



OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

OU POSTGAME QUOTES . HEAD COACH LINCOLN RILEY

NO. 7/7 OKLAHOMA 51, TEXAS TECH 46 • NOV. 3, 2018

OKLAHOMA HEAD COACH LINCOLN RILEY

Opening Statement:

Great win. Just more than anything happy to get out of here with a win. We knew it was going to be a tough environment, they're very motivated, well coached team. And then on top of that we spot them two quick early ones with the two turnovers that were bad calls on my part. Kyler (Murray) and I got to be better there early. But really proud of the way that we handled all the adversity. That place was rocking. Give Texas Tech credit, give Lubbock credit, give their fan base, it was an excellent atmosphere. And so for our guys to come back, get that done was big. Also for us to handle some of the adversity. We had some tough calls that didn't go our way. We also had some dumb, dumb penalties on our side that we got to do a lot better with. So we kind of continually put ourselves in a hole, but we just found a way and the team kind of willed themselves to it. Especially proud of some of our guys in the secondary. Playing without a couple guys that have played virtually every snap for us this season. And they were a little bit unexpected. I thought some guys stepped in and really did some nice things there, so. So much we got to get better at. But winning in November, winning on the road against a good football team, man, you take that any time you can get it. So proud of another huge road win for us.

Q. Usually your teams are a calm and cool team and tonight you had the personal fouls and unsportsmanlike penalties. Did you see that coming during the week or do you think the environment got to you or what do you think happened there?

We'll go back and watch them. It was a chippy game. I thought it was fairly chippy on both sides. I just think that a few got called on us. That's part of the game, we play on the edge and that's important. If you come into these road environments, you come into an environment like we did tonight tentative, then you're going to get your brains beat in. But there is a line and I obviously, like I told them in there, we got to coach it better, you guys have got to do a better job with it because it very well -- even like that last one there I mean to give them field position when we got a guy that kicks it out virtually every time. I mean it's bad ball. So it's got to get corrected.

Q. Uncharacteristic of Kyler, he throws two picks early, you get down 14-0. What did you see from him and how did you kind of go about getting him turned back around?

I didn't have to do anything. He was good. He's been in battles, he's a competitor, he's very confident in himself and when you really find out if somebody's confident in themselves is in an environment like this where everything's went wrong, place is rocking, and you got to find a way to get yourself back on track. I mean I just I knew he would. I could tell the look in his eye. He wasn't fazed a bit and I didn't have to say anything to him. I didn't help him much there early either. But I think he did a tremendous job, he fought for our team. Sometimes a guy can get a little gun shy when you have a start like that and he wasn't. He kept swinging, he ran the ball well, so he ran for 100 yards, threw it for 360, I mean he was awesome.

Q. How much did things change in the second half for you defensively with (Texas Tech QB Alan) Bowman out of the game and (Jett) Duffey in there?

It definitely changed some. They're different guys. (Texas Tech head coach) Kliff's (Kingsbury) such a good offensive mind that there's going to be things dialed up for both of them. So it was an adjustment, which we -- that seems to have been a theme for us the last couple years here is seeing somebody you didn't expect to see. Duffey came in and ran the ball well, hurt us on a couple of scrambles, but the guys were in constant communication, I thought they did a pretty good job on him.

Q. Was it tough keeping the guys focused there toward the end because it had been a long somewhat sloppy game at times and really if they get the onside kick or something really goes their way at the end, was that a challenge for you with your guys?

It was. It shouldn't be. You score the last touchdown the game ain't over. The game's not over until it says 0:00, especially against a group like that. So it's bad football. It's coached bad, bad job by our players on it. And I don't want to sound too negative with it because this is a hell of a road win, but to do some of the things we did tonight, that's got to get corrected.



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Q. Obviously Kyler's an elite player, two mistakes early, just having a guy like Trey (Sermon) back there how calming is that for you guys?

He's steady, man. He gives us a lot. The combination of him and that offensive line you feel like you always got a chance to get the run game going. And it was important then but I would say even more important there in the fourth quarter. Those two drives we really leaned on Trey heavily and he tends to get better -- we have all seen that through his career, he tends to get better as the game goes on. He was pretty good the whole darn night here.

