



FOOTBALL

WVU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

PO Box 877 | Morgantown, WV 26507-0877

304.293.2821

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WEST VIRGINIA vs. OKLAHOMA STATE// POSTGAME QUOTES Milan Puskar Stadium // October 10, 2015

West Virginia coach Dana Holgorsen

Opening Statement

It was a tough loss. I want to congratulate Coach Gundy. They have a good ball club. They are 6-0. They are a top-20 team. Congratulations to them. This is the second straight week that we didn't start very well. We put ourselves in a big hole. I really commend our players for coming in at halftime. We challenged them, and we came out in the second half and played a lot better. We were at a point where we could win. At the end of the day, it was not good enough. You have to play four quarters if you want to win in the Big 12. Right now, we are not capable of doing that. There is nothing I can say to them that is going to make them feel any better, those guys are pretty hurt down there. The only way to make that feeling go away, is to get back to work. It's a long season. We have seven more Big 12 football games that we have to get ready for. I'll take some questions.

On the difference offensively from the first half to the second half

I don't know. They were pretty wide-eyed early. We weren't blocking. That's the bottom line. He (junior quarterback Skyler Howard) was pressured in the pass game, again. When we ran the ball, we ran the same plays. We didn't get a whole lot going. We didn't start very good. It's on me. I have to get them ready to go.

On fumbles, if it's ball security or bad luck

It's probably a little bit of both. When we did get things going in the first half, all those drives ended in fumbles. I don't know. It wasn't just one person. If I could put one person on the bench because of it, I would. It was three different people. We work it every day, twice a day. We preach it. We talk about it. We just have to do a better job.

On what broke down on the third down play

They had nine people in the box. That is one more than us. They had one extra guy. I could have threw one-on-one on the outside, but I did that on the previous play, and they have corners that can cover pretty good. I decided to try to give the run. It was our game plan to run the ball on third down, and we didn't really want it to be third and six on the six-yard line in overtime against a stacked box, that's typically when we do something with the pass option that we have off of it. We did it twice in overtime, and we weren't successful either time. I had to give the run game another chance. That's kind of why we were in the position that we were in.

On stacking the box

That's when you have to throw successfully. We are somewhat struggling with that completion percentage wise. We have inexperienced receivers. Those guys have to improve in the pass game. We talked about the protection aspect of it throughout the course of the game. We still have to get receivers to run routes and make plays. We have to get a quarterback to stay settle in the box and throw accurate balls. There is a lot that goes into it.

On trying William Crest Jr. in the backfield

We don't have any running backs. Wendell (Smallwood) didn't practice all week. I thought he played his tail off. He didn't practice all week. We are pretty thin. We did that before with William (Crest Jr.). I felt like we could do some things with him back there. I thought he competed. He got knocked out there toward the end of the second half and in the beginning of the third quarter. He was banged up a little bit, but it was good for him to get in there and play. He needs to play football to become a better football player. He had a good week, so he deserved a little bit of playing time.

On not playing Wendell Smallwood in overtime

Whichever guy is ready to go, we put them in there. We can't play them both right now. They are two important, and they are getting the ball too many times. Whoever is fresh needs to get in there. They are going to be on the rotation, and it is probably going to be that way the rest of the year.

On the defense's effort tonight

I thought it was good. We created some turnovers and we put them in a couple bad spots early in the game. We like to see these guys step up. I know these guys are hurting right now because they didn't step up in overtime. They allowed them to come down there and score. These guys are mature on defense. Again, we played good defensively, but is it good enough to get the win?

Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy**Opening Statement**

Well, I'm guessing that TV loves us. If you're going to an Oklahoma State game, you don't turn it off all the way until the final buzzer goes off. Really proud of our team coming on the road and being resilient in overtime. The momentum was on their side in the fourth quarter. We were able to get a touchdown and then get a big stop. We were tired on defense. West Virginia tempoed us. They controlled the tempo on offense. They fatigued us some. But our guys were able to rally at the end and make a play and found a way to win. We've got a lot of work ahead of us. As we all know, we've got to do a better job of rushing the football. Come up with a way to run the football more effective, which will help our passing. We had way too many turnovers tonight. Had special teams mistakes. We had botched extra point and we weren't very good in our coverage units. I don't know what to say. Ultimately in the end, we found a way to win. Our defense played well enough in the first half to keep us in it. We're excited about being 6-0. We need the week off. The open date comes at a good time for us. We've been at it for 10 weeks. And we saw a little bit of fatigue in practice this week and we were hoping we could fight through it in this game. It worked out well for us. We certainly need some rest. We've got some work ahead of us from an X's and O's standpoint.

On Oklahoma State's physical performance in overtime

We changed our blocking scheme in overtime. We had enough time to talk about it. We made some adjustments formation-wise. We changed our blocking scheme. Rennie (Childs) came in and ran the ball really effective for us. That would be the only answer for how we were able to actually rush the ball some in overtime.

On Oklahoma State's defense in overtime

They did a good job. He (Dana Holgorsen) went for the fourth and two. I knew he was going to run the ball. They were pounding on us. The big play was where we were able to stop them. I think the quarterback tried to keep the ball and bounce outside. We were able to get him for a six-yard loss and kind of put their backs against the wall. They were tired. It's hard for me to say that because as a coach you always want to have your players in a position where they are not fatigued. We were a little tired. I think last week's game and the game the week before that I think took some juice out of our players. It showed up a little bit with our football team tonight.