



OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

OKLAHOMA QUOTES • HEAD COACH LINCOLN RILEY

OKLAHOMA 56, TULANE 14 • SEPT. 16, 2017

Opening statement:

“Certainly happy with the win. Like I told them in the locker room, all wins are hard. Our goal for a long time here was to play very well here early in the season and go 3-0 in non-conference and this team has accomplished that. That’s something we’re excited about going into Big 12 play. Started off a little bit slow tonight. Didn’t score on the first drive offensively, gave up a couple drives there defensively. I thought it took us a little time to settle in against their option attack. Missed a few tackles; guys just got out of the gaps a little bit. I thought our response defensively was awesome and kind of sparked the team on after giving up those first two touchdown drives. We didn’t give up another point the rest of the game and we also scored one on Parnell Motley’s interception. Very excited about the kind of poise our guys kept. We know we’ve got to play better early but when you can respond like that when some things don’t go your way, you’ve got a chance. So, proud of those guys. Offensively, a little up and down the whole night. Played better after the first series, decent in the middle part of the first half. Disappointing not to get the first one in right after half after we got that stop but after that we were decent. At times, got a little bit too aggressive between Baker and I, but made up plays and guys really settled in and ended up finishing it off in convincing fashion. Excited about the win and ready to move on to Big 12 Conference play.

On Tulane’s option attack:

“I think just settling in. The option attack is tough. You card up everything you see, but they do it 365 days a year. Our scout team does it four days a year. It’s hard. I think just the speed of it initially on the first series and when you don’t stop it the first time sometimes you try to start doing things on your own and that’s when you really, really get in trouble and there was some of that certainly on the second drive. Our coaches just did a good job keeping their poise. We knew we had a good plan against it if we just settled in and just did our job and once we got that interception returned, that got our confidence going and we played more aggressively after that.”

On CeeDee Lamb:

“He played well. He played really well. Made some really big plays, especially one over there on our sideline that we thought was impressive. We expected it was going to be overturned. So I will keep what they said between them and me.”

On Parnell Motley’s development:

“I think Kerry Cooks has done a great job with his development. They’ve got a great relationship. He’s just a hungry kid. He just loves to play, loves to compete. He was like that last year as a freshman even though he wasn’t really ready to be playing like this right now. He was always confident and always energetic and hungry and when you get a talented guy who stays with it even through some ups and downs that he had last year – you just see a different guy. His body is more developed, mentally he was ready and I just think you see a guy with a lot of confidence right now.”

On Abdul Adams’ performance this season:

“Had us a day. I thought he gave us a spark. Came in and ran really well and he’s ran well all three games. We thought he ran well early at Ohio State. Had a nice first game and obviously had a great game tonight. Finally pumped a few big runs, which was something we’ve been challenging our entire group – didn’t feel like we’d done that enough in the last few games.

On Oklahoma’s use of subs:

“We’re still figuring out what all we’ve got and how we need to use them. Some injuries here and there and shuffle them like you do in the season. That’s how it goes. But it’s been good to see different guys step up.”

On Kenneth Murray:

“He was a little rough. He was a lot like he was against UTEP. It was a little bit rough early. Kind of like us as a defense. Then settled in and got some confidence and made some plays. He’s getting there. He’s faced the first three weeks as a true freshman linebacker with three different offenses he’s faced – I don’t know if you can get more polar opposite than those three. He’s learning. We’re coaching him hard and he’s responding.

On coming into tonight’s game after last week’s win at Ohio State:

“You never know exactly. Sure, you’re concerned about a letdown. You’re concerned about how they approach the week. I thought, for the most part, our mentality was good. We weren’t at our best early in the week and I thought we started to respond a little bit as the week went on and we started to challenge them as coaches. So I think we’re growing but I think we’ve got to understand what you’ve got to put together completely to play complete games.”



OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

OKLAHOMA QUOTES • DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR MIKE STOOPS

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On the first half:

"We were getting disoriented, guys out of gaps. They were giving us a lot of different formations and looks. We just didn't have guys in the right spots and nothing out of the ordinary that they don't do ... a lot of different looks and kept us off balance and didn't execute some blitzes right.

On players improving during the game:

"Just start executing better. (We) just weren't very alert early and not very sharp. That's what happens, especially against a team like that. I thought they played well in the first half and executed what they wanted to do. Their play was good and that's a tough offense to defend."

On Parnell Motley's effect on the field:

"I just think you see the result of another playmaker on the field. You have to have playmakers and dynamic players. Everyone can't be perfect all the time. Some guys have to make plays and Parnell is a playmaker and you're starting to see that. We desperately need playmakers, especially out on the edge and that gets us encouraging hope as we move forward."

On the interception return effecting the players:

"We weren't as sharp as we needed to be, that was obvious and for whatever reason, obviously, last week had a lot to do with it, our preparation was good all week. It wasn't anything we didn't see or any reads that we didn't work on and again, if you're a little off against a team that runs the ball as well as they do, then they are going to cause you some issues. To me, the tackling out of position was probably the most disheartening part of it, but our guys regrouped. I'm really proud of the way they came back in the second half and were able to gain control of it."

On Ogonnia Okoronkwo's and Neville Gallimore's performance:

"I thought Ogbo played much better in the second half, he didn't have one of his better first halves, but really came back and had some production for us in the second half. We need Neville. That's another guy that's got to be a playmaker for us up front. We need his size, his strength. He's got ability and he just needs to continue to move forward and be disruptive up front."



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OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

OKLAHOMA QUOTES • PLAYERS

OKLAHOMA 56, TULANE 14 • SEPT. 16, 2017

SENIOR QUARTERBACK BAKER MAYFIELD

On his performance:

"I didn't necessarily make the wrong reads, the throws were there, I just missed them. It was kind of an off night for me, I'm not sure about the stats and completion percentage but I know just based on how I was throwing it on some of those deep balls that it was just not like me. But I'll figure that out before next week. Those guys are making plays so that's even more the key for me, just giving them a chance. They're making a lot of plays in traffic, competitive catches, which is what we challenged them to do all off-season and camp and the start of the season so far. Just have to keep giving them chances."

On bouncing back after a big win last week:

"There was definitely a feel like that (sluggish). Not every game is going to be Saturday night at 7 o'clock with the whole country watching and playing the No. 2 team in the country. So obviously last week was a little different feel than tonight. But that's up to the leaders to get our guys to focus in on the next game. We were focused starting Thursday but we were a little too sloppy during the week before that. We have to realize we have to take it one game at a time. Ohio State was not the highlight of our year, we haven't played a conference game yet. We have to focus in and take it one week at a time and play with that chip on our shoulder like we have been throughout this year. You can't take a win for granted, we got the win tonight, but we started too slow. We just have to improve on that."

On CeeDee Lamb:

"He's a great player. Like I said, some of those throws I missed, just give him a chance and he's going to make plays. Those are balls you don't see an 18-year-old freshman catch often. He's doing a great job, he's got a great feel for the game. It hurt us a little bit but around here we have that next man up mentality. Losing a key guy like that hurts but we have plenty of depth, you've seen that so far."

JUNIOR RUNNING BACK MARCELIAS SUTTON

On his performance tonight:

"It definitely felt good, but my mindset is next week being even better."

On the Sooners' running back depth:

"I feel like it keeps everybody fresh. It keeps everybody focused on the task that we've got in our hands."

On competing with his teammates:

"We all just drive each other. Every day in the meeting room we all make sure everybody is on their task and everybody is focused on what they have to do. We all just work with each other and get it done every week."

On making big plays:

"It felt good to get out there and get loose a little bit. Like I said, I'm just going to focus on next week and getting better from here."

