



OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

OKLAHOMA QUOTES • HEAD COACH LINCOLN RILEY

No. 4/3/5 OKLAHOMA 59, WEST VIRGINIA 31 • NOV. 25, 2017

Opening statement:

“Great team win. Just tremendous. You always worry a little bit in those games coming in that your team may be a little bit too emotional and our guys were a little emotional coming into this game for a lot of reasons – what we’re playing for, obviously our seniors’ last home game, this series here against West Virginia’s been a heated one – so there was a lot of reasons to have emotions and fight. I thought, for the most part, we did a really good job of managing it. First half, played probably as good of a first half as far as all three sides of the ball as we have all year. Stopped them defensively, created some key turnovers there that were really, really big in the first half. Obviously, Austin Seibert had the 51-yarder there right at the end that was just a great kick, a really cool sequence there at the end. Offensively, obviously we got on a pretty good roll. It was a tremendous win, it closes out a great regular season, and now it’s on to some big, big games, and we’ve made them big by the way we’ve played and we’ll be looking forward to preparing this week and continuing to improve as a team which, I think we’re still doing right now, and we’ll get on down to the MetroPlex and play it out.”

On his players’ emotions on senior day:

“I knew they would (be emotional). It was expected. Not as much as the fans, and I do appreciate the fans. I thought they were great. The last three home games, I thought they made a big difference. The atmosphere here in the last three weeks – the (Texas) Tech game, the TCU game and here today, it was really, really electric. It shows how good we can be here, and so we’re really proud and thankful for our fans. Our guys handled that whole deal well. Our players handled it well, we got past it on Monday. I didn’t think it was a distraction for this team. I think the team was very confident in Kyler (Murray) and I thought that Kyler was ready to go regardless of who was behind center.”

On how long he would keep redshirt senior quarterback Baker Mayfield on the bench:

“I just decided I was going to do it one series, regardless of whether it was a 10-play drive – I didn’t want to have to make the decision in game. So I said, ‘Hey, I’m going to make a decision and I’m going to stick with it no matter what happens.’ And so, first series went a little bit quicker than I thought, but it worked out fine.”

On the officials’ call in a chippy game:

“I thought they did a pretty good job. It was heated, no doubt. I didn’t see the play or the replay of Dru (Samia), but it sounds like he threw a punch and in any game, if you throw a punch, you should be suspended, or you should be kicked out, so if he did it, then they made the right call. They talked to both teams, talked to both sidelines, and I thought they did a decent job handling it.”

On opponents testing the Sooners’ composure:

“You get tested different ways, and when you’ve had the success that we’ve had here, you’re going to get tested and you’ve got to be the bigger man, you’ve got to be more poised group, so we were better on that as a whole today, but obviously still some things that we have to do better.”

On Murray’s performance at quarterback:

“It was awesome. It was fun to see him get loose and you see his electric ability. I was proud of him. He handled it very well. It was not the easiest situation for him, either, so he was tremendous all week and I had a lot of confidence in him regardless of how it played out that he would come in and play well and handle it well.”

On the underclassmen’s performance:

“We’ve got some good young players. We’ve got a bunch of really good ones coming in right behind them. It’s fun. The guys talked about it a lot last night when we met about the seniors, it was important to send them out the right way here at home but also the responsibility of the underclassmen to continue to continue on and even build on what these seniors have done here the last few years. I think the future’s definitely bright, but we’ll worry about that in a few weeks.”

On playing TCU again in the Big 12 Championship:

“It’s two different games. So, nothing from the first one’s going to matter. They were a really, really good team when we beat them here and they’re still a really, really good team, and we’re going to have to play really well to beat them, and we realize that and we’ve talked about playing against one of the top teams in the country again, so it’ll be our challenge, it’ll be a big challenge and we’ll have to be ready to play.”



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On junior kicker Austin Seibert's 51-yard field goal:

"It was awesome. It was big. It was big for him. We've had a bunch this year that were right on the edge that I didn't kick and I was actually kind of glad when we got it. If it would've been anywhere inside the 40, I definitely would've kicked it – I had that much confidence in him."

