to clean up of this tape moving forward.

On what happened on Baylor’s last drive of regulation...

“I don’t know. That seems a little bit like blur to me. The sack, we are down inside the two and then a breakdown in coverage. I can’t tell you right now where it came from, but you are feeling pretty good on second down right there.”

On the play of the defense...

“The ball, we wanted to come in here and win the turnover margin. We knew we had to come in and get some pressure on him. I thought there was some pressure early that was effective. We didn’t land some sacks but we got some hits on him and that may have caused something there I don’t know. I think our front seven got some big pressure on him in the game. That was a big part of our plan in the game.”

On the play of Jett Duffey...

“You know, he really only threw one bad pick. He was late and was scanning the opposite of the way he should have. He took his coaching, came right back and that last drive was really pretty. You just saw him operate, the o-line protected him and made some big catches. We made some competitive catches, TJ [Vasher], RJ [Turner]. Erik [Ezukanma] had one. Two weeks in a row, I thought our wide outs showed up and played well.”

On turning the page with the team...

“It is a challenge, but last week was a challenge too. I think our staff will rise to the occasion. I think we have had that challenge two weeks in a row. Coming off an embarrassing loss in Norman, and then getting our guys back up and ready to practice and rallying together to have a big home win and then getting patted on the back all weekend. Again, new in this program and culture is how do you handle success, how do you handle defeat, and this will be a new challenge, emotional defeat right at the end of the game. But I am confident that it is not just our staff, but our seniors are going to have to do it. Those three seniors on defense, Broderick [Washington], Doug [Coleman], Jordyn [Brooks], Donta Thompson on offense, big emotional leaders, those guys have to get us going again and I expect us to get right back off the mat and learn from this and get right back to work on Monday. That is going to be part of this first year, building this culture and how do we grind every single week and I got no question sitting here today coming off this game that our guys will do it again on Monday.”