Q. (Kennedy) Brooks has emerged a little, but with Trey handling over 20 carries tonight, is that a reminder that he is that lead guy, and how would you just sort of assess the situation behind him in the back field?

Both those guys are playing good. Trey got hot, we rode Trey. Kennedy's had some games here in the past couple weeks where he's gotten hot. So I mean they're both really good players, we're going to try to get them both the ball a lot, wish we could have got Kennedy a few more honestly because I thought he was running well tonight too. But those kids are unselfish. They're just, it's our running back crew and they're going to produce, whoever is out there.

Q. The pick two there on the conversion how, big of a momentum shift was that for you guys --
Huge.

Q. And when was the last time you saw something like that happen?

It's been awhile. You see it every now and again. It was a huge play, just then you look there at the end, stopping that and then stopping the other two point play, those were huge. That's something we worked on a lot. So our guys were prepared, our defensive staff was very organized and prepared, already knew what calls that we were going to use in those situations, so good job by our staff and kids. Because sometimes defensively you're down after a team scores a touchdown, you kind of let that get to you and you give up an easy one on a two point play and we didn't do it and it obviously ended up being crucial points.

Q. You talked about Trey and Kennedy. Can you address (Marcelias) Sutton's status?

Yeah, I hate to. Wednesday in practice suffered a broken leg. Freak play. Tough, man. It was a tough blow for him, a senior here that's fought his tail off, it was tough. I've seen that kid since he was a sophomore in high school at James Kenan in North Carolina, a little school about the size of this room here. And for that kid to be here, getting ready to get his degree, do all he's done is a miracle. He's great kid, it killed the team. I mean it just, it was tough. You see a guy go down like that and it just guts you man. So we're certainly disappointed, but he was on our minds before, during, and then even after there in the post-game locker room.

Q. It looked like your offensive line had a great day. Especially the way Sermon took control of the game late in the game.

Yeah, they did well. I thought (Creed) Humphrey handled the road atmosphere, some challenges that they throw at you schematically, he did a great job. Guys played well. Other than the penalties, we were fantastic. But we can't have other than the penalties, we need to just play fantastic.

Q. Overall what do you take out of this defensive performance tonight? What do you -- how do you move forward with it and how are you looking at it?

Yeah, it's a little strange to assess. You spot them, you go stop them the first drive, got momentum and then you spot them 14. We spotted them field position there after the penalty there at the end, I mean they were put in some bad situations. And I thought our several tough calls honestly that a couple just didn't go our way that our guys, I mean (Parnell) Motley's interception was a great play. What a shame to have taken that away. Couple tough ones that didn't go our way. So I thought, honestly I thought this is probably better than what the scoreboard ended up. We gave up 470 yards. It had a different feel out there on the field to me. They got some things, Kliff's a great mind play caller. They had some really good stuff that gave us trouble, especially in the screen game that we got to be better with. But I thought we zeroed in and obviously played better than the score looks.



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Q. How much do you think ended up getting taken away when it's 35-31 there and you're down inside the five and then you get 30 yards and that drive blows up when you would have taken a commanding lead?

We had a few chances to separate, that one and I think it's the very next drive that CeeDee pops the screen and we get a 15-yard holding penalty there. I mean that, those two penalties there that ended up being a 40 or 50 yard penalty on CeeDee's, we had opportunities to get it to double digits when we were playing well defensively at that point, thinking man if we can just get one more, put them on the ropes, you got a chance to really separate here. But the penalties, by themselves, kept us from doing it.

Q. You were in this game a couple years ago as the offensive coordinator and now you're the head coach and it was a tight one. Very much back and forth until the end. Did that ever come up tonight? Did that ever cross your mind and then what did you take away from that?

Not during the game. I know this place pretty well. We won a lot of games here several years back. I know the type atmosphere it is, I know what a coach or a player from Texas Tech is thinking when you play a team like Oklahoma. I've been on the other side of it. So you know what the challenge is going to be. And I knew it was a great chance this was going to be a four quarter game and we were going to have to fight and we were going to have to face some adversity. And so all that happened and we found a way to respond and get it done.