On Baker's enthusiasm:

"It's tough to measure. I don't know how to really describe it. Day in and day out, you feel it. You feel it within the whole team and that's why his impact goes way beyond the numbers he puts up and the way that he plays individually."

On redshirt sophomore running back Rodney Anderson's performance:

"I've said it a lot – he's fought through all the adversity early in his career and he'd kind of just hung in there. He didn't pout like a lot of people would when things didn't go his way early in the season, and those other guys were playing a little bit more. But when he got his opportunities starting with the Texas game, he made plays. He gained confidence, we gained confidence in him and he's just continually gotten better and better."

On Baker Mayfield controlling his emotions:

"A couple years ago, it would've been a lot tougher, but he's been through so much. You think of all the different emotional games that guy has been in, the way he plays, so I knew it was going to be important, but walking out on that field, was I concerned about it? No. I was confident that he would handle it well. We had some good talks about it and we felt like he was in a really good place coming into this game."



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OKLAHOMA QUOTES • DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR MIKE STOOPS

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Opening statement:

"Kind of an unusual game, we really weren't expecting them to run wildcat thirty-so times, but they did what they had to do to move the ball and I thought they did a good job in the bobcat package, creating some running lanes, some similar stuff that Kansas State did three or four weeks ago to get some seams. It wasn't thrown by the run defense, but it caught us a little bit off guard. Tried to make some adjustments, we contained it a little bit, tried to get them off schedule but overall, we need to be better in the run defense."

On Baker Mayfield:

"He's great. We want him to be "Bake" and he was today again. It's over, we've moved on, he has and I'm sure he's probably thrilled that this week is over and now we can concentrate on TCU and what we've got to do next week."

On run game:

"You can see some holes that we didn't defend as well from a week ago or two times ago. There's a history of what they like to do against certain- our defensive front, you've got a pretty good idea of what they want to do. They want to run the football and they're going to use the quarterback to run it. The boys are going to do what they have to do to win this game to get to where we all want to go. We've got to be prepared for a lot of different things."

On defense in the last month:

"We do a lot of good things. I don't think we're that far off. We're in transition between some fronts right now. Trying to find our identity has been challenging because of the conference we're in, too, and the amount of field space that you have to defend is just so different. That's the challenging part of being a defensive coach in this league."

On building off of good performances:

"I think we're in a better place, mentally, going into this game. Our confidence level was higher, but there's still things we need to continue to grow with and improve on to get to our final destination; that's for sure. If we want to win two or three more games, we're going to have to play well and defense is going to have to come up with big stops. We're not able to get our dime package or blitz- it was crazy. Today, the first third downs were all run out of third and long out of big formations. It's frustrating sometimes but you've got to adapt to what they're going to do better."



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SENIOR QUARTERBACK BAKER MAYFIELD

On the reception he received when he entered the game:

"Unbelievable. On top of the crowd, the whole team. The crowd was a huge factor tonight. It was pretty special to come out my last play and get a standing ovation. Words can't describe how grateful I am for those people."

On the victory lap:

"I try to give back. It doesn't justify, it's not equal, but I try to do as much as I can after all they've supported me through."

On the emotions of the game:

"The first steps on the field kind of made all of it go away. Having the support of them (the crowd), I knew I was going to settle in and do my job. It's more of a relieving feeling for me, it's okay for me to grow and move on, if I'm progressing and becoming a better man, I'm proud that I can learn from my mistakes and move on."

On Kyler Murray:

"He got caught from behind. That's something I would not have guessed. I can relate to Kyler and where he's at mentally after playing freshman year and transferring and sitting out. At this point, he's ready to go. This program's in good hands, we have a great coaching staff and with Kyler at the reigns next year, he's a very talented guy. Arguably the fastest guy on our team and the combination with his arm. That first drive he really got the crowd into it and proved we're going to be fine, no matter what. I'm proud of him, and the offensive line played great."

