



ROCK CHALK JAYHAWK
QUOTES

// 2019 KANSAS FOOTBALL

KANSAS 37, TEXAS TECH 34

HEAD COACH LES MILES

Opening Statement

"Well, we got done playing this game on the road and played our hearts out. Guys early till late, took them to the wire. Final drive, they won the game. And I wondered how they would respond to coming back with when they've got to play that's pretty good. You wonder about the resiliency of this team. And there's no reason to, because they came to work and busted their tail. Now they have put themselves in a position to play the back end of the season for something very significant. Carter Stanley was -- oh, my goodness. I know he was six for seven in the last drive, and with a drop, you know, with a receiver that dropped the ball. So he was seven for seven when the chips were on the line. Stephon Robinson, we knew he had that, okay. And 294 all-purpose yards, 186 receiving, two touchdowns. Oh, my goodness. We've got a good team. We've just got to play consistently that way for the length of time of the game, and we will be very happy. I want you to know something: I think I dang near got squished at the stadium. I mean, trying to go across to see Coach and congratulate him on really having a great team, I got squished. I mean, there was a pack of people out there. Great fun."

On when the Texas Tech player pitched the ball...

"I thought basically they wanted to score real bad, right, and I knew that when the ball hit the ground and we got it, the time-out had to be the next thing, and it had better hurry up. So we got the time-out called. And then we found out that there's another kick available, which we hit right down the middle."

On getting a win in a close game...

"Yeah, I think you hit that one on the head. I think the experience of a team in winning games gives them a reservoir, if you will, or reserve of energy and action that they can use in the next game because they know that there's a great opportunity for them to win."

On Liam Jones...

"You know, I went over to him, and I said, okay, I'm not letting you kick unless you smile, and he said, "I'm going to make this one." He was right. I didn't see it go through; I had my eyes closed."

On opening up the passing game, when the running game is struggling...

"Well, it gets Pooka (Williams) on track. A couple 10-yard gains from Pooka, and we're back getting 1st downs and having drives. So if we don't have him in the mix, it's a mistake. It's not one that we made, but it'll be interesting to see because it was a very fluid play calls. They had pressure and we had stuff that we felt like operated pretty well against that pressure."

On Brent Dearmon...

"Well, I would assess his performance as two 500-yard quarterback nights back to back. I think that's pretty good. 1,000-, 2,000-yard games. In other words, they had five and we had five. 22 of 28 1st downs, 22 for KU and 28 for the others. Time of possession, 27:32 to 32:28. That we've got to change. But chunk plays, four passes longer than 48 yards, wow. 415 yards for Carter Stanley. So what he's meant to us is he's kind of put an opportunity to make our most talented kids efficient and allow them to play great roles in our success."

On the teaming playing in significant moments...

"I've had two spectacular memories for life, okay, the Boston College and this game. Where it ranks for me, I don't know. Pretty high. But yeah, enjoyable moments. Great team. Great people."

Q. After the game, I saw you hugging Jeff Long afterwards; could you kind of --

LES MILES: I would never, ever have had that to be on me -- oh, Jeff, I didn't know you were even here. Geez. (Laughter)

On what was said when hugging Jeff Long after the game...

"I was saying stuff -- I can't even tease that. (Laughter.)"

We enjoyed it. We enjoyed the victory. We enjoyed the moments thereafter. Yeah, with a friend. Remind me to tell you the humorous piece I was going to say. I promise you that would have been a..."

On losing Bryce Torneden...

"We get him back. That's for the entire game, which is wonderful news. We get the victory, we get Bryce back. It's good."

On the secondary losing both Torneden and McCullough...

"He closed those gaps that were wide open, okay. In other words he closed them with adjustments that he would make, signals that he would get from DJ that would affix the coverage, and we had a difficult time making that work."

On the celebration...

"It was a jam-packed small area around me that I could not see probably any further than three feet, okay. There were people and people and people and people, and I was going across, again, the stadium to congratulate the coach. Their team played awfully hard. I took forever. I met 150 people I never knew. Hey, nice to see you, yeah."

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We'll see you later. And we passed.

I can tell you this: That's better than a ride at some amusement parks that I've been at. (Laughter.)"

On the special teams protection...