Q. Did you guys have any idea that Bowman wasn't coming out? You weren't able to make any adjustments for the change of quarterback?

No, no clue. I knew he got hit a little bit down on our sideline there toward the end of the half on the little quarterback run. We got the pretty good shot on him. I could tell he was hurting. But then I honestly I don't even know what happened. I know they said something potentially about a potential concussion. We had no clue. Now Duffey going out there was a surprise to us so we didn't have the halftime to make the adjustments. But we knew there was a chance they would play him some, didn't think to that, it would get to that point. But on the fly I thought our guys continued to make some good adjustments especially against the quarterback running game.



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Q. After Bowman was out of the game and Duffey came in seems like you had a chance to put the clamps on that game and then some penalties took the offense out of it. It just seemed like it kind of not fell apart, but it just got kind of ugly after that. Did you kind of feel you lost some momentum there in the second half that might have made this a prettier looking game for your defense?

Well, I've always said from the beginning of this, having been in the league, this happens. Next on this offense, since the induction of it here in the Big-12, next when I came now, I talked about how Kliff and Lincoln and the family tree from this do a good job. So lot of respect to Kliff's football team. I was proud of our guys' fight. I probably tried to attack a little bit too much in the first half. They did a good job playing with the screens. That was on me. In the second half, we mixed in some zones and pass rush and a few little nuances. But my whole deal with winning, guys, 40 years, my whole motto has been win by one and let's get out of here. So I was grateful for the win and the team's happy. We knew what we were facing coming up here. I got a text from Brandon. He's like my son, Brandon Jones. And I said, hey, I already know where I'm going, who I'm playing, and what's going to be there. So we know. So my kudos goes to Kliff's team, but I'm really proud of our kids for hanging in there. There was some tough things that went on, make no excuses, but we can learn from them.

Q. Lincoln said after the game because of the, especially the turnovers early short fields bad position you were put in that he felt you guys played better defensively than maybe the stats indicated. Do you feel that way too?

Oh, we have a motto and I appreciate boss for that. But sudden changes is opportunity for us to get on the field. So things like that happen. Again, give credit to Texas Tech defense, but no excuses on our part. We talk about points and we have the opportunity to go and have a chance to make some plays. They did some unusual things there on those first two drives. We knew that Kliff and Lincoln both are really good, very good at that. So they did a good job, and but no excuses. I think we felt like we should have points, we watched the film we felt like we could play better. And at the same time you give Texas Tech credit. But our players will not make excuses.

Q. What did you like and not like about your defense tonight?

We talked about and worked on change-up plays, trick plays, we see them from our offense. They did a good job of that. I thought they made some earlier plays. They did what I had them doing in the first half. That's on me. I felt like pressuring

and it wasn't all out pressure, but they had blocked angles on our guys and they did a better job executing their offense. So for our kids I watched the film, I saw some tackles we normally make, but that's fixable. Everything starts with me and how I can call the game better and how I can prepare the boys better. And my coaches do a great job. So continue to push, also evaluate myself when I watch the film tomorrow and find out and chart effective and ineffective and why were they effective and why were they ineffective. So I'll handle all that later.

Q. You mentioned tackling, I wondered, overall, if you felt you tackled well tonight and that was one area you've done a better job in and also your guys have seemed better organized in those first two games. How do you feel you were tonight in that area?

We felt like with the pressure you had to sort of matchup a little bit and we have seen those running backs, I mentioned on that, what, that interview about they asked me about Texas Tech and we have done that, they have done that, we did it when we were here, they got some really, really quick running backs. And I've seen them make a lot of people miss in practice. Again like we have from the very beginning of the transition, we tackled every day and worked on that particular tackling. But that comes -- tackling will get you -- I thought it got better as the game went on there was some plays early that you had one-on-one and you got a good chance to have a miss, but I'm going to keep practicing and getting better at it and but I think that's the thing that you can always improve that and I will never ever neglect that in practice. So I just have to get better at that and keep showing them the looks that they have seen. Those blocking angles they saw, we do them in practice, so just got to keep working with the boys. They're very, they have a great eye, great ears, I'm very proud of them. So we'll work it out and get better.

