



ROCK CHALK JAYHAWK
QUOTES

// 2019 KANSAS FOOTBALL

WEST VIRGINIA 29, KANSAS 24

Kansas Head Coach Les Miles

"I'm going to start with statistics first just because I think they tell a story. The time in possession was 22 minutes for the opponent -- excuse me, for us, and 37 minutes for the opponent. We had two turnovers. We had a great third down opportunity to start the game and missed that one. We were four for 10 in third downs. And Pooka (Williams), who is somebody that we want to get the ball to more, and we did, had 76 yards. And he certainly played a more impactful role in that game. Our total offense was 417. Their total offense was 394. Carter Stanley had 19-of-25 and 275 yards. And including the last play, I felt like we were going to win. And if we could have made a little different cut on the back end of that play, we may have. Questions."

On Pooka's production:

"Well, we had him in a position where he was going to be able to get the ball in a lot of places, because they didn't have to designate Pooka. Well, absolute -- the reverse of that happened. Right. He just didn't get the ball often. Of course, now, we didn't have the ball often. It would be very difficult for me to tell you that there's somebody at fault when we just didn't have the ball in the length of time at all."

On the time of possession:

"They made plays. I mean I have to be honest with you, I didn't expect them to be that good, and they made plays, and I think our defense was on the field in the first half just seemingly forever. And so I feel like, you know, that was significant certainly."

On the onside kick ruling:

"The only thing I would tell you is if they want to eliminate an exciting play from college football, they need to come up with a rule and just ban the play. Okay. But when you say if you give them the opportunity to catch it and then you kick a ball like that and very probably -- and again, without seeing it, you know, in slow motion, they may have gotten there first. But if they didn't get there first, we should have every right as the having arrived on the scene first, to have the ball. And I didn't -- and the reason that you call a play like that is because you don't think he can get to it. And frankly, that was the reason why we called the play."

On the crowd turnout:

"I was thrilled. You walked into a stadium that was very live, that people were enjoying football. And I'm thrilled. I'm thrilled. All we've gotta do is win a couple more games in a row and do some things that we should enjoy doing, because to me the support is coming. And we are coming."

On the standing ovation from the fans:

"I just was very thankful that the people that came into that stadium enjoyed what they saw, because those kids were playing their hearts out. And I am thrilled for our players because I want you to know something it's not easy finishing second in the game and coming to practice and busting your tail, because they're going to bust their tail again, and they know it. And yet, that fanbase that's giving them a standing O and enjoying how they played makes a difference. It really does. And we thank them. Thank them for being there, thank them for supporting what would be the Jayhawks."

On the halftime offensive adjustment:

"Yeah. I think the staff picked some wide plays that affected -- their defense kind of played the center positions of what would be the box. Okay. And so basically it was pretty standard that you could get outside. And so we did so better in the second half."

On the team's response after the onside kick:

"I thought they responded hard and fast. And I think the second half was a different half. I mean I think it was a different game. I think we realized that there's things that needed to take place, needed to take place now. And I think that that made a difference in how we played the second half."

On the 75-yard touchdown by Andrew Parchment:

"They put themselves in position where we could take advantage of that throw. Yeah. To be honest with you, we would have loved to have started all those throws a little earlier in the game. Their secondary coverage certainly was capable. But I liked our -- I would have liked to see those matchups again. I guess I will this Sunday."

On Carter Stanley's development:

"I think what Carter is doing is just what this team needs, and he pulls the ball down and runs. He moves to avoid pressure in the pocket. Very accurate. And he wasn't perfect today, but none of us are. But he was really good. What he did, he did the things that were good enough for us to win."

On taking more deep shots in the first half:

"Yeah. I have a difficult time saying I'd absolutely love to, but we only had the ball X -- I mean I would have to say we took some deep shots but didn't hit them. We finally got some deep shots on line and we connected."

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On the turnovers:

"Well, I really am backing Carter Stanley and feeling like he's doing the things that we need him to do as best he can. And I think he continues to improve. And I think our football team becomes a better football team with Carter Stanley as we go. Obviously two turnovers are issues. Okay. I mean you can't survive with those kind of happenings. But he's a pretty special quarterback. He's got a nice arm. Seems to have a knack for running the football. So I'm kind of good with him."

On Dru Prox:

"Yeah. I saw him in the locker room after the game, and he was walking. And I would guess that he'd be okay. But I do not know."

