



ROCK CHALK JAYHAWK
QUOTES
// 2019 KANSAS FOOTBALL

HEAD COACH LES MILES // AUGUST 2, 2019

Opening statement

“Just practiced with the team and it was a lot better. It was a strong summer. It gave us some time to work on our offense, defense and special teams and we are better, not where we want to be, but we are taking strides and I like it. I like the team and proud of their efforts.”

On the most important thing worked on in the past month:

“It’s always the amount of mistakes that you make versus your opponent. If we can stop pre-snap penalties, post-snap penalties, make sure we take away and not turnover we will be a really good team.”

On today’s practice:

“You work on things that are space orientated. There is no reason for you to lineup in a bunch and doing a bunch of in-line smacking and hitting stuff. It just doesn’t make sense. We started with two minute and then scramble drill and a number of things designed to view what this team is going to look like in space. We took a lot of different situations, but it was really productive.”

On how much installation stuff was put in during spring:

“I think we’ve got a good piece of what we need to get done in the spring, but there is some more to do. This month we will have to deal with installation as we look through three opponents and there will be things we’ve done in the past and things that fit game plans. I think we are at where most of my teams have been. They are in position to put a couple more things in and make a difference.”

On having his sons (Manny and Ben) in the program:

“It’s a joy to be honest with you. They get no advantage, but it is fun for dad to see two big boys running around, competing.”

On the linebacker position:

“Kyron Johnson moved from outside to inside. I think he is going to make a difference. I think (Jay) Dineen has had a really nice summer and should be prepared to play some. Hayden (Hatcher) and I think he is going to be a talented guy depending on if he is willing and persistent. (Steven) Parker is a 6’4” 225 pound outside linebacker who can run. I think he will be somebody who will play significantly. He was player of the year in the state of Texas. Gavin Potter was an all-state, two-time wrestling champion and player of the year in Oklahoma. I think both those guys could play significantly given an opportunity to learn.”

On the quarterback position:

“First of all, they have to have some composure. You have to understand the length of the game and we are going to make some plays that, frankly, we need make sure the quarterback does those things that help this team win. I think they enjoy competing with each other, but I think they understand the better the quarterback play is the better chance we have of winning so their involved with each others development. I like where we are at quarterback.”

On Pooka Williams Jr.’s return:

“He is so glad to be back with his team. Back to sweating in a football uniform and just being a part of it. You can see it. We have kept him away from (game) plays because he is not going to play in the first game, but it hasn’t stopped him from smiling and enjoying being with us.”

On the camp’s progression:

“The guys that are going to make the biggest impact are the guys that it comes to them in a natural way. I think that will certainly happen. We are looking to fill spots. The good news is we do not have many spots to fill. As camp continues, we will talk about it today, we will talk about personnel. That is a daily mold if you will. See who has shown a big catch or a nice throw. That is some of the most enjoyable parts of camp.”

On if camp is fluid or if there are target dates moving forward:

“No, it remains pretty fluid in the fact that we are going to play the guy that gives us the greatest chance at success on that Saturday when we open the season. Without saying ‘no there is no change,’ we want to play the best guy and give everybody a shot.”

On the offensive line:

“I will tell you one thing, they are a big, good looking group of men. I think Luke [Meadows] has done a really good job of molding the line and getting the different pieces with pass protection and different styles of blitzes that can befall you. I think our o-line is going to be good. Again, it takes time. With a number of practices, you must get in a time frame. Part of the growing of this position on this team is they are fatigued, and they are going to continue to be fatigued and they are going to get better.”

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On how Ben Miles can help this team:

“He has got some guys there around him that are pretty talented. He has got to step in there and be the guy. I think he is a pretty talented athlete. He came from a place that has some pretty talented players. I think he helps in a bunch of ways. I think he comes with the right disposition and I think he’s a football player, a competitor. I think he is pretty talented.”

On if we will see fullbacks:

“I think you will see some fullbacks. They seem to walk around here if you open your eyes. We won’t use them as routinely as you might think, but then again, we might.”

On if his style has changed since he was last in the Big 12

“I think the style of football with what is going on requires you to step into another style. I think the things that I have always been in terms of being a physical football team and just pointing at some of those things that are inherent in a quality football team I think those things won’t change. We will do some tricky things I can promise you that.”

On if there are any differences in the dynamics or energy with the team having a new coaching staff at this camp

“I saw a brand new energy at practice today. There was a lot of enjoyment with guys smiling. A team that was enjoying each other’s company and wanted to have practice. People are going to struggle with us.”

