

POST GAME QUOTES



BILL MCCARTNEY, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COACH

"I have to congratulate Tennessee on the way they battled back. We had the victory, but couldn't keep a two touchdown advantage. There's a lot of frustration on our team because we were in the position to win."

"I was proud of our defense. They rose to the occasion a couple of times and came up with a couple of blocked field goals to help us possibly win the game at the time."

"Tennessee has a tremendous offense. As the game wore on, we couldn't get pressure on their quarterback late in the game. We usually are able to pressure an opposing quarterback, but we got very tired late in the game."

"Hagan experienced a lot of frustration today. He is capable of much better than what he showed. He had a couple of drops, but he's a much better thrower than that."

"This was a game of opportunities and missed opportunities. I was disappointed that we couldn't move the chains. We needed to do that in order to take over the game."

"We had good preparation coming in, but under pressure, you don't always perform the way you're supposed to. They are a good team, and they caused us to make mistakes."

"Pritchard's performance did not surprise me. He has made big plays ever since coming here. When we went to the I-Bone, we moved Pritchard to another position. But we've seen him run before, so we knew what he could do."

"We got beat a lot over the middle, our linebackers were consistently late. They were left open over the middle countless times and we gave their quarterback plenty of time to hold the ball."

"We were afraid they might run better on us, and I thought we would throw better on them."

"I've been coaching too long to concede a win when we were up by 14 in the fourth quarter. They have too much firepower and are too dangerous to relax. All three receivers are extremely dangerous."

"I thought we would have more receivers open during the game, but when you don't play somebody that often, you're not quite sure how they're going to play you."

"This is a great place to play. The people are great, the city of Anaheim is great and we are very proud to be here. Where else would you want to go to give kids an experience like the one they had. We would be honored to come back."

"I'm very disappointed, but I don't feel like we lost."

POST GAME QUOTES



TB MIKE PRITCHARD:

"I felt like both teams played a hell of a game. Both teams had a lot of mistakes but both were able to overcome those mistakes. We knew that Tennessee never gives up. They had a will to win, just like us. They were able to come back and tie the game. I don't think we lost. Tennessee is a great team. They weren't the SEC champs last year for nothing. (On Hagan's pitch for TD): Well, you know Darian's ampidexterous. He cut up the middle, but I'd say I was about 10 yards away when he threw it."

WB MICHAEL SIMMONS:

"We shouldn't have tied the game. It doesn't feel like a loss, but I'm dissapointed that we didn't win. We need some work. Tennessee's defense was fast and good just like we expected."

ILB CHAD BROWN:

"A tie is frustrating. I have to give Tennessee credit. We allowed 21 fourth quarter points and it could have easily been 28. When you give up that many points, you can't expect to win. I didn't expect them to pass that much. We forced them to pass."

DT GARRY HOWE:

"I'm dissapointed we couldn't win. Pickens was good. (In the fourth quarter), they were picking us apart and going no-huddle. They were about what we expected. We kind of figured they would run on us more so than pass."

QB DARIAN HAGAN:

"It's going to be a long season, but we'll be ready. I didn't think we struggled. We did a lot of things we shouldn't have done. I need to work on my passing and concentration. I was forcing the ball. I think my mistakes really stuck out."

SS TIM JAMES:

"It wasn't that we weren't playing good pass defense. I feel a lot better than had we started with a loss. Their receivers are good, but they're not the best we've faced or the best we will face. I think the secondary played good and strong."

POST GAME QUOTES



MIKE PRITCHARD, WINGBACK

"We were confident, we just needed to relax."

"Eric Bienemy is our tailback. I stepped in today, but when Eric gets back, he's the tailback."

"Both teams made a lot of mistakes, but both teams were able to overcome those mistakes."

"I don't feel we lost. Tennessee has one of the top teams in the country."

"Darian can throw the ball with both hands if he has to."

"We knew that Tennessee never gives up. They were able to come back, overcome their mistakes, and pull out a tie."

POST GAME QUOTES



COACH JOHNNY MAJORS

"It was a tremendous effort by both teams. We didn't have the luxury of prepping against anybody, so we had some missed opportunities. This was a game of big plays. I told my players not to be distressed if the play goes the other way.

"We are proud of our team for coming back. We are going to correct and work on our mistakes. I was concerned about their offense. They are big and physical and make the big plays. The Colorado tailbacks are excellent and they play hard."

"A few things happened going into the game that I was concerned about. I was concerned about their defense doing two things to give our offense some trouble. I thought they were good last year, although the offense got a lot more publicity. They did give us some problems. They are physical and well coached. I was very proud of our defense in many ways. Yes, they big played us a couple of times. Hagan is a dangerous operator and the tailback is slippery and quick and has excellent speed. The last touchdown they scored, the good football player doesn't make those. That took two outstanding talented people. We had that pretty well played from what I saw.

(Did you consider going for two points?) I considered going for two alot, the whole day. I thought about it, talked about it, the whole course of the game. I had mixed reviews. I made the decision. I made the decision because I wanted to make that decision number one. Number two I thought we would get the ball back and number three I thought we would bring the ball up field when we got it back. We did, we just ran out of a couple of ticks of the clock.

