



Cincinnati Football Head Coach Scott Satterfield
Game 12 (TCU) Postgame Press Conference Transcript

Opening Statement

"Yeah, just disappointed, honestly. Coming here to play TCU for senior night. We did not, obviously start the way we wanted to start. The defense had a great three-and-out on the first punt. We were getting ready to get the ball, and we go and try to stop the ball from rolling, and it bounces off our knee. That cost us seven points. Then we're gun-shy catching punts, and it just kills us. It was the turnovers tonight. We end up with three turnovers to their one and it obviously was the difference in the game. I'm proud of our defense. We put them in some bad situations tonight. TCU has a very high-powered offense with some outstanding receivers, quarterback, they're sixth in the country in passing and we held them to 20 points. Outstanding job by our defense, they gave us a chance. Great night by Corey [Kiner], he ran his butt off all year long. Finished with another good game from him. I thought [Brendan] Sorsby played hard tonight as well. He probably ends up with 160 yards passing, but had five drops on the night, and having those certainly would have helped. He ran hard as well. But again, I think, we just didn't score enough points. And that's what it came down to, 13 points tonight. It got tough there in the second half with the snow, but I still think we were moving the ball pretty well, pretty effectively, but we just didn't get in the end zone enough. Just disappointing. But I'm proud of these seniors, I really am. These guys that have done a great job, laid some great foundation here, very resilient, never quit. They could have made it easy tonight and just laid down, but they didn't. They continued to fight and that's the thing I'm most proud of with these seniors. I really appreciate those guys."

On recent field position woes

"I mean it's one thing or another. Tonight, it was trying to field the ball. Then we don't catch the ball three times, they go inside the five-yard line. The one punt, he had in the first half was 55 yards, but it landed at 32-34 somewhere in that range. It went 55 because we didn't field it. So that's a huge piece of it, it's just going up and catching the punt. I think it's punting the ball where you're supposed to punt it. It's just doing your job, what you're supposed to do. We did that in the first probably six or seven games, and in the last three or four we did not. It all works when everybody's supposed to do that, when they do their job, and we just didn't do it. Therefore, you lose the field position battle. These games that are so freaking close that come down to it, those are the extra yards that you need to get, obviously, to get you over the hump."

On the corner end zone interception

"It's a new play, we hadn't run that play. We're bringing guys inside trying to create some mesh and try to get out. Tony (Johnson) got grabbed on that play as he's headed out right there who

he's trying to throw it too. Obviously should have been thrown away. Just throw it out of the back of the end zone, because you really just want to get points at that point. We did a good job to get down there, and didn't get him loose enough out there, so he threw in the back corner, but the defenders running there, so we got to throw that out, out of the back of the end zone. And that, again, that's just forcing the ball. You don't need to force it."

On a possibly change needed for special teams

"I mean, we're going to assess that whole aspect of special teams. We have to make sure we have the proper guys. I think Max (Fletcher) in practice has been a really good punter, hopefully he'll be able to continue and get to do some great things at punting. We'll have to go and figure out as far as kicker goes, who we need to get for that, because it's such a valuable commodity. Having a great kicker to knock down some field goals. Two games coming to mind, Pitt and Texas Tech this year, just to be able to knock those down. Also, as you look at who's going to be the returners, I think that's huge. We're not a threat this year, really, in the return game, because we never had anybody going in that, so we have to do a great job with that. So really it comes down to some personnel and then to really evaluate 'what are we doing?' 'How can we get better?' How can we get better in the kicking game because we're not far off. I mean, we're not far off. We're 5-7. I know it's disappointing. Everybody hates it, I hate it, it sucks. We're not that far off. Again, if just a couple of plays, a couple of things we do right in the kicking game, or turnovers. We all are looking at that thing, it's a lot different so we're going to reevaluate. We'll reevaluate the whole program. We'll figure out what we have to do better. I mean, offense, defense and kicking, but certainly kicking in the last three to four weeks, I think it's really amplified to where we need to get better at that."

On having confidence in the program

"Well, we're trending up and we're going in the right direction. We played a lot of young players tonight. I look out on the defense, Simeon's (Coleman) making tackles. Montay Weedon and (Jiquan) Sanks, these are all true freshmen that came in and had a huge impact on our team. Not only them, but we also played a bunch of freshmen across the board. Those guys are going to get better in the offseason. We feel like we have a great nucleus of guys coming back that really competed at a high level this year in the Big 12. The Big 12, as we all know, is extremely competitive conference. I mean, everybody's got at least two losses in this league. Everybody's beating everybody up. And in order to win these games, you have to be very buttoned up. Meaning the least amount of mistakes teams make, they are going to win. Penalties, turnovers, kicking game. So, we're not that far off. We'll get a few more pieces to the puzzle this offseason here in the next three to four weeks, we all know Signing Day is Wednesday of next week, and then the portal is going to open up. It's going to be fast and crazy for about three weeks in December. A lot of times, that effort right there can make or break how you're going to be next year. You're very good, or you're going to be average. We've already started on that. We feel good about the next three weeks."

On his portal and recruitment plans

“For the next month, it's acquiring talent. That's the thing that we're focused on. It's getting players in here that can come to help us win. We've pretty much got our signing class ready to roll, which will again be next Wednesday. Then it starts for the portal. We all know now this year, we're not going to take as many in the portal as we did last year. I think last year we took 26 or 27. This year, we're probably going to be, I don't know, 12-14. So, we're limited now, because we feel like we're in pretty good shape, we'll fill in some gaps. There's another reason why. I think we've developed some depth, and now these guys will help add to that. So the next three to four weeks that's all we're doing is recruiting every day, and trying to get some great talent in here, and then we'll be reassessing the whole program and all the things we got to do to make us better.”

On the plays in the first half

“I think a little bit was happening with the turnovers. You muff that punt, and the way things end up you don't get as many plays. They had more plays early in the game and then we get a fumble and give the ball right back to them. I think we were trying to establish the run. We felt like, if we can do that, keep their offense off the field, which was going to be our best defense, and try to stay on the sticks as well. So, if you go to throw it, incomplete, now you are in a yard situation again. Then the second half, we knew we had to come back out and open it up a little bit more in the second half, which we did. And it was tough sledding out there. We had several drops. They did too, but I do think we were able to open it up a little bit more there with throwing the football in the second half, and we got a little bit more comfortable with it.”

On the possible staff turnover in the off season

“I think we are headed in the right direction. These guys have done an outstanding job. I think this is one of the more connected teams we have ever been a part of. We love coming to work. We love being with these guys. I know people want to win. I do too, but I do think that it is a great foundation to get wins. Get the right people. They keep giving you a chance to win games, and our guys do an outstanding job. So, we will see where we are at. We will see where we are at with everything, we are going to evaluate everything. Every person in our department we are going to evaluate, we will sit down and look at every single one, every person, and decide what we want to do. And then also, how can we get better as an individual, each person, and that's what we have to do. You do that every single year. So, we are going to evaluate it all and see where we are at with it.”

On the possibility of being invited to a bowl