



QUOTES

// 2019 KANSAS FOOTBALL

OCT. 5, 2019 // OKLAHOMA 45, KANSAS 20

Head Coach Les Miles

On the time of possession...

"Time of possessions. So we probably had the ball ten minutes longer than we had last week, and considering the ability that the opponent had to score, I think that was wise, and I think that's a nice view, something positive. Red zone, we were one for one. And we get down to third down or fourth down play and had a drop. If we had two fourth downs, which is what you do, you say if you had, we'd be in a much different, you know, feeling about today's performance. Third downs, 6-for-14. I think we were really good early, but not good late. And, again, 0-for-2 in fourth downs. Our football team, I talked to them coming off the field, and there's not any low hanging heads at all. They want to do what we set out to do. And it's going to be -- they're going to get there. They're going to take the strides that they need to have the success that they're going to want to have. I thought that Stephon Robinson's two touchdowns and the way he played the entire day was just spectacular. Carter Stanley, 18-for-28, 230 yards, three touchdowns. I mean I like his performance. I think there's a great potential there to finish the season strong. So didn't see exactly what we want, but some improvement and a team that wants to be a damn good team. They want to improve. So with that, questions?"

On fourth down conversions...

"I can think of a couple drops. I think that this is a team that will learn how to catch fourth downs. It's fourth down. It's a little bit more pressure situation, but I think our guys will handle that. Yeah. I think they will."

On the next step the team needs to take offensively...

"We were pretty balanced in our quarterback and the ability to throw it down the field. We hit three passes. But there were some throws they needed to come caught. So I think where we're at is run the football and the throw the football to some talented receivers and a quarterback that can do it. If we'd have had a cleaner start, it would be a completely different ballgame."

On the drops...

"Well, you can't -- Sosinski is going to surely learn how to do that. That's not going to be an issue. And Mike Lee's cast, that's the Jayhawks that are playing. But you'll end up finding out that those guys will get a lot better and improve."

On the biggest moment of the game...

"Tied at seven with an opportunity to hit a first down, and if you go down there and put a little bit more pressure on your opponents, certainly that's an advantage for you. I'm not going to take anything away from the Sooners. They threw the ball extremely well and got completions in big chunks."

On the defensive pressure...

"No. I have to be honest with you, I even thought about that at the time. I never quite got that third and goal. Yeah. So you try to pick up that one, that's a long -- you better -- you better throw something flat and get a lot of blockers out there in front of you."

On the defense and coaching staff...

"We do a pretty thorough job on the defensive side of really understanding how play action comes at us. And they'll come up with a stunt, a blitz. They will enable pressure, and they did that today. They got after Jalen, and then he got his legs going and made us pay for it."

On the postgame meeting with Lincoln Riley...

"Yeah. He came over and said hi. Of course, he was a quarterback at Alabama when we played them. Yeah. He's a good competitor, quality person, great family kind of guy."

On Oklahoma's punt before the half...

"Yeah. Not one handle was the key piece to it. Okay. And we'll leave it there and then bring it out may well have been the call of the day as opposed to a lateral run. So there are some things that we have to fix."

On the penalties...

"Penalties didn't help us in any way today. And we talked about that before I came up here. That's not us. That's not the culture that we want to identify as us. And you can't be selfish. And they'll continue to get that. I didn't like that at all. If there was one thing I didn't like, that was too many penalties that were not necessary."



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Pooka Williams, sophomore running back

On the versatility of his role today...

"I do anything our coaches ask me to do on the field. We just did not come out with the win like we wanted."

On OU having his attention after his breakout performance against the Sooners last season...

"Most definitely, our O-line (players) are the ones who deserve the credit."

On the biggest thing the offense can do to become more consistent...

"We just need to keep playing as a team and stop focusing on individual spots. When we come together as a team, we score on every possession."

On how the team can improve with the bye week coming up...

"Getting healthy is the (most) important thing and just getting better each day at practice."

Stephon Robinson Jr., junior WR

On the fight in the fourth quarter...

"I love my team. We are going to fight the whole game and make sure we finish strong."

On his two touchdown receptions...

"The first one was a simple go route where I had one-on-one coverage and Carter (Stanley) threw it up and I made a play. The second one was a scramble play with Carter finding me in the open field for a touchdown."

