

Washington vs. Colorado Post-Game Quotes

Husky Stadium

Oct. 15, 2011

Washington Head Coach Steve Sarkisian

Opening Statement:

First and foremost, I want to say how proud of our football team I am, for really responding this week. You come off of a bye and a big win like we had at Utah and there's some challenges there from a psychological standpoint and I'm proud of our coaches and our kids for responding the way they did. I thought they played with a real sense of urgency, a lot of energy, a lot of passion, and that's the first part.

And then the second part is their ability to execute. You know, one of the keys when you come into a ball game like this, you can have a tendency, you can be sloppy and you know, just because the rhythm of the game, and I thought our kids were just on point with everything that we wanted them and asked them to do.

The first half was obviously one of the best halves of football we've played since we've been here. Our guys responded and they played passionate football, they played physical football. Again, we weren't perfect and we'll learn things and we'll learn to understand when you've got a big lead and you go in at halftime, you have got to come out with a sense of urgency right there in the third quarter, but again, foreign territory for us, and so a great teachable moment for us there in the third quarter. Again, proud of our kids, proud of our coaches and we'll enjoy it.

On the seven touchdowns from seven different contributors:

It's fascinating. I haven't been this way in a long time for myself personally and when you're calling plays and with this football right now, I'm not calling plays for a specific guy. We're calling the best plays for the moment and not concerned about who might be the guy and 'can he make that play'. We have such belief in the guys on our football team right now and they're making their plays and it is showing up.

On when he knew what kind of team he had:

I think in training camp. You get Austin [Seferian-Jenkins] going and what he can bring. And then [Michael] Hartvigson's comfort level. Believing in John Amosa – a walk-on kid that's playing fullback for you know and the assembly – James Johnson coming back and playing the way he's been playing. And then the old reliables – Chris Polk, Jermaine Kearse, Devin Aguilar and what they bring. And then when you finally get a chance to see Keith [Price] play, his ability to distribute the ball and play within the system, it was evident.

Comparing to his USC days:

That first half did today. When you get going like that and you're calling plays, I've been on both sides, where every play looks good on the call sheet like it did there for a while, and then when you're struggling, none of them look good. But that felt, today, when you get that rhythm going, it's pretty reminiscent.

The idea of going to the hurry up, was that a matter of trying to keep things going or a matter of trying to keep they're blitz package going?

The original thought to it when we installed it earlier in the week was, if we come out into this game and kind of sputter and we're not great, to get us going, I wanted us to have it ready for me, just to get us going if, coming off a bye, we weren't great, I wanted to have an answer. But then as we invested some time it, it was pretty advantageous for us to get us into the tempo of it. I think Keith operates in that setting pretty well and our kids enjoyed it, so we went to it regardless.

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WR Devin Aguilar

What was the most beneficial part of the bye week for the team?

We have a lot of guys who were nicked up and it allowed all of them to get healthy. Getting time off and getting some extra practice time really helped us to execute our game plan today. It helped us to be better prepared.

Do you think today is an example of what the offense can consistently be if they execute?

Yeah, we were clicking on all cylinders today and if we go out and execute like we did it just allows us to keep up the tempo and keep driving. That is how it should be all the time.

How does it feel to be 5-1?

It feels really good. We are comfortable with where we are right now and where we are headed. We just need to take it one game at a time.

CB Gregory Ducre

What was the biggest advantage to having a bye week last week?

Having the bye week really gave us the opportunity to get our bodies prepared for today. We were able to rest and really figure out who we are as a team. It helped us out a lot today.

What led to the increased pressure as a defense today?

That is just what we look like when everyone is doing their job and knows what the call is. The coaches are doing a very good job with getting us the right play calls and I think people are just seeing what happens when we execute those plays.

OL Drew Schaefer

How does it feel to be 5-1?

It feels good. It's good to reach our goals that we set at the beginning of the season. We've put so much hard work into it, ever since my class got here, all the classes before me and below me have put in work too. It's finally all starting to come together.