"We'll probably try to -- the left wing ended up being manned by a larger, longer body, and that made a difference. It'll be interesting -- you know, I want to look at that myself. I know that one came around both ends. I know that we had an extra point blocked in one piece, and then another kick blocked on the other edge. So both edges I know gave up blocks."

KANSAS SENIOR LINEBACKER NAJEE STEVENS-MCKENZIE

On winning a close game...

"It feels amazing. The emphasis on what we practiced was finished. We do our job and if we execute all our calls and every game plan we've been given, then we will be a real hard team to beat."

On losing Bryce Toreden early...

"It was tough, but we couldn't hang our heads on that. We knew that the next guy, DeAnte Ford, he was up and he was ready for the task. He's been ready for it and he finally got the opportunity he deserved and he stepped up big."

On being down 17-0...

"It took us to look at each other and tell each other 'we can't let them get this, we can't let them get this, offense is playing their butts off, we've got to continue to fight.'"

On Texas Tech's tempo offense...

"I would say it's a significant difference. Just off the strength of, them lining up and just going and then having to look to our sideline and get a different call or play the same call, it was just really different. I haven't seen a team like that inside the Big 12 and we knew what was coming and we were prepared."

On the last kicks of the game...

"I'm going to be honest, I didn't know what happened. I heard the noise and thought 'oh brother, overtime here we come,' then next thing you know, I don't know what happened, I just saw the ball on the ground and our guy recovered it and I knew we weren't going to mess up twice."

On playing K-State next week...

"We still have a chip on our shoulder from last year, and I feel like that's going to carry over to this year, plus it's a rivalry game. I don't like the Wildcats, I never have, never did, and I don't plan on liking them on Saturday."

KANSAS JUNIOR WIDE RECEIVER STEPHON ROBINSON JR.

On his performance...

"It is indescribable. Growing up as a kid, I only dreamed of doing stuff like this, and now I have the chance to do it. It's all due to God and my family and support I have back home. And the coaching staff here, they push us and put us in the right positions to succeed, and I thank them for that."

On whether he should have had one more touchdown...

"If you ask me, yeah I should have three, but it didn't work out like that and we still scored, so I'm still happy about it."

On his ability to get down the field...

"It's kind of crazy because throughout the week, some of the plays that I was hit on, I just hit the ball throughout the whole week. And then we get to game day, and the balls are there for me. The seams were wide open and I just attacked it, and Carter gave me a chance to make a play, and I did."

On his kick returns...

"Coach put me in that position to return kicks because Jamahl Horne is injured, and I just want to do everything for my team. I saw open seams and I just hit them."

On being down 17-0...

"We didn't turn on each other, we have so much confidence in ourselves and we knew we had to score and we had to help the defense out because they were helping us out by holding Texas Tech to a couple field goals. We just keep pushing and keep being consistent and it worked out for us."

On making 9-of-15 third down conversions...

"Coaching staff. Coaching staff put us in the right position once again, we just do what they say and we're going to make plays."

On where he was at the end of the game...

"I was on the field, ready to tackle Liam. It was just a great experience, seeing the crowd rush the field. I experienced that a little bit last year against TCU, but I'd never

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experienced a game-winner in my favor, in our favor, that's just an amazing experience that I will remember for the rest of my life."

On being on the other side of a close game...

"It's amazing, you only do stuff like that on Madden, it's great and it was a big win for the seniors to help us get to a bowl game. We're going to keep pushing and keep fighting."

On playing Kansas State next week...

"I'm going to enjoy tonight, and then tomorrow morning, I'm going to get right to the film study, and focus on Kansas State so we can get this W."

KANSAS SOPHOMORE SAFETY DAVON FERGUSON

On the win...

"It feels like a load off our back. We showing everyone that Kansas is here to make plays and this is going to be here for a long time. The Jayhawks are coming."

On what it took to get back in the game...

"It shows the whole entire teams character. Nobody ever breaks down, nobody points the finger. Nothing, we just saddle up and make sure we get our plays corrected and errors. Make sure we go out and perform."

On losing Bryce Torneden...

"I feel like when Bryce left everyone thought, okay now we really have to go out because Bryce is a captain and we wanted to do it for him. It being his last homecoming, that he wasn't able to play, we just wanted to go out there and show Bryce we got you."