On having the advantage in time of possession...

"That was our game plan going in to the game. Coach (Miles) stressed keeping the ball away from them (the Oklahoma Sooners) and being efficient on the drives we had. We did not come out with the victory, but I feel we executed for the most part."

On ending the game on a positive note...

"It is Division I football, any reps you get need to be taken seriously on the field. Going forward, we are going to continue to take those reps to get better."

Sophomore Safety Davon Ferguson

On making Oklahoma work to score...

"I think that the game plan worked out pretty well, we had them working hard to try and score"

On Jalen Hurts...

"We knew coming to the game that Hurts was able to scramble more compared to other quarterbacks that we've played before, so we made an emphasis to make sure that we contained him."

On making them go to other players...

"I think that we did, and I also want to credit the defensive line because they put a lot of pressure on Jalen Hurts, so his first read wasn't there because of the cornerbacks and the defensive line creating pressure."

On going into the by week...

"I definitely think that we are going to go into the by week, it's a tough loss, but we always have a positive mind state and we are just going to look ahead. We have Texas coming, another great opponent, and we are just going to have the game plan ready, heal any injuries, and just be prepared."

On coach and wanting to keep fighting and competing...

"Nobody lays down when it comes to the Jayhawks, not defense, not offense, no special teams. We fight till the end, till there's three 0's on the clock, or there's overtime, we are going to fight and just keep fighting until the game is over."

Senior Linebacker Najee Stevens-McKenzie

On the interception...

"In real time, what I was thinking was 'he's about to run this route, but I was thinking he was going to.' I positioned myself to play more towards the sideline, so I could use the sideline to my advantage to get around, but he really actually ended up running up the seam. And I just thought 'I got a good collision, but he got a better break on me, like running full speed at me,' so I knew I had to recover, but my whole time thinking while I was recovering was 'if I see his eyes or if I see his hands get big, I'm going up right with him,' It's a height advantage. He jumped, and I went right with him and the ball just happened to fall in an arm's reach for me to grab it."

"As soon as I saw his eyes get big, and he kind of bit down on his mouth piece, I thought 'okay, I'm going to make sure I come up through the techniques



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he uses with the corners and I will just be here' I decided to go up under, through his body, and play it how corners are taught to be played. I really was grateful for that."

On Jalen Hurts and making the Oklahoma offense work...

"Ultimately, it came down to us executing the cause from our great defensive coordinator, coach Elliot. He puts us into position and gives us the game plan and then it up to us to execute it, and I feel like we executed it a lot better than what we did last week. We can't hang our head because we lost, but we just have to continue to get better."

On sticking to the game plan...

"We just do our job, we are one of 11 and if we all do our job, then no one on offense will get a yard on us."

On the team's eagerness to fight and continue growing...

"I see a resilient group that is going to fight till the end, I don't see anyone folding, I don't see anybody hanging their heads, I feel like when adversity hits us, we can respond better and continue to move forward."

Oklahoma Head Coach Lincoln Riley

On the win...

"Excited about the win, this was a strange one from even before the kick-off. Some ups and downs throughout the game, more ups for us. It took us a little to get on track."

On the penalties...

"I think we made a couple of mental mistakes. The penalties hurt on huge plays. [On a] punt return we calculated it as a 83-yard penalty. The penalties were really destructive early in the game."

On looking ahead to the Texas game next week...

"No I did not free that with this team, we had some points that we wanted to come in a work on. We have to do better. I don't think that the Texas game had any factor in it."

On the improvement of the defensive line...

"I thought that they were much more active. We had bodies in the backfield; we controlled the gaps in the run game, much better. We just missed a few tackles. We missed one on the sideline when Pooka popped one out on the goal line. We played more aggressive."

On the defense...

"You feel a lot of progress and excitement about the progress [that we are making]. Part of today vivified that more and we have to continue to build depth. I like how we are flying to the football and how we're hitting."

Oklahoma Sophomore Defensive Lineman Ronnie Perkins

On the defense...

"We wanted to show Kansas what a good Defense looks like."

On looking forward to Texas...

"We want to [show] them that last year was fluke. We aren't that type of defense anymore."

On the offense's slow start and the defense stepping up...

"That's team football. If [their] not going to get it done, [we're] going to hold them up. I feel like we did a good job. We kept the team in the game."