



FOOTBALL

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WEST VIRGINIA vs. TEXAS // POSTGAME QUOTES Milan Puskar Stadium // November 14, 2015

West Virginia coach Dana Holgorsen

Opening Statement

Overall, it was a great team win. It's hard to win in the Big 12, so when you do, you have to enjoy it. Our team is enjoying it in the locker room. They are happy, and I am happy for them. Especially those 20 seniors. We got together a couple of weeks ago, and we set a goal, and we are on track to accomplishing that goal. The name of the game was turnovers. I thought it would be the case early. Before the game, I thought it was going to be the telling grace, which it was. It was 5-1 (turnover advantage). We have two offenses that are pretty similar. We both do a good job in the run game and not a great job in the pass game. Then we have two defenses that are pretty good. It was a good team win, and I thought all three sides of the ball were pretty effective. We are going to enjoy this one. I will take some questions.

On junior quarterback Skyler Howard throwing touchdowns

He is capable of it. I've seen him do it a lot. It's tough when his confidence takes a hit and he gets booed. I tell him they are booing me, but he gets booed, and he has nasty articles written about him. He has thick skin. He is a great kid. He is a great communicator. He is smart, and he understands the situation. He is pressing forward and giving it everything he possibly can. He has to work out a little bit in the pass game. He has to work out a little bit. He is certainly capable of those throws. I've seen him do it. I have seen him do it in games, and I have seen him do it in practice. He is capable of working and throwing the ball more. It gets to a point where you say you know what, I want to win this game, and what we are doing is working, so let's just keep doing it.

On the last offensive drive of the game

It gets like that in the second half. Our plan going into it was shorter passes and a lot of runs, all while doing it quick. I really wanted to go uptempo. I thought it would limit what they could do. Charlie (Strong) does a great job on defense. They give you a ton of different looks on defense, and I thought if I could go fast, then I could eliminate some of the stuff that he could do. When we did, we were effective. We scored before halftime, and then when we came out, and we didn't get the ball until six minutes to go in the third quarter. At that point, I said we have to get this game over with. We stumbled. We tried to go relatively slow, and we didn't do very good. I said you know what, let's just play to win. We went back up-tempo and it worked out.

On Skyler Howard running the ball a lot in the last drive

You can't give it to No. 4 (junior running back Wendell Smallwood) every snap. He carried it 24 times. That's a lot. It's a long season. If you sit there and say he is our guy, and we are going to give it to him 30 times a game, then he isn't going to last. You have to be able to do different things. No. 7 (Rushel Shell) is a change up for us. (Junior quarterback) Skyler (Howard) is a change up for us. The short passing game has to be a change-up for us. He's (junior quarterback Skyler Howard) effective in the run game, and he is going to continue to be effective for us. There are certain things that we are going to do, and he is going to carry the ball for us.

Texas coach Charlie Strong

We had five turnovers and a number of penalties. It's tough to win a game especially on the road. We played well enough and if we could just eliminate some mistakes that we made. Probably the biggest turning point was right there just before the half. We had momentum. We were driving the ball and then turned the ball over. Then they take the ball and go score right before half. We were able to come back and answer at the beginning of the start of the second half, but still we felt like we had a chance as the game went on, and then right before we threw the last interception, I think we were about seven minutes to go in the game. We can only continue to just battle. We have two more left, and we just have to continue to work to get better.

On a upcoming bowl game this season

Well we have two games left. We still have a chance.

On the injuries

The one is (Johnathan) Gray. I know his foot, and then he had a knee. The rest of the guys should be back, whoever it was that was banged up.

On if he felt the effort was there today

Yes I do. We played, if you look at it, I don't know the yardage production was exactly, but we know we had a close to 300-yards rushing, again, and then they played our guys. We just can't have that many mistakes that we had.

On his frustration with five turnovers

That's what's frustrating when you turn the ball over so many times and you're on the road, and you have to protect the football, knowing that you can't turn it over. You turn it over on special teams and then coming out on the kickoff returns and turning it over. Then they get three there, right before half. That was a big one there. Then you think about the penalties. We get a long run to score a touchdown and we get a holding call. You get a third and inches, there's another penalty, so you just can't do it. You can't do it against a good football team.

On how they controlled the first quarter

Oh we were moving the football and they weren't stopping us, and we were only stopping ourselves. When that happens you feel like you were in control of the game because we were controlling the game. It was just the mistakes that we were making. Even with (Tyrone) Swoopes it was just a second effort, and he's trying to get extra yards and it was a third. Depending where that ball is going to end up, you're going to go for it on fourth down, knowing that we can go get the first.

On the team trying to stop WVU's rush

It was tackling. We were doing a good job at tackling. It's all about gap integrity. We have to do a better job just staying in our gaps, and we did. We were over pursuing the ball. They have really good running backs and the ball was getting behind us.