On addressing the turnovers moving forward:

"That's the -- you know, when you throw the football, you're going to have those issues. But what you're going to have to do is certainly become more efficient and attack it a little bit more specifically. But he threw the deep ball maybe better than some of the intermediate throws. And so maybe we dial up a deep throw more often."

Kansas linebacker Najee-Stevens McKenzie

On the fans giving an ovation as the team left the field:

"The fans were motivated, without them we're nobody. The fans saw improvement, they saw a team that's fighting."

On if the team is heading in the right direction:

"I know we are heading in the right direction based on friends telling me that the game is watchable, meaning it's entertaining and we are giving them what they want to see."

On how the loss motivates the team moving forward:

"This gives the team that extra drive and extra motivation going into Big 12 play, but we aren't satisfied and will get back to the drawing board."

Kansas cornerback Hasan Defense

On the play that got called for pass-interference late in the game:

"I should've looked out for the ball, I waited for him to throw his arms up and waited a second then play through the pocket. I felt like I was in the right position trying to play through the pocket but unfortunately the flag was thrown."

On how the team responded to West Virginia scoring to end the first half as well as to start the second half:

"As a team we just rallied around each other, some of our leaders really brought us together. We didn't let the score to start the second half set the tone for how the rest of the half was going to go."

On players stepping in to fill in for injured players:

"We are very team oriented, being physical leads to some knicks and bruises but we have a next man up mentality."

Kansas Senior Safety Bryce Tornado

On coming back in the fourth quarter:

"They weren't doing anything that we hadn't seen before or prepared for, all week through practice it came down to the little things during practice that were more self-inflicted wounds, we were confident just moving forward."

On the fan turnout:

"It meant a lot, we had a lot of people here. Thank you to the fans who stayed til the end, we had a great turnout and we're definitely thankful for that, I think I speak for the team."

Kansas Junior Wide Receiver Andrew Parchment

On the loss coming after Boston College:

"I feel like we're headed towards the right direction, we just gotta do a better job getting in the game and stepping on the gas early. You saw a lot of the same things with Coastal Carolina, especially on offense, we just gotta get back to how we played against Boston College."

On the 75-yard touchdown:

"We saw it on film earlier this week and thought we could capitalize on that play, me and Taylor had a bet on who was gonna get that play so I was happy that my number got called and I had the chance to run that play."

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West Virginia head coach Neal Brown

Opening statement:

"It was a good win, our first road win. I'm proud of our group. We didn't play our best but we found a way and that's what I told them. You have to find a way to win on the road, you have to grind it out. Credit to Coach Miles and his staff, they've done a really good job. DJ on defense and Les on offense, I think that is a really well-coached unit. They have made a significant amount of progress in a short period of time. 1-0 in the Big 12, heading into a bye-week with some momentum. I thought we showed a lot of poise here today. This was a good environment, I thought it got loud and the crowd really got into it when they made some plays so I thought it was a really good college football atmosphere. Today, we kind of just grinded it out, limited our big plays.... I believe every time they scored, we answered and I think that was huge for the game. Defensively, it wasn't our best, but we found a way. We made enough plays there at the end to win and I thought it was a huge play by Keith Washington, that interception was the play of the game, killed their momentum. I thought special teams were really good today. Proud of this group, going back home 1-0 in the league, 3-1 in the month of September with our schedule is not too bad."

On holding Khalil Herbert and Pooka Williams Jr., in the running game:

"it was a challenge. They still ran the ball decently, 142 yards, but those kids (Khalil Herbert and Pooka Williams) are good players. I thought Carter Stanley, you know goes 19-25, three touchdowns, hit a big play that got them back in it, I've been watching him since he was in high school, and he has gotten better each year. He is playing football at a high level right now."

On if the wind affected the game at all:

"I didn't think it affected the outcome. I think that one field goal the ball got caught up, I thought a couple of kickoffs hung up in the air. I thought it was more of a factor in the first half, I don't think it was a factor in the second half."

West Virginia Running back Martell Pettaway

On his production:

"Coach Brown kept telling me I had to play better, and I took that with confidence and I just used that to do better in practice and just produce more. I know Coach Brown told me he was confident in me."

West Virginia Cornerback Keith Washington II

On the matchup with Andrew Parchment:

"We knew he (Andrew Parchment) was their top receiver coming in and he was a fierce competitor and it was a good matchup between me and him."