

OKLAHOMA QUOTES

Saturday, October 14, 2017

Head coach Lincoln Riley

Opening statement: That's why they call it the Red River Rivalry. What a great game. The atmosphere was electric. We obviously got out to a pretty good lead. And there's going to be a lot of things that we can do better to continue to push those leads. We've been in that situation here for a few games in a row.

But I loved our guys' fight. And we fought all day, even when we didn't play our best ball, even when we had some things go against us. And I think we really took some steps forward as a team.

We're going to play a lot better as this thing goes on. We're going to get a lot better as a team. But any time you come out of here with a win it's a special moment.

Give Texas a lot of credit. They fought. It was a great battle. A lot of respect for those guys and more than proud for everybody in our program for getting the win today.

On jumping to an early lead and trying to get things going in the second half: Yeah, we felt like we moved it pretty good most of the day. The most disappointing thing, like Baker said, was just having to settle for all those field goals. We were getting down there. And give Texas credit, they did a good job defensively in those areas.

We had a couple of plays —a huge play in the game was the touchdown to (Dimitri) Flowers, it got called back. But you've got to keep battling. Austin (Seibert) did a great job making field goals, but we felt like at that moment we needed a little bit of a spark. And we took a chance with it, and the guys executed it to perfection.

On whether his first Red River Showdown as head coach felt any different than when he was offensive coordinator: It didn't. It really didn't. I felt a strong sense to want to win this game. The other two times was as an offensive coordinator. Like I've told you guys a lot, my job has changed, I get that, but my sense of responsibility to do my part for this team hasn't. I've always had a burning desire to do my part, if I had it again today.

Proud to win. But it's not for me, it's not about me, it's about the way these guys fought and our coaches everybody. And so I'm glad that I was able to do my part to help us win. That's it.

On the difference between last week's loss to Iowa State and the win today: I think we took some steps as a team. I think we prepared them better. I thought our team responded better when things didn't go our way.

We had a better mentality today overall, no doubt. We were ready to play again like we have been for a couple of weeks straight. We know that we're going to have to play better and be able to maintain some of those strong runs.

Playing well early is a big thing; we're doing that really well. We've gotta do a good job maintaining that and stepping on their throats when we get the chance to. We'll get better at that. We'll coach better at that. But the fight in this team today was outstanding.

On the performance of younger players: I thought that was a real key today. And really, if you look at this game over the last two years, that's been a big key in both the victories. Guys kind of going down. Young guys having to step up and play in this atmosphere. We had a lot of guys do it last year, and we had a lot of guys do it today.

Those guys stepped up. Trey Sermon ran really hard. Rodney (Anderson) probably played his best game as a Sooner. There's a lot of guys.

CeeDee (Lamb) can play better. And he will. But guys, defensively, Tre Brown, making a huge play down there on that punt. I think when we were backed up, I'm pretty sure it was him that made that tackle. That's what this game is about. It's all hands on deck. You need every single person, and we had that today.

On what redshirt sophomore running back Rodney Anderson showed him in the game today and over the last seven days: He showed up. He's getting better and better. Even though he's been on this team for a long time, he's not played much ball and not had a lot of practice time, for that matter, too, with all the injuries that he's had that are well documented.

But I think today just kind of got his shot. Early in the season he's had a few times where he's in there where maybe it hadn't timed out right or it's been a bad call or we hadn't blocked it up great or whatever.

We made some nice holes for him today and he had some big runs. And he's a good football player. And the more he plays, the more confidence he's going to get, and he'll continue to be a weapon for us.

Redshirt senior quarterback Baker Mayfield

On his emotions at the end of the game: Towards the end there, it started settling in for me that that was my last one. And after you had the little — realized

that we had a pretty strong chance to win, that it started settling in for me.

That was a hard-fought battle, just as Coach Riley said. There were ups and downs and everything in between for us. We started off great offensively. Yeah, we could have finished better on a lot of our drives. Too many field goals for us. We'll take care of that.

But a lot of ups and downs, and that's the type of the game when you play Texas, it always takes it all out of you. And it just kind of settled in there for me at the end.

On the final touchdown to tight end Mark Andrews: Great protection, great play call. We had talked about it the drive before on the sideline. Coach Riley came up to me and said we're probably going to get to it. Like I said, great protection, Mark ran a great route, and execution makes my job easy. He was wide open.

On what was said among the offense when Texas took the lead in the fourth quarter, and whether the College Football Playoff was on their minds: For us, it's a singular focus. The thought of the College Football Playoff is not what's running through your head right there. It's about doing your job and winning that game and beating Texas. There was no other motivation besides doing our job in that moment.