On protecting the QB and making holes for the RB

I think it started with practice. Our scout team gave us some good looks. We spent a lot of time in the film room, so we kind of knew what to expect, so it was just a matter of execution.

How'd it feel to snap the ball to Nick Montana?

It was good, I'm happy for him. I'm glad he finally got to go out there and showcase what he can do.

On the Stanford game next week

It's going to take a lot of hard work to get the win down there. We're going to have to play smart football and get started working on Monday.

DE Josh Shirley

On not underestimating Colorado

I don't think we underestimated them at all, all week. They're a great football team, we just had to read our keys and do what we were coached to do. I think in the end it worked out for us.

On the backfield penetration

Coach emphasized to keep all eight feet on the other side of the ball to make a new line of scrimmage, so we just had to show hard and execute that.

How'd you stay sharp over the bye week?

In the off week we focused on getting healthy, for the bumps and bruises we just had to get in the training room and keep grinding.

On what must be done vs. Stanford

We just have to execute. We need to be ourselves and have fun, that's it.

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Colorado Head Coach Jon Embree

General comments

We didn't handle the run. We didn't do anything well defensively this game. We got beat in every phase. We didn't stop them running. We didn't stop them throwing. We got maybe two pressures on the quarterback. When we blitzed we didn't cover our men.

On Keith Price

He was very good completing the ball. We got minimal pressure; we had plenty of assignment issues. In man coverage our guys didn't cover their men. You do that to a decent quarterback, he'll do just what he did out there.

On what the problem is defensively for Colorado

I don't know what the issues are: why we seemingly do this consistently on the road. The physical things happen. We are what we are. But mentally, to not know who you're covering or to cover your guy and just not cover him or stop after five yards, doing those kinds of things. That's not acceptable.

The change in the offensive game plan due to the big lead

Offensively, I think we started pressing. We didn't really stay with the game plan. When they're scoring every time they have the ball, you have to start changing what you're going to do from that standpoint. They forced us to get out of that.

On the decision to bring more pressure this week than last week

This is his (Keith Price) sixth game. We felt like pressure was our best opportunity on him. We didn't play anything well: zone or man. If we're going to get picked apart in zone, let's just go get him

What can you say to the defense?

They have to go out and compete and have some pride. There's nothing magical you can tell them. We have what we have, so we have to understand that when we're out there it's better knowing what you can't do as a player. If you can't run then get up and jam the guy. If you can run, then run. Whatever it is that you do well, you've got to do that well.

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QB Tyler Hansen

On losing starting tailback Rodney Stewart

Rodney is a big part of our offense – in the pass game and the run game. Losing a guy like that really hurt us.

On playing from behind

We've got to figure out how to play all three phases together. Once you start doing that, when the defense gets a stop, we've got to score. Once we start doing that we'll be a good team and get some wins. But we've got to figure it out. It's tough as an offense when you're chasing points, especially the way they were scoring. When you're chasing like that, constantly, especially in the first half, it's a tough way to play.

It's a tough way to play. You come in expecting it to be a close game, to be a dogfight. Once you're chasing 14, 20 points, it's a tough way to play. Your offense gets one-dimensional and your game plan just shrinks a lot. It's tough on our offense.

On losing players to injury

It seems like we can't catch a break. We can't keep getting guys hurt – it just hurts us even more. Especially with the depth we have; we don't have a lot, so it's going to hurt when you have injuries.

On the Washington defense

Every look they gave, except for a couple, we saw before. So they played well. They're going to give people some fits.

WR Keenan Canty

On fading after starting quickly

We come out every game thinking it's going to be fine – they scored the first points and we answered, so that gave us confidence. When just needed to step up and make plays when they were needed.

On handling the struggles of the season

We try to work off our seniors. It's their last year, so we're trying to keep it up for them, keep the season going for them. We try to come out every day and keep working hard.

It's pretty difficult, but I'm just going to keep my head up and keep practicing. We have a close relationship within our team. We're just pushing for our seniors and hopefully we can win a few more games and send them out the right way.