On taking in his last home game:

"How loud they got when I first went in was something I'll never forget. It means the world to me, I've said I've always dreamed of playing here so the moment it settled in for me was when Coach (Lincoln) Riley told me, 'You're going to take the first play right here, then be ready to come out.' It kind of settled in there and made it tough, but the good thing is we have three more games."

REDSHIRT SENIOR DEFENSIVE END D.J. WARD

On if he told his family about proposing:

"Yeah my family knew. I had to tell somebody and they definitely were the first ones to know."

On what the moment was like:

"It was nerve-wracking. I knew she'd say yes, but still just the fact that I have to go out there and do it, and say what I had to say, it was big."

On what she said back:

"She was crying the whole time, honestly. She probably said some things that I just couldn't understand."

On what the anticipation was like:

"It kept building. Once I saw it got to Ashton Julious I was like man that's right there. I was like starting to recite what I was going to say the whole time. I still kind of messed it up when it got to me, but I got through it."

On what he said:

"I just had a little heartfelt thing for me and her from back in the day that I tried to recite through. I had to pause a little bit, I got a little nervous and choked up, but I got through it."

On where he kept the ring:

"I let my mom hold onto it because I definitely would've lost it. I'm forgetful."

On playing after proposing:

"Extremely motivated."

On if he was more nervous about the game or proposing:

"I guess I was more nervous about proposing. I was nervous about the game, don't get me wrong, but that one kind of took a lead on that one."

On what it's like to win the Don Key award:

"It was very special. I feel really honored to have won that award and share it with some of my brothers. It was a really good feeling to be recognized like that."

FRESHMAN WIDE RECEIVER CEEDEE LAMB

On being a part of Mayfield's last home game:

"We sent him out on a good note, honestly. I felt like I sent him out the way that it was planned. I'm happy that I did and I stuck with what I said."

On team meeting with Lincoln Riley:

"The meeting was very meaningful, honestly. For the seniors to know that it is their last game at Gaylord Memorial Stadium and for us to step up. I honestly don't know how to explain it. It's just very emotional."



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On Kyler Murray:

"We did have a sneak peak of what will happen in the future. With Kyler in, I feel like we run the ball pretty well. I have no doubt in my quarterback and neither do the coaches and all of my teammates. I'm just happy to be a part of this team."

On blocking down field:

"My goal is to be a complete receiver. I don't want to be the type of receiver that is one-dimensional receiver. I feel like blocking is just as important as catching the ball. If you don't block for your teammates then you aren't being a team player. I would like to be a team player. I would like to have that label. I'm just here to help win games."

RED SHIRT JUNIOR OFFENSIVE LINE ORLANDO BROWN

On team's performance:

"It was very emotional. Obviously, we wanted to send the seniors out in the right way. They worked hard to turn this program around. It was important for us to go out there and play the way that we did."

On bringing Mayfield's jersey out onto the field:

"He has been a big part to our success in the last three years. My first year when I red shirted, we were 8-5. He came here and has given his all. For him to be my starting quarterback for pretty much every game that I have played here... I mean it being senior night, I thought it would be the best way to represent him. Obviously, he has been out here with us every game and I wasn't going to not let him be out there on senior night."

On emotions throughout the game:

"It was tough. I mean West Virginia, credit to them, they are a physical team. They are going to come out and fight. It was kind of tough for us to keep up with. Obviously, we don't want what happened to Dru Samia. That was pretty tough."

JUNIOR KICKER AUSTIN SEIBERT

On the 51-yard field goal:

"Well, I took my helmet off and I was on the sideline and then I noticed that the defense got a fumble recovery so I was like, 'Alright, what're we going to do?' and I looked at Coach Riley and he just said, 'Have fun.' I ran out there and just went through all my technique, and the funny thing is on Wednesday, we usually do a 51-52 (yard field goal) from the right hash, but we did one from the left hash, so it kind of worked out, and then just being confident in my snapper and holder makes every kick that much easier, and when Connor (McGinnis) is a finalist for the Mortell Award, I know that ball is getting down and the laces are forward every single time."