On facing Texas Tech's offense...

"Texas Tech, they run a lot of tempo and you know they try to get you off sides and catch you off guard with a lot of their plays. They try to capitalize and we handled it."

On the ending of the game...

"I was actually confident for the second time go around, for as well as the first time go around. I feel like Liam Jones, he's our kicker for a reason, he's going to make those type of plays, which he did. He won us the game."

On moving on from the Texas game...

"The close games, we live for them. We have that bend don't break mentality and we came away with the dub."

On moving forward to K-State...

"It is because KState just upsetted Oklahoma as well as us beating Texas Tech. The state of Kansas is just in disarray. We have to see who really the Kings of Kansas."

KANSAS SENIOR QB CARTER STANLEY

On the poise on the final drive...

"We do it every Monday and Thursday in practice. Its just a 2 minute drill. I cant have anymore confidence in my coaches than I do now and the guys out there that I am with and I am just proud we executed on that last drive."

On getting the ball down field...

"Really just a combination of what we saw out of their coverage all week and preparing for them. You know our guys just making some incredible plays. They are playing really hard tonight for Coach Jones and obviously coming from Tech. It was an emotional game for that group for sure. I am proud of those guys."

On Andrew Parchment and Stephon Robinson's speed...

"They are incredibly gifted and again the coaching they get from Coach Jones. They attack the ball. They are a great group."

On the third down conversions...

"Shake your head. We have to make sure we make those easier on ourselves, you know cause thats not very sustainable. I am really proud of our guys for hanging in their and making the plays they did."

On being down 17-0...

"Honestly, we felt the pressure. Down 17-0 but we also knew what we were showing earlier in that game wasn't us and it took us awhile to get going but once we got going it felt super good."

On coming back and getting the win...

"It is great to close on a game like that but we know moving forward we are going to have to be better in the first quarter and the first half. Get a better start. But I am so

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proud of our team and how we finished that game.

On the first play interception...

"That was tough, it was a play we worked all week in practice on and it was still the look we wanted in the secondary. I was trying to avoid some pressure."

On the atmosphere...

"It was epic. The crowd was unreal tonight. We cant thank the fans enough that showed up and showed out. Just to win a game like that for homecoming it was really special.

On playing K-State...

"I am fired up. It is always a great game. This one seems a little bit special. I think our guys will be ready to go and we will have a great practice."

TEXAS TECH HEAD COACH MATT WELLS

'Opening Statement...

"(That was an) awful hard way to lose a game. Congratulations to Kansas, they made a few more plays than we did. The whole game boils down to early in the when we take the lead and can't extend it to pass what it was and that's what good teams do were not to that point yet . When you let a good team hang around and give them life, you put yourself in that position. Ultimately, it was us and it will always be us. You can't get off the field on third down."

On what he tells his players after this loss...

"It's doing everything with the right intentions. Outside the framework of our defense if you can't score you have to go down, but I think everything, and their intentions are right. It's a very unfortunate thing to see happen and have to learn from it."

On his message to the team...

"Stay together and stay with us. The foundation is starting get set, we lost that football game out on the field. Not getting off the field on third downs, not converting a couple third and shorts."

On the mental bounce-back ability of his team...

"I think that every week is a new week. We'll see how we respond next week."

On junior quarterback Jett Duffey's contribution tonight:

"Good. He was very accurate. There were a couple that were maybe off, but I thought he took steps forward tonight. I thought he played well again. I was pleased with him."

TEXAS TECH JUNIOR DEFENSIVE LINEMAN ELI HOWARD

On the game...

"We had multiple opportunities to finish the game. We were up by 17 points in the first half. from a defensive stand point you can't let them come back from a 3-score lead."

On what the team needs to do moving forward...

"We need to let this sit for 24 hours. We need to realize that we can't win if we don't play are brand of football."

JUNIOR QUARTERBACK JETT DUFFEY

On the game...

"It's a tough loss. Everyone on are team is a competitor and like I said it was a tough loss."

On the final plays...

"One play doesn't win a game; one game doesn't lose a game"

On moving forward...

"We have to focus on are mistakes from this game and on are next opponent. We still have the chance to do what we want to do, which is make a bowl game."

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