"Andy Kelly was excellent. Andy had some timing difficulties. He threw off balance two or three times. Those things are going to happen. He's in that position because he's pulling the trigger. He makes it go, sometimes he doesn't. He gets some pressure and it's difficult to get the things done just right. He had three big dropped passes in the first half. They started sticking to them in the fourth quarter or else we wouldn't have come back. Guts and confidence.

(Final play of the game, was Webb suppose to get out of bounds?) We thought it was our best shot because we had no time outs remaining. I don't know why the time out was called when the clock was stopped. A lot hectic was going on and it was a hectic ball game. Fast talking and quick decision making. The clock and alot things were a big part of the second half. If we had preserved that time out, I don't have any idea what happened to that. Webb's a heady and intelligent ball player. We thought it was our best chance for him to run and get out of bounds. He didn't get it. We knew if we threw a pass and he went 15 yards and didn't get out of bounds, by the time they reset the chains, we wouldn't have had the opportunity to kick the field goal. We might have had enough time to throw a hurry up pass out of bounds. We called what we thought was our best shot. There were several things you could have done there. Maybe throw to the end zone. We thought he (Webb) has as good a shot as anyone.

(more)

POST GAME QUOTES



MORE JOHNNY MAJORS

(Did 11 games remaining on the schedule have anything to your decision to go for one point?) The decision to go for two is always a great decision. People always like to second guess that decision. Unless you are going for a championship at that time, a tie is a helluva lot better than a loss. The way our team fought back, I'll stick to that a long long time. If it's the last game of the season, who knows it may change later in the season. No goose eggs on the left side of the column is pretty important.

We were ending up alot times second and seven and second and eight too many times. We opened it up. Our run did make a first down later in the ball game. We hoped to have a good running attack. You've got to mix it up. It's a guessing game out there. They were well drilled, well prepared and a good defensive football team.

(Have you ever had a quarterback that had a better day than Kelly did today?) I'd have a hard time. I don't remember right now. Jeff Francis made some comebacks that were terrific and took us down field four or five times in the fourth quarter in 1987, so I just couldn't tell you right now. We've had some good quarterbacks and he was excellent. This young man showed alot of bright stuff today.

"This was a typical early college football game. Our kicking game needs some work."

POST GAME QUOTES



ANDY KELLY, QUARTERBACK

"I'm pleased with the way I came back and ran the offense in the second half."

"It was Coach Majors' decision (two-point conversion), and I respect that. I would never second guess his decision."

(Regarding final play of game) "We wanted to get a first down, so we could stop the clock and kick a field goal. But being the athlete and competitor that Chuck Webb is, he just kept running."

"They pretty much did what we thought they were going to do, we just executed better in the second half."

"We don't want to be in a position where we have to fight and claw our way back into a game every week."

"I think the experience on our offense payed off in the second half."

"I'm just proud our team could come back and tie. We kept fighting and never gave up."

"In the first half, we did not execute, but in the second we just got pumped up and played our game."

DARYL HARDY, LINEBACKER

"We had busted assignment on one of those long runs."

"The tie gives us alot of confidence, and lets us know we can come back."

(Regarding the extra point) "I respect what coach Majors did. I guess he thought we could stop them again."

POST GAME QUOTES



Placekicker Greg Burke (4-4 EP, 1-3 FG)

"I was prepared to go out there at the end and kick it. It didn't surprise me our offense moved the ball so well late in the game.

"It's a tough feeling to take a tie, but it's better than a loss. During the first half, I was frustrated with myself, second guessing myself. Fuad Reveiz (former Tennessee placekicker) was on the sidelines and told me 'you've got to believe in yourself and in what you can do.'

"It made real good sense and I went out there and did what came natural to me. Coach Majors told me that the team would need me there at the end and I wanted to be ready."

Linebacker Darryl Hardy

"At least we didn't lose. We'll go back and look at our mistakes and try to get better. The offense really gave us a break there in the fourth quarter. I feel like I could have played better.

"On the blocked field goal, I had come close on a couple of other kicks, a field goal and an extra point. It's a lot of pressure playing a quarterback like Hagan. I felt like we got him out of the game and then Pritchard came through. You really have to be disciplined on every play."

Linebacker Shon Walker:

"The defense and our entire team came through when we had to. It's a confidence-builder for us. We stopped a big-play team when we had to. The defense is excited about that. We got the offense the ball and they came through. When we were down 14, we remembered what Coach Majors says: 'When the breaks go against you, keep putting on steam.'

"The team is disappointed about the tie, but we're more excited about coming back from 14 down. We knew if we could get the offense the ball they could score and score quickly."

Wide Receiver Carl Pickens:

"The first half we were unsure what would work. The second half, we went to the passing game. We mentioned some routes we thought might work and hoped they would run them.

"We felt like we got off to good start. We played hard and I think we'll pick up momentum."

Running Back Chuck Webb:

"On the last play, I was trying to score or get out of bounds. I didn't see the clock. I got the first down and went out of bounds. We just needed one more play, a field goal. Time just ran out on us."