



Kansas head coach Les Miles

I just want you to know that I'm unhappy. That's not how I saw it going. It's not how our team saw it going. Our guys played with their hearts on their sleeves, and they did everything that they could possibly do to win this game. I told them, I said, we're all -- everybody in this building, in pain right now. That's just the way it's going to be, because you care that much about winning and about preparing to win that it's going to be painful. And it is.

But there's nobody more in pain than anybody else in that room, and they're going to have the understanding that they're going to have to do this as a team and put in the effort and energy to get right back where they were, because this is a team that could have won that game, well, easily. Not just -- again, we did the things that we felt like would give us the best chance of victory, and we didn't get there.

Questions?

Q. Just with Pooka coming back, I think a lot of people probably expected that to really invigorate the offense. Obviously he only could do so much. What kind of led to those offensive struggles?

LES MILES: Well, I certainly enjoyed Pooka and his energy and effort, and I enjoyed Khalil. I thought he ran extremely hard. What led to the offensive struggles is a secondary that played some quality zone coverage, and frankly we couldn't quite beat that coverage. If we would have, we wouldn't have needed to run the football in the tight quarters in the back end of the game.

Q. Ahead of the 4th and 4 in the red zone, you took a couple time-outs. Could you just go through your thought process on that, using those last two time-outs?

LES MILES: Well, they lined up, and they had an alignment that would not have benefitted us, so we immediately took a time-out and felt like we had -- felt like we had a good call, a better call, so we went with it, and it didn't turn out that way.

Q. You talked about the lack of confidence in the passing game. Where do you stand right now with both the passing game and with Carter Stanley?

LES MILES: Well, I'm going to do the old coach piece: I want to watch this film. I want to see exactly what he saw, why. I know there was some pressure, but I don't know that that was the key. We'll have to see what we -- what the film brings and allow us to be more finite.

Q. Coastal Carolina was just 1-of-9 on 3rd down conversions. What did your defense do to make it so difficult for them?

LES MILES: They tackled. They played a -- they were very physical. They took the line of scrimmage from Coastal Carolina. They played awfully hard.

Q. Earlier when you were talking, you had said that this was a game that this team should have won. Why exactly did it not come with the result that you were expecting?

LES MILES: I think that the piece is kind of tough to put your hand on. I think you'll find that it's a multiple answer. It's not just one thing. I think, again, it's something that we're going to have to look at to find out more specifically. It would be easy to say, we don't throw two interceptions. But you know what? I don't know that that was exactly the answer. I'm going to stew over this one for quite some time, so I'll be able to tell you more specifically.

Q. You made a switch at kicker, missed a field goal. What's your thought right now with that room?

LES MILES: I think we have two really good kickers, and I think they're competing really daily for some of those spots. Liam Jones is our kickoff kicker, and I think there will be some competition for field goal as we go forward.

Q. Throughout the last several months, you talked a lot comparing this opportunity to your time at Oklahoma State, and I wonder if you could put your finger on just how detrimental a loss like this can be towards the building process and how much that can hurt the momentum?

LES MILES: Well, the interesting thing is at Oklahoma State right now I was 0 and 4 or 5 or 6, whatever it was, before we beat Baylor and



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COASTAL CAROLINA 12, KANSAS 7

a very good Oklahoma team, but that was the last two games of the year. I guess what I'm saying is that we're not yet there. Not that we won't be capable and not that we won't be able to do the things that we want to do, but just in terms of being in the same spot as that team was, we're not. And I mean, we're not in a calendar sense. In other words, we just haven't gotten there yet. We're going to continue to improve. This is a painful second game. But this football team will fight.

Q. You guys' first drive of the game, you drove right downfield, scored a touchdown. What worked well in that drive, and what kind of didn't work so well --

LES MILES: Same things we called at the back end of the game. We threw some balls that we threw in the first -- the opening drive. We ran the football in the opening drive like we ran the football later in the game. We ran the football at times better than we ran it early in that drive. We could not punch through a 4th down conversion. We do that, yeah.

Q. I wanted to ask you about the 4th and 4 play. I know Carter started -- looked like he tried to get Pooka open. What did you see? It was right in front of you.

LES MILES: There was a couple things we were trying to do and get to Pooka, and Pooka did everything he could. They didn't hook up at times, and obviously that changes the outcome.

Q. You talked about feeling like maybe you couldn't pass it later on. What does that do for your team, an offensive play caller, when you're starting to lack confidence in the passing game? Does it make it more difficult late when you're having to run it?

LES MILES: Well, it's not even losing confidence in the passing game. It's -- we're more segmented to how do you win the game, these are the plays that you should call. This is how they're playing coverage, this is how we're going to attack them. And if those aren't the answers, which they are the answers, but you can't make those answers work for whatever reason, you'd better look at it again and come up with another set of answers, and that's kind of what happens on days like tomorrow.

Q. Coach, Pooka left the game it looked like in the first half; any concerns about that moving forward, and what was kind of going on there?

