

KANSAS FOOTBALL POSTGAME QUOTES



28
Kansas
JAYHAWKS
2-10, 1-8 Big 12

VS

34
West Virginia
MOUNTAINEERS
6-6, 4-5 Big 12



KANSAS HEAD COACH LANCE LEIPOLD

On the difference in winnable games ...

"Probably we turned it over twice in the red zone. Two fourth and 1s we don't convert. Give them credit. We didn't slow them down enough rushing the football. It's been a troubling issue all year. Over 250 yards rushing. Quarterback 16-21. I mean percentage wise we had some flashes. Obviously, Gavin Potter's play was huge. It was a momentum shift for us. We didn't get enough stops when we needed to, and we didn't convert enough big plays with the opportunities came to score points. Off the turnover, we don't do anything with it. Opportunities slipped away. That's something we need to take another step to improve next season. Really proud of the way this team battled for 4 quarters and never gave up until the end."

On the onside kick at the end ...

"We tried to punch it into some green grass, and have it bounce around and have your guys sprint passed the first line and recover it. Based on their alignment we were trying to punch it that way."

On Jalon's first interception ...

"I didn't really see it. I don't really know. It looked to be late. I heard the guys talking, but by then I had switched over to the other side. I'd have to go back and look."

On the message to the locker room ...

"A lot of what I just said. First and foremost, how proud I am of them and our seniors. Upon arrival, it was said games being over quickly about possible questions of effort level and sticking together. I wasn't here I don't know that for sure. I know that I never questioned our effort level in games and watched the resiliency of this team compete to the very end here tonight."

On the future and direction of the program ...

"I think consistently people have seen that we have improved as a football program. That said we have a lot to work on. We will continue to evaluate and do everything we can to make ourselves a better football team. Through the course of time, areas have come to light on where to get better. We will work on addressing that in many different ways."

On the difference between the first three games and the last three games ...

"I like to think we made a lot of progress. I guess I'll let many of you decide that because you have watched it a lot longer than myself. We stood here on a Friday night in September and we sneak out a win and we're happy, but we have a long way to go. A lot of games where we struggled, and games weren't very close. Depth has been dented in many different ways. Many different people get opportunities. That part of the competitiveness, passion, pride, and work ethic has resonated in the program. I'm very pleased by that part"

On Jalon Daniels' performance ...

"Gritty performer. You can knock him down and he just keeps battling. Yes, I wish he could have a couple throws back, but he kept battling and making plays to the very end. Probably a very appropriate touchdown for him just the way he trains and the grittiness he goes about him, which can be very contagious in a football program."

On the offseason development ...

"We have a lot of development work to do. Again, it's within reason of coming off a season. Matt has a plan. We leave Monday and we will start talking about that as coaches go on the road, but yes we need to take advantages of the opportunities we have to improve the development through the end of the semester, especially with such a young roster."

On areas of focus in the offseason ...

"Holistically, we have to be a lot better defensively. In all three levels of the defense, we have to become a more physical football team. We have to continue to develop a consistent running game. WE say Jalen play. We saw Jason Beane have flashes. We have to be consistent at the quarterback position. Our running game has been good at times and below average at others. There's not one area of our football team that I can sit there and be like we can't improve it. That's not taking away from anybody. That's how it will always be. We need to address that in many different ways."

WEST VIRGINIA HEAD COACH NEAL BROWN

Opening Statement ...

"Good win, hard win. We made it hard, and some of that has to do with Kansas. I have a lot of respect for Lipoold and their whole staff. This is the second time I've played agonist them. They have their guys prepared all of the time. They do a good job in putting you on both sides of the ball in tough situations and they play hard. Credit to their staff in general that they played their best football at the end of the year. I'm proud of our staff and players for how we handled adversity I thought we were resilient and that says a lot about them. Not just as a football team, but as people. At end of the day, we're trying to develop people and resilience is a life skill. If you think about the keys to the game turnovers, on both sides, when we had turnovers we responded with positive drives. Fourth downs were huge today, we were 3-for-3 and they were 1-for-4. The ability to run the football and they struggled running it. You talk about offense, I thought that we answered all day. We weren't at our best, but we did our best to answer the two turnovers. The pick-six made a good play. We ran the ball very well, I think this was our biggest rushing day of the year, two hundred-yard rushers are pretty good. I'm excited for Leddie to get over a thousand-year for the second year in a row. He's been able to say healthy, I think that that's a big piece of that. Tony Mathis, I was excited for him. He's been practicing well and for him to go out there and be productive in this game. Then we talk about the fourth-down defense of takeaways and we stopped the run. We bowed up on fourth down and we bowed up on the run. Josh Chandler having the two picks was huge for us."

On the run game ...

"I thought that we did some good things last week in the second half, to put that game away. Without question the last two weeks, you know if you take out that first half of the Kansas State game since our bye week we've played quality football. Oklahoma State beat us and they're better than us right now. That's not going to be the case for much longer, but they are right now. They're playing elite-level defense The first half of the Kansas State game they beat us upfront. The last two weeks is the best we've had as a group. I think that says something about our program, I want to get credit to the five guys, and they're starting to take the mentality of being a leader up front."