On the toughness of the team after he and several other players were banged up: Yeah, it's something that we talked about, you have to expect that in games like these. We talked about it as a team. We made the decision last night how we were going to handle adversity and stuff and toughness like that.

So for the older guys that were in here, you know, and got nicked up, bangs and bruises, it's realizing it's the last one; you definitely don't want to come out, and you'll fight through a little extra pain for this one. It was a mental decision for all of us.

On the difference between last week's loss to Iowa State and the win today: I think the execution defensively in the first half was unreal. I think they rose to the occasion.

Everybody wants to throw them in the trash after last week. They showed up today. They showed what they're made of and what we have on this team. We came together. Offensively, we moved the ball, like we said. But just tried to finish out. I think we played well, especially for going up against Texas.

On Texas quarterback Sam Ehlinger's performance: Tough kid. You could tell by the way he carried himself. He bounces back after getting hit. Just how the

Austin boys do it, I guess. So he's going to have a heck of a career. It's obvious. I had to throw that in there. (Laughter).

On what this game means to him: I don't think I can truly put it in words to describe it correctly. I hit on it early, it started to settle in, that feeling that it was my last one. There's no atmosphere like this in all of college football. There's nothing to compare it to.

So it's going to be tough for me to have that settle in. And it's not like I'm the only one sitting up here that's this is the last one. You've got two seniors over to my right as well.

So it's going to be hard for me. That's why I'm trying to enjoy every single moment I have left with this team.

Senior defensive end Ogbonnia Okoronkwo

On how much the defense progressed today by playing so many different players: I felt we took a tremendous step just getting everybody out there on the field. Everybody was ready to play. We had a great week of practice and preparation to where we knew exactly what we were doing. And tackling was great today. So the effort. And "D" line pressure and the coverage was all good and worked all into one.

As you can see, we ended up on top. And it's all respect to them, but at the same time we prepared our butts off.

On whether he was surprised by how much he was able to dig inside: No. Everybody on the team would have done that. We told each other we were playing for each other. We're brothers in there. Everybody, we knew what we were going to have to do to win the game. So that's all it was.

On his reaction to winning the game: I was thanking God that we won. That was a hard-fought game. We swung until the very last second.

Afterwards, when I was down there on a knee, I was really just praying and just thanking God, giving him glory for the win we just pulled out.

Senior defensive back Steven Parker

On how much the defense progressed today by playing so many different players: Same thing, we showed a lot of looks, we were very multiple. We had a lot of guys step up, a lot of guys who haven't played a lot of football here yet. We

were really proud of them. Our slogan is we're two deep. Everybody's got to be ready to play, and they were ready to play today.

Redshirt junior offensive lineman Orlando Brown

On what was said among the offense when Texas took the lead in the fourth quarter, and whether the College Football Playoff was on their minds: We approach every job with the mentality to score. And obviously being in that situation, we understand the meaning of that drive for the game.

And we approached it with the mentality we have to score. And we have a bunch of playmakers. We have a lot of younger players that are ready and obviously are performing. And it's never a doubt in our mind we're not going to score every time we take the field.

On the mental process of battling Texas' defensive line: Obviously it's a lot on your mind. As an offensive line, we kind of understood what they would be game planning us with and the different types of blitzes they would be throwing at us.

All week Coach B and both Coach Riley, they prepped us. And they didn't do anything we didn't expect.

Obviously there was some lack of execution here and there, but we pretty much were ready for it.

Junior tight end Mark Andrews

On his touchdown: It was something that we saw up top and the coverage that they were in, we got a chance to hit them on it, and kind of ran a corner and a little bit up, and I came pretty open and they threw the ball.

On being able to come back after losing the lead: There was a ton of energy on the sideline. Everyone was into it and it was kind of a fighter's mentality that we had tonight. It was just obvious. It was obvious to everyone before the game, halftime, on the sideline, that we weren't going to go down without a fight, and I'm proud of this team and the character we showed.

On the difference between this week and previous weeks: I think going through adversity always kind of makes or breaks a team, and obviously coming out with a win today really shows that we're not a team that's easily broken. I'm incredibly proud of our team to be able to fight back and stay with it and trust the coaches.

On the team's mentality before the final touchdown of the game: We knew we had to go and get it done. They were up by one and it was a huge situation for us. We hadn't been moving the ball well, but at the end of the day it's a mentality thing. We believe we can move the ball on anybody and it came down to us against them, and we did a pretty good job there.

Sophomore cornerback Parnell Motley

On what it meant for the team to perform on defense: It definitely sends a message. It was our first time on defense first. All other games, we've been on offense first. So it's great for the defense to set the momentum early, and get the offense going. Like I said we got three drive shutouts in a row, so that was a good start for us to keep it going.

