



Iowa State vs. Colorado Quotes

Iowa State Head Coach Paul Rhoads

On the turnover margin

“There aren’t many games that finish up and you can’t talk about the turnover margin. We were down (2-0 in turnovers) at halftime and we come out in the second half and get two quick turnovers that saved us huge field position.”

On the defense

“Our defense was outstanding. We got a huge stop at the 1-yard line, stopped them again and forced a field goal. Then we get the fumble inside the 10-yard line, and that was a huge difference in the football game. On third down our guys were outstanding, great job from our defense. A lot of guys were where they were supposed to be. When we needed pressure we got it, which was very important.”

On bowl game eligibility

“It says that we’re working toward our expectations on what this football program is all about. You accomplish things by approaching it one day at a time and putting a lot of time and energy in what you do and this football team has done that.”

On bowl eligibility feeling

“College football is a lot about bowl games. You start the season and you work for (a bowl game) and at this point we are bowl eligible and we’re thrilled with that.”

On Robinson’s 1,000-yard season

“Pretty dang good. If there was one player that was on a mission this week, it was Alexander Robinson. We had a very hungry football team when we came out of the locker room. If you could’ve seen the look in his eyes after last week’s football game, you’d understand the competitor and the leader we have with him on our football team.”

On senior’s last game

“The last home game is always a special home game for seniors and the opportunity to get introduced in front of a great crowd at Jack Trice Stadium.”

On how much practice Arnaud gets in punting

“Every week. Didn’t look like it the way he punted it. As a matter of fact, we do it every Thursday. If you look closely, there was a poor snap and it is hard to get a play started right with a poor snap, but it bought us time.”

On what changed on defense this week

“We don’t ever undervalue playing smart and we did today as a football team. I still think Oklahoma State is the best football team we’ve played, but we did not play well last week. I don’t know your observations from the booth, but there was a lot of communication on the field taking place today; accurately, based on what personnel was on the field. That was a defensive football team that played extremely well.”

On reflecting on the season

“I don’t think it’s the time to reflect at all right now. We’re a football program that doesn’t have an open date. We’ve got another seven-day week to prepare for a game in Columbia, Mo., and the last few years they’ve played for the Big 12 Championship. If I took a second to reflect, my wife would chew me out.”

On Fred Garrin Injury

“We tried to get him stretched out and he didn’t respond. Jake Knott went out and played really well, he came out of coverage one time in a big third down play, but overall he played with a lot of tenacity. I thought he played pretty good for a true freshman.”



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Iowa State defensive back David Sims

On defensive play

“We played well. We still have some work to do, but we played our game. We wanted this game and it was James Smith’s last game at Jack Trice and he wanted to go out with a bang. There were games we didn’t play well and we felt like we needed to play better today. We had to do it for the seniors which had their last game at home today.”

On the goal line stand in the first quarter

“We ran against that play over and over in practice this week, so we were ready for it when it came.”

On being bowl eligible

“We still have work to do. We still have one more game and we can continue to improve and get better.”

Iowa State wide receiver Marquis Hamilton

On being bowl eligible

“With all the turmoil that has been going on the past two years, it feels good to get that sixth win and be bowl eligible. Coach Rhoads and the team talked about what the team wanted to accomplish and this was one of our goals. It is like icing on the cake to be bowl eligible as a senior.”

On his touchdown catch

“We got press coverage and I ran past my guy and I knew that it would be coming my way. I didn’t know which shoulder to look to before the play, but I was able to adjust and make the catch.”

Iowa State linebacker Jesse Smith

On fans rushing the field

“It’s my last game at Jack Trice and that is a great way to go out. I’m happy for our fans and this university.”

On being bowl eligible

“Our goal is to win a bowl game. We expect a bowl game. We expect to win every game we play and that’s how we practice and that’s how the coaches plan.”

On ISU’s red zone defense

“There’s a mentality of bend but don’t break when they get to the red zone. Just do everything you can to do your job.”

Iowa State quarterback Austen Arnaud

On the win

“We won today because we worked hard and deserved it. No offense to Colorado, but our defense and our offensive teams wanted it more today.”

On running game and Alexander Robinson’s 1000+ yards

“That’s great. The guy’s been talking about it forever and he finally got it. I’m so proud of him and proud for it.”



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Colorado Head Coach Dan Hawkins

On struggles inside 10 yard line

“It was a little bit of both (lack of execution and good defense). We went from being one of the better teams in the red zone in the country to one of the worst. One score in four trips combined with turnovers is what kills you.”

On the penalty by Bryce Givens

“I didn’t see the play but what he did was inexcusable and totally wrong.”

On right focus by team going on the road

“They are great kids. I thought they were great and were very focused, but clearly I don’t think we started great again. It comes down to a couple of plays. Particularly with this group of guys, when there is a big play against you there is the momentum swing and we have to counter better.”

On poor passing game

“On the first drive we had a couple of drops. You talk about that rhythm thing and that confidence thing and that momentum thing. A couple of drops on the first drive took us out of rhythm.”

On 4th-and-1 play

“At that point, when you’re that close, you need to go. It’s a statement play for your offense and for your offensive line. Nine times out of 10 if you don’t get it, it will help you in the field position game and we didn’t get either one of those.”

On defense against Arnaud

“We’ve been better on defense this year in the sack category. Technique and scheme wise we are bringing some more pressure. We did a better job in that (rushing the passer) but we didn’t do the job we would like to do in the run game to win a game.”

On dropped balls

“It’s a frustrating deal. They had a couple of big hits, but we have to learn from that. But that’s critical, the three turnovers were big.”

On mounting frustration

“You’re always going to have failures and setbacks in life and you have to be able to take that and funnel it towards getting better and moving on. It’s okay to hurt. That’s good and you want that, but you have to put that hurt in the right direction.”



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Colorado quarterback Tyler Hansen

On missed opportunities

“It comes down to not converting red zone plays, having three turnovers, and having all those penalties. If we have all that stuff, we aren’t going to win the game. We’re disappointed. We talked about it (winning) all week.”

On focus

“I think we were focused. It was just missed opportunities. We executed fine, but there were certain plays like me on the pick, or not seeing a defensive lineman, stuff like that but I think we executed fine.”

On Bryce Givens’ penalty

“It killed us. We were like, ‘Yea, yea we have to go.’ We were at the 1-yard line and we’re going to make the score 17-10.”

“Obviously, Bryce freaked out on us a little bit. That killed us. Going from the 1-yard line to the 39-yard line can’t happen. He (Bryce) is bumming. Some of that was on him and he knows that. We all know that he’s an emotional guy and his emotions got the best of him.”

Colorado wide receiver Scotty McKnight

Goals for this game

“Football is similar to life. You need to battle back to finish strong. We need to bounce back and win the next two games. You have to have pride.”

On the road game performance

“We had a lot of turnovers the last few games. We need less penalties. It’s hard to win with so many penalties, so we need to learn from that. We work so hard and we need to try and make better plays.”

Colorado linebacker Marcus Burton

“Basically we came in with a lot of heart and we can’t look forward to a bowl game anymore, but we can hopefully finish the season with a good record.”

Feelings after the game

“There’s a lot of frustration. We prepared for a week to come out here, expecting to do big things. It’s hard to get over that when things aren’t going your way.”