Q. Since he's been back Jalen Redmond seems to be making a pretty big impact. How much has he helped you guys so far?

Oh, good for depth, number one. We had a couple guys that got nicked up, couldn't play tonight, we had to get some guys to play. I was proud of those guys for stepping up. Broiles stepped you know and so did JP but Jalen's done a great job, you got to remember this is what third game? And he had the had to miss most of camp. So really the bye week was like a week training camp for him. And he learns quickly, he's going to get better and better at the game schematically, but he has the talent to really be a special player. He has a great attitude

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about it too. He goes between Coach Tibbs with some down line movement and down line technique but also Coach Bobby for some pass rush type things. So he and Perk have taken on that role very well.

Q. You mentioned Jordan Parker kind of stepping up and coming in and contributing. What were some of the things you thought that stood out that he did pretty well tonight?

Well JP got hurt the very first game of last year if I remember on a punt return, a four down stop. Very first game of the season. He went to our bench, he was jamming a gunner on punt team and he hurt his knee. So he's been out for awhile and it was a bad one. But JP's a fighter and he got an opportunity today, he's been there, even though he didn't get as many reps before tonight, he's been the most encouraging, one of the most encouraging players we have on our team. He's also understands the communication on the back end. And when you're playing a hurry up offense that spread the field you have to be precise, they're good too and coached good too. So he did a good job of getting us lined up especially in the second half because for him he's still getting the feel for it, he hasn't played as much, but it was good to get him out there and he found out this week that he had the start, didn't back down from the challenge, so anxious to watch the film tomorrow.

Q. You always say the term FIDO, forget it and drive on. Was that two point conversion there, was that kind of what you mean by that, by you give up a touchdown you come up with a two-point conversion?

I think that I always keep perspective because if I hadn't been in this league and know what they have, I wouldn't know. But I do know that FIDO is needed. Like forget it and drive on or our next play, you can quit any time you want to, use that FIDO acronym to help remind the kids of something quick, but you got to play the next play. I thought we did a good job of that. There were some tough situations brought up earlier. No excuses. Play the next play. And I can hear the kids on the phone when I'm talking to the staff saying FIDO. Which that pleases an old guy like myself because they are listening. And the two-point play, both two-point plays you know were a good example of that, play the next play or FIDO. The pick by Rob and then the bat down -- was that by Rob too? I think so. Yeah, that's what it means. And as the defensive coordinator, would you like to, yes, I would, but I'm a team player and I just want to win, that's all it is with me. I want to win, I don't worry about anything else. And whatever you do on defense, whatever I can do to help the team win, I'm willing to do. FIDO is one of them.

Q. Is Robert Barnes playing better? He seems to be making a few plays.

He is. The bye week and the way he focused on his fundamentals and little things, technique things, he really has, he's got length, really sharp, you can change things in the middle of the game, hey, Rob, I know we talked about doing it like this, but they're doing this. You got it, coach. We did it a couple times tonight and he was able to adjust. So I'm proud of Robert's progress and I would like to see him keep continuing. He can be as good as he wants to be.

Q. It seems like he's brought some physicality to your secondary how important was it for him to play that well in a game like this tonight that's more about open space and making tackles?

Big, big. And with length, you got to be ready to make open field plays. When they spread you out like we do, even we do on offense, we see it every day, but still facing it you come here ready to make one-on-one's, open field is what we normally term it, we call them one-on-one's. And it's not a kill shot, it's just a secure shot, a secure tackle. Robert was very important on that. Able to fit on a run, we had some blitzes early we had to fit in the middle or fit down or spin down and I like when he spins down to help us on any of those blitzes and win games you but we had to, I'm proud of Robert.

Q. How do you feel you'll be going into the Bedlam game physically because you had a couple guys that were down before the game started and then you got a couple kind of nicked up, do you have a feel for where you'll be with that?

Not yet. We got the staff and the guys I told the guys today, if you are banged up, you got injury, I'm not old school that way, where, hey, you play no matter what. No. I am tough on them, but I'll never play a young man if he's hurt. And I think of those young men as my sons or if somebody's coaching my daughter. So if those guys are banged up and can't play, that's okay, we'll get well, the next guy has got to go. If they are able to come back, man, we'll be glad to have them. But I will always refer back to Scott and the training staff and they have done a great job of getting them ready, but we'll know more tomorrow and Monday when we get out there rolling.