On last week helping his performance today:

"Of course I wanted to get out there for Ohio State, but I had a little of growing up to do off the field. I had to handle that this week and just put everything to the side and handle my business."

FRESHMAN WIDE RECEIVER CEEDEE LAMB

On his first touchdown catch:

"I saw a lot of green and I just ran until I couldn't run any more. Baker put the ball where it needs to be. Coach Riley did a great job of calling plays. I'd like to credit the offensive line for the time they gave Baker and the rest is history."

On the game slowing down for him:

"The game is actually slowing down a lot for me right now. I'm getting the pace of the game and knowing the game itself. With Baker and all my mentors at practice, it's helping me out a lot."

On how he developed chemistry with Mayfield:

"The week after UTEP we got to connecting and then we started doing a lot more routes after practice. Not just me it was all the receivers. We got all of the connections down with all the quarterbacks. The connection is key."

On nearing Ryan Broyles' record for receiving yards:

"It's all in Coach Riley's plan. Individually, I would say I'm holding my part but without Coach Riley and Baker at quarterback, none of this would be possible."

SOPHOMORE WIDE RECEIVER MARQUISE BROWN:

On the importance of stepping up when CeeDee (Lamb) goes out:

"It was important and we felt like we had to go harder when he went out of the game."



OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

On not playing at Ohio State:

"It really motivated me. I came out hard throughout the whole week and Coach Riley recognized that and he gave me a shot this week. I wanted to get in and contribute but I am happy that we got the win"

On Kyler's (Murray) touchdown pass:

"I just thought 'good ball'". I was just happy he threw it like that. Kyler and I practice that pass a lot. We call it big post. We have been talking about it all week."

On getting to play:

"If they call your number you have to make the most of it and make plays happen. You have to practice how you play. If you practice hard you will play hard."

RS SENIOR WIDE RECEIVER JEFF BADET

On the offense being on the sideline for a long time in the second quarter:

"I was telling a lot of guys on the team, at Kentucky we played Georgia Tech in a bowl game last year and out of the 60 minutes, they had the ball for 45 minutes. It was something that I was used to and it was something that once we get our chance on the field we have to make sure that we capitalize because there is no telling how long the other team is going to have the ball."

On CeeDee Lamb's performance:

"I am probably the happiest person on the team about CeeDee. Baker and I got fired up. He is a special guy as you can see and he is growing each and every game and getting better and better. I am truly a fan. I can see him making a lot more plays this season."

On the running back depth:

"The running backs are very special. I just know whoever lines up in the backfield is going to make a tremendous play. They are all different in their own way, but they all run hard and that is a really special group."

SOPHOMORE RUNNING BACK ABDUL ADAMS

On returning from Ohio State:

"It felt good. We had a good week of practice. I was practicing hard and I got that extra ball security. I felt really good going into this week."

On preparing for the game after last week's fumble:

"I just left that in the past. I just kept on playing my game and kept practicing hard. After practice I was just getting more ball security."

On Riley's advice for this week:

"That Ohio State was not our Super Bowl. It was just a game. We want to keep on getting better each and every week. That game is in the past and we have to prepare for the team coming up the following week."

RS SOPHOMORE DT NEVILLE GALLIMORE

On getting a better feel in the second half:

"Tulane is a good football team. They came out swinging but once we got in a groove and started limiting mistakes and playing our football we were able to make things happen. We just had to have our guys rally and come together and decide we're going to play sound football. Good things happened."

On keeping the emotion after last week:

"It's not hard. We're not gauging this game off last week, we know what we want and it's a long season ahead with plenty work to be done. It's not hard to control, the guys we have here know we have something special and there's a lot of football left. We just have to keep pushing and limiting our mistakes."

On Parnell Motley's interception:

"He's a great football player. I told you all before you have to watch for him, that was big. That's a big momentum change. We needed that. We expect that out of P. Mott, we expect a lot more from him."