On what coaches say about not getting too excited by big plays: Yeah just stay calm, just put on high alert of what's going but they'll never get too hard on us. They just want to keep us calm and keep playing and keep going out to our potential.

On playing against Ehlinger: It was good to get him out of his comfort zone and make sure stop him. He did a great job on the passing today. He's got a little run sometimes, but to tackle he's a big boy, so he's hard to stop sometimes.

Junior kicker/punter Austin Seibert

On field goal confidence: I haven't ever lost my confidence. I kick [well] in practice all the time, it just has to turn over to games. The coaches believed in me and my teammates rallied around me and they knew what I was capable of. Today it just showed. So I'm hitting a straight ball and I'm just going to continue on that.

On how he's been able to keep confidence: I guess that's just my personality, it's something you have to have. You can either dwell about it or just move on and make the next kick. That's my mentality when it comes to that. So my team needs me and I'm not going to be sorry on the sideline for missing something.

On how he's felt physically handling all three duties this year: A lot better than last year. I've cut back on some reps, I'm not kicking nearly as much as I did last year during games. Ice bathing every day and stretching and really concentrating more on stretching and quick twitch lifts. All of that has helped out tremendously. I've found a good routine and I'm going to stick with it.

Defensive Coordinator Mike Stoops

On Sam Ehlinger's play: I think he's terrific. I knew that. He's got a bright future, he's a talented kid. He's a competitor, a lot like our guys. The future is bright for him and Texas. We're going to have to compete against them for the next three years and that's good.

On if Texas fielding a running quarterback was concerning: Not really until the last eight plays. If we would've been able to put the first half away and we didn't. They were able to go on an eight play drive and we held them until the field goal. That's when our guys started to feel this because I thought the whole first half our guys controlled the game. Our defense we went three and out, three and out maybe three and out again, I don't know what we started the game with. It was something like that. We were fresh and then right before the half, those eight plays I thought gassed us a little bit. We lost a little momentum. But, we came back and answered with what, a field goal to start the second half, got a little momentum back and then they made some plays. We had some tough calls, you know, third downs, they made some plays. It got them back in the game. Their execution got better on third down and they were able to finish a couple drives.

On thoughts about the future of the four-man front: We had some young guys step up, and that's what's pleasing to me. I was really pleased with Neville (Gallimore), he played better. I thought the big fella inside (Du'Vonta Lampkin) did a good job. He's been maturing, stepping up. We need to keep continuing to develop Du'Vonta and keep developing pass rushers. This game is always going to be a perimeter game and we just have to keep developing our players and our cover guys.

Senior cornerback Jordan Thomas

On what this game meant to him: For me, it meant the world. This is my last OU/Texas. I will never play this game again. It is one of the biggest rivalries in the country.

On his new hair: I just wanted a change and it was just a spur of the moment thing. I was actually getting my hair cut, and when I got done my barber started putting some gel in it. When he started putting it in, before he rubbed it all in, it kind of looked like frosted at the top. Then I thought "what if I dyed it?" Push came to shove and the next day I was like "alright this is what I'm doing with my life right now."

On how big it was to have a good game after the past two weeks: It was huge. Not even just for me but for my team as well. For me, obviously getting beat up the last two games and having a game where I came out, and not necessarily dominated, but just focused on my game and did my job. It all plays out.

Sophomore running back Rodney Anderson

On how he made the most out of an opportunity: All I can ask for is an opportunity. Once I get my moment, I just have to make the most of it. It was fun to get in there.

On how he felt going into the game: I feel like this game brings out the best in everybody. I was just trying to make some plays for my team.

On if he's gotten discouraged over the past few weeks: You can't think about it that way. You just have to take each opportunity as it comes and make the most out of it. I'm here for the team, I'm going to fight for the team. Whenever they need me that is when I'm going to do what I can do.

On how it felt to be more involved today: It felt great. It always feels great to play. I take my chances and it just felt amazing.

Freshman running back Trey Sermon

On if their physicality wore Texas down early: I believe it did. We play really intense and we were being just as physical and trying to give all our effort really. I think over the course of the game we just started to run them down.

On the last touchdown: The offensive line, including myself, we were great protection to give Baker (Mayfield) some time. He just found the open guy and it was a really big moment for us.

On how his first OU/Texas matchup felt: They told me it was going to be intense, the crowd, even the plays in the game. It was a really big moment and everything I expected.

On Baker Mayfield's message to the team: To keep giving all you got. It is really all about effort. He was telling us to try to be consistent and don't give up and to keep fighting. After the game I told him I was proud of him for really being the leader that we needed.