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Q. I don't know how many times in your football experience that you've ever came right out and had two interceptions right away, so we just have to know, what were you thinking after that happened when you were walking off the sideline?

Well, what was I thinking? After the first one, just don't do it again. And then I did it again. And then it was just, I mean, you have kind of got to know me. I'm cool, calm, and that's the only way to be after you do something like that. You make two mistakes like that, especially in a hostile environment like this, they're going to feed off of what had happened. And I turned it around and I think I played pretty well from there on. So I hold myself to a higher standard and I just got to be better.

Q. You guys were fighting back and fighting back and you come out in the second half, defense gets a three and out, you guys go and score. It looked like you were ready to take control. Can you talk about how frustrating it was just as a team when you have the penalties and it sets you back and you basically lose a drive there?

Yeah, that's something we talked about after the game. We kind of killed ourself all night on penalties. Obviously me turning the ball over early. But I think that that was a chance for us to kind of really take the game over. We drove the ball down on CeeDee and then he has two penalties. And he's going to learn from it, he's young, and we have all been there. So it's something that we can't do going forward just because games will be harder. This one was tough but games will be tougher. And then the end of November we got to win every game so we can't have those costly penalties.

Q. You had some big scrambles and some big scrambles where you threw some balls down the field, but it seemed like there were a lot of called run plays for you. Did you feel coming into the game that that would be the case?

I really -- I don't feel like I ran the ball that much tonight. I ran for what? A hundred yards on how many attempts? I don't know. 11? No, it wasn't like something I was -- we came in here thinking I was going to run the ball a lot. But we did know that we had some good looks where we get on the linebackers, have numbers in the box for me to run the ball. So no, at the end of the day I just got to make plays with my feet when I can and today I think I did that.

Q. After the Texas Tech touchdown to cut the lead to two and then they returned the two point conversion back I saw you were talking to Parnell. What were you saying to him after that?

Just trying to keep him up and just some situational football, things that in that moment that he can learn from them and that we can all learn from them. I can't really disclose what I

said to him, but that's my boy, that's my brother, so I know, we have all been there. I threw two interceptions at the beginning of the game. I had guys picking me up so that's all it is.

Q. Take us back to the two interceptions and what did you, you haven't been doing that. What happened on those plays? What did you see or not see?

First look, they came out doing some things that we didn't think they were going to do. And I saw something, that kid was looking inside, I threw it, he turned outside. It was a good play. Bad read on my part.

Then the second one, it was just rushed. The clock was running down, it was like one second left when I snapped it. It just wasn't good, so. That's all I got for you.

Q. I guess early in the game you talk about just now being rushed, just trying to get the play off. Were you having a little trouble with the crowd noise, just kind of relaying stuff from the sidelines?

As far as checking out the line a little bit, it was just Coach Riley, we talked about it, getting the play calling in faster just so we could make checks if we needed to. But, yeah, it was pretty loud, for the most part. So it kind of affected checking a little bit. But when the clock's running down we don't have much time to do that so we kind of have to go with it.

Q. How nice is it to have a guy like Trey where you can hand the ball off to him and he kind of takes over the game like that at the end?

Our O line -- the O line played great, they blocked great, took over in the second half. Trey ran well. I think it's the best he ran all season. He was dominant all night. So like, yeah, I'm glad they're on my team.

Q. When Lee Morris was an 11th grader he was trying to get talked out of playing wide receiver. What he did tonight does that help solidify his decision to stay a wide receiver?

KYLER MURRAY: I didn't know that, but yeah, no, he continues to play great. He's practicing well. He's doing great for us. So I'm glad he's playing well. Happy for him.

Q. Looking forward to Bedlam next week. Your first Bedlam as a starter. Seems like OU has dominated this series but what makes it so special and why do you think it's such a great rivalry just in general?

KYLER MURRAY: Yeah, it is my first one to play in, obviously, I've seen it. Last year was pretty crazy. I think it's just an in-state rivalry like any other. That will be fun next weekend. I know they will come to play, we'll come to play and it will be fun.