SENIOR CORNERBACK JORDAN THOMAS

On struggles in the first half:

"We were just not playing good football. We were out of place most of the time and not filling in gaps. That's what it came down to. We weren't playing the game that we knew how to play."

On Parnell Motley's interception:

"It was huge for our defense because you know we haven't had many turnovers in the past couple of games. That ignited it all. He got that interception and took it to the house. He put points on the board for the defense and that was huge. That took our offense out of one possession and we put up points for them. It was a 14-point swing."

On blocking for Motley:

"It was huge. I'm so proud of Parnell and how he's grown from last year to this year. Every time he has a ball in his hand and I have anything to do with him scoring or him getting more yards I want to do that. It's not just Parnell but the whole team. Any way shape or form that I can help out our defense then I'm going to do that."



OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

RS SENIOR LINEBACKER OGBONNIA OKORONKWO

On the defensive game plan:

"It's an option team we haven't seen before. The speed in practice and on scout teams is definitely different. It's just execution and trying to get it done."

On settling down on defense:

"Probably after halftime. We realized it wasn't anything we were doing, it was us. After halftime with Coach Mike, we decided to come out there with more energy and change the game."

On Parnell Motley's interception:

"That was really big. I told y'all, the ball is going to find its way into the guy's hands. He's a playmaker."

On being disciplined:

"It's definitely tough. It's hard to just see plays that you could make and try not to make them. That's the nature of the beast. You just have to handle your business and execute."

JUNIOR SAFETY KAHLIL HAUGHTON

On his first career start:

"It was great getting a start. I just had to pretend that it was not my first time being out there. I just went out there, tried to keep calm, and do my responsibilities."

On the change after the defense became settled:

"I just don't think we were playing with the discipline that we needed to. Once we figured out what we needed to do and thought to just do our job we went out in the second half and things just got a whole lot easier."

On the difference in mentality when starting a game:

"No (difference). I just went out there and did what I usually do. I stayed calm and just tried to be disciplined and stay on my game mentally and physically."

On Parnell Motley's breakthrough:

"It was the springtime, right after winter workouts. He was working and focusing on his game. We knew at that point he was going to be competing for a starting spot. We knew he could do something really special this season and it has really showed up."



OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

TULANE QUOTES • HEAD COACH WILLIE FRITZ

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On the running game to start the game:

“We were reading it correctly. We were running inside zone quite a bit and had some nice seams. The few times that they would squeeze it we would do pretty well with running the quarterback and running the ball as well. It looked good early but they made some adjustments and started bringing more people. In the second half, corner blitzes and just having a few more people that we couldn’t account for at the point of attack.”

On the interception:

“We didn’t respond very well. They’re a team that can score so many points and are so potent. With their receivers and running backs and ,of course, their potential Heisman trophy winning quarterback. We didn’t respond very well. We were down 28-14 at half and got the ball the first series and just never could get in step offensively again the rest of the half.”

On what the team can take from this game:

“I think this is a game that in six or seven weeks it can help you out at a little bit. Playing a quality opponent you learn you just have to keep fighting and keep battling, I thought we did a good job of that in the first half. There’s ebbs and flows in a game and when things aren’t going your way you just have to keep playing and fighting. That’s what we’re teaching our guys.”



OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

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SENIOR RUNNING BACK DONTRELL HILLIARD

On the first three possessions:

"We just came out and did what we needed to do; paid attention to our true game and kept going. If we would've just stuck it out a little bit more we would've been fine."

On the interception:

"You can't base the whole game on one play, but we should've bounced back from that and as a whole should've came together to finish the game."

On his first big run:

"The atmosphere was crazy, you couldn't ask for a better atmosphere like they sold the whole stadium out. That's what we're here for and we're here to play ball."

On his 2,000 yards:

"Honestly it doesn't mean anything if you don't win any games. I'm happy for it, but at the same time you have to win games."

On the Tulane offensive line:

"It gives us confidence, we can play with anybody if we stay focused for the game. We can play with anybody."