On if he knew the field goal was good when he kicked it:

"Yeah, as soon as I hit it I knew everything had went as perfect as it could have been, and I just looked up and it was sailing through (the uprights). It was awesome."

REDSHIRT SOPHOMORE RUNNING BACK RODNEY ANDERSON

On getting a win for the seniors:

"We talked about it a lot, it was a very emotional game. We really love our seniors. They do a great job of setting examples and showing the younger people how to work hard and stuff like that."

On how he's fought through injuries and setbacks:

"When things get down, you can't get down with them. I just try to keep my eyes on the prize and just keep moving forward and just keep doing the best I can do for the team."

On the crowd's reception of Baker Mayfield:

"I think it was well deserved. He's a great leader and it's kind of hard to imagine the team without him. I'm very happy that the crowd showed love, and he deserved it."

On playing TCU twice:

"It's just another game, so we have to prepare for it like any other game. I don't mind playing them twice. Whatever bus they put me on, I get on and play as hard as I can."

On if they are more prepared to play TCU the second time:

"Teams are always making adjustments off of each other. I'm sure we know some things that they like to do, and they know things that we like to do. It's going to be another good game."

Junior Tight End Mark Andrews

On how good of a game the offense played:

"Honestly, it is one of the better wins that we have had. It was a full complete game with both sides playing complimentary ball. It was awesome to see, especially this time of the year. It was good to see."

On having the opportunity to win three straight Big 12 Championships:

"It is exciting. There are not many teams or if any teams have done it before. It is a big thing. I am excited for this next game and ready to play."

On Lincoln Riley this season as a head coach:

"I don't know if I have noticed anything different in particular. I think right when he stepped in he just handled this job incredibly well, like a veteran. I really cannot say anything just because he has done a great job the entire time."



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On if this was the offensive peak performance of the season:

"We played well. We moved the ball really well at times. There are always things to correct. I do not know if this was our peak form because there is also room to improve. We will be in the film room and look at that tomorrow."

On Baker Mayfield's ability to handle the emotions of today:

"Today he was very calm and composed. He played his heart out, and it was great to see him come out here and have the performance he did today his last time at Owen Field. It is a special moment for him and his career has just been insane."

REDSHIRT SOPHOMORE QUARTERBACK KYLER MURRAY

On what it was to take the first snap:

"I have been in that position before. Obviously not with these circumstances, but being the back up of this team is knowing that I am one play away at all times. It was just having to be ready like any other game. I cannot be on the sideline fooling around, so for me knowing that I was going to start it was easier for me to get mentally prepared."

On the first play:

"We schemed something up. It was a regular run play that we have had and we saw the look being squeezed a little bit. I knew in the game I only had one drive so I was going to try and make the most of it. He gave me a little bit of room and from there you saw what happened."

On stepping up on senior night:

"It was one of the things we talked about in our meeting. Guys like Baker, Obo and all the other seniors, they set a standard here for years to come. I know when I was a senior in high school, I wanted the younger guys to play hard for me and I know how they felt, and I think we went out and did a good job of it. I hope we can keep it going."

On the toughness of waiting your turn:

"It is pretty tough. I knew the circumstances when I left Texas A&M. I knew I would probably be starting right now if I didn't leave. But I think that everything happens for a reason and God put me in this position for a reason. It has been a hard time learning and trying to have patience but it is all going to pay off, and I think I have done a pretty good job of it so far. Sitting behind a guy like Baker, I have the most respect for him so I am taking it how it is. I have more years here."



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WEST VIRGINIA QUOTES • HEAD COACH DANA HOLGORSEN

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Opening statement:

“Obviously when they have somewhere around 15 yards per play, it doesn’t matter what any of the other stats are. We knew they were good offensively going into this game, I don’t want to beat up our defense, we’ve played really good defense around here for three or four years. I like what we’re doing, but the rest of it, that’s an offense that is tough to stop. Six (Baker Mayfield) is the best player in college football. He’s got a lot of really good people around him. Up front they play nasty, they’re experienced, they’re huge. The running backs are really good, the receivers are growing up, the tight end is one of the best in college football, the fullback is one of the best in college football. They obviously had their way with us. Offensively, I was proud of how our guys played. I was disappointed early with getting our first two drives in scoring range, we have to punch those things in. A couple missed opportunities early, but I thought our coaching staff did a good job. Jake (Spavital) called it and we controlled it, kept them off the field as much as we possibly could. Kennedy (McKay) ran hard, all three backs ran hard. I thought (Chris) Chugunov went in there and battled. Those other guys stepped in there and did okay. I was happy with what we did to an extent. Obviously it was nowhere near what the other side did, but I thought we did what we could. At the end of the day, that’s what a championship team looks like. They’re playing in the Big 12 championship and we’re not.

“I do want to mention I’m still proud of our guys and proud of our team. We weren’t picked very high and finished fourth in the Big 12. We didn’t beat Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, TCU... but those guys are above us in the standings. I’m still proud of our guys for fighting their way to a 7-5 record and finishing fourth in the Big 12. I think with the Big 12 where it’s at, everybody beating each other, it’s the most competitive league in college football and the most competitive it’s been since I’ve seen it. We’ll figure out where we’re going and play one more game. We’ll be looking forward to that.”

On the Wildcat formation:

“Jake (Spavital) did a great job. Obviously, we weren’t happy with how we did things last week. I downplayed Will’s (Grier) injury. You can’t use that as an excuse. When things like that happen, you have to have a plan to be able to step up and try to make it work. We challenged him a little bit and I think him and the staff did a great job, called it great, and put our guys in position to make plays. The plan was good, the guys bought into it and it helped us move the ball.”

On the next step for West Virginia football:

“We’ll start recruiting tomorrow. Players, facilities, tradition, it’s where we want to be and we have plenty of work to do.”

On Baker Mayfield:

“You know, the thing you can’t see on video – obviously the play speaks for itself and he’s surrounded by a lot of good players – but the thing I always look for in a quarterback is making everyone around you better, and his confidence just oozes out of him. The fiery-spirited natured kid that he is, he scores and gets 100,000 people going, let alone the 100 kids on the sideline. That type of player gives coaches a lot of confidence. I think Lincoln (Riley) is doing a great job. It’s obviously a great program. I asked him what’d you need, like from a program perspective, and he said, ‘not much.’ That’s a good place to be in. Coach (Bob) Stoops left him in a great situation and the quarterback helps bring a lot of confidence and they’re doing well right now.”



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JUNIOR LINEBACKER DAVID LONG

On Oklahoma scoring on its first drive of the game:

“They just jumped out fast. Caught us on our heels.”

On Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray’s 66-yard touchdown:

“It was just a bust in the defense. We’ve got to do our job early on. Big plays hurt us.”

On Oklahoma’s offense:

“It wasn’t nothing amazing or anything. Most Big 12 offenses run fast, high tempo. We hurt ourselves. No disrespect to them, they’re a great team obviously, but we did make some mistakes that hurt us in the long run.”

On the West Virginia defense’s mindset:

“I don’t think it was the mindset at all. Players have got to be players. They’ve got to make plays.”

On Defensive Coordinator Tony Gibson taking the blame for the loss:

“As a coach, most coaches do that to protect their players, but at the end of the day, we’re out there playing ball. We have to make the plays on the field and tonight we didn’t do that.”

On the atmosphere in the locker room after the game:

“Like any other loss. Nobody likes losing. It was quiet. We’ve got to get back to work, that’s all.”

SOPHOMORE RUNNING BACK KENNEDY MCKOY

On his previous experience at quarterback:

“I did a little bit freshman year but after that, it was pretty much running back . . . It definitely helped me being able to be comfortable in the shotgun and taking a snap and giving an indicator and stuff like that . . . I wouldn’t really say any of it was hard. Like I said, I played it before in high school and it all just kind of came back to me.”

On the game plan:

“We only had about four plays in that particular set, so we repped those four plays a lot and that was good enough to get me some good reps at it to where I was comfortable.”

On playing quarterback in the future:

“I’m ready to show people what I can do other than as a running back.”