LES MILES: Yeah, he had a little -- he got hit in the ribs pretty good. But I think he's fine. He came back and played. He may be a little banged, but I think long-term he'll be fine.

Q. You could hear in the stands that there was some grumbling from fans, that a loss like this is reminiscent of Kansas of the past. With that kind of in mind, what do you say and think about that?

LES MILES: Well, I wasn't here in the past, and I don't really know exactly how they looked at that night. I'm worried more about the players that I coach and the coaches and their families than I am in a view that would link me to an unsuccessful past. I think you'll find that our football team will continue to improve. I think there's a reason to believe that that will happen. But I've got to do my job. I've got to make sure that -- this is the position that we're in, and we need to take some steps.

FastScripts Transcript by ASAP Sports

Kansas senior S Bryce Tornadoen

On Coastal Carolina's win:

"(It's) Pretty tough, I thought we were pretty prepared for their triple option, but they came out with some new stuff. At the end of the day we have to step up to the plate."

On Coach Miles' message after the game:

"It's nothing we can't fix. We have a long season ahead, so we have no reason to be down."

On the team's defensive strength:

"I think we're flying the ball. Our effort and energy are high, I think we've just got to do the little things. Self improvement. I think we're just

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shooting ourselves in the foot and at the end of the day we can't do that, especially in the Big 12 (Conference)."

On "flying the ball":

"You can't have a good defense if they aren't all swarming to the ball. You can't coach effort and energy, that's something each player has to bring."

On the team's depth:

"I think we have a lot of depth on every position, so it definitely works to our benefit, especially toward the end of the season."

On keeping the team excited:

"I said, 'Keep your heads up, we just have to improve and come back stronger tomorrow.'"

On this being a short week, playing at Boston College on Friday:

"We have to put it (tonight's loss) behind us and look forward to Boston College."

Kansas sophomore RB Pooka Williams Jr.

On this being his first game back from suspension:

"First, I want to say I'm sorry for the poor decisions I made and I'm thankful for you all taking me back in. I'm grateful to be back with the team."

On handling the ball frequently:

"No sir, it's a team effort. Even though we came out with a loss, we kept fighting."

On what he believes to be his best attribute:

"I think my best attribute is making people miss."

Kansas senior RB Khalil Herbert

On Coach Miles' message after the game:

"Come ready to work this week. There's some stuff we've got to fix as a team, so everybody's got to do their part to get ready for next week."

On his 41-yard touchdown run in the first quarter:

"I just ran up the sideline. (The) Linemen did a really good job of blocking (for me)."

On how the team can improve before next week's game:

"We've just got to make more plays I feel like. We've got to do better every single day."

On looking forward to Friday's game:

"We've got to put this one behind us, learn from it, and get ready for next week so that's what we're going to do."

Coastal Carolina head coach Jamey Chadwell

On stopping KU's running game:

"They were doing some good stuff early and I think what happened is that maybe they got away from it a little bit and instead of doing it again, they would have a third down and we would stop them. I thought our defense did a really good job of mixing some things and forcing the quarterback to beat us. That was our goal. They got loose early and we would hang in and do some things there. We stopped them and on our fourth down we did well. So (we've got) a lot of positive things to go off of."

*On their mindset coming into the game:*

“We thought we could win. We made some mistakes and turned the ball over and did some things. I thought if we didn’t turn the ball over and make mistakes, then we could do some damage. We did that; we didn’t turn the ball over and we got some turnovers. Our guys have to make some kicks, but our guys came in and they proved that (they could win).”

On the kicking game struggles and adjustments:

“We wanted to be aggressive on fourth down. To beat a team that is better than you in a lot of ways, you have to try to control the clock and do some things of that nature. If we make the kick there, then we would be feeling a little better about it, but we didn’t make any. That makes it to where you are making decisions to adjust and hold the ball. I wasn’t going to have him kick it again. It made me nervous, but it’s a learning process. We kicked the ball terribly and we still found a way to win, so that is positive moving forward.”

Coastal Carolina junior LB Teddy Gallagher*On the main emphasis coming into the game:*

“Focus on the little things and details, especially on the defensive side of the ball.”

On the attitude in the locker room at halftime:

“(It) Felt like if we gave everything, they wouldn’t be able to score another point.”

On the biggest contributor to getting the win:

“Focus; on top of bringing the intensity and effort they always play with. They have some playmakers on offense, so even when we are focused they could beat us, but we were able to stay focused the whole game.”

Coastal Carolina RS-junior OL Trey Carter*On how the offensive line prepared for the game this week:*

“We knew that they had a decent defensive line, so we knew we had to move the defensive linemen and we feel like we did that enough to win the ballgame today.”

On the team’s feelings at halftime:

“We were very optimistic, we could tell they were getting tired. I feel like we were in better shape than they were. (The) Defense was playing lights out in the second half, so the offense was very confident.”

On the biggest contributor toward getting the win:

“We were in better shape than them. Coach (Chad) Scott, our new strength coach, has done a great job getting us in shape. I feel like I could play another game right now and I feel like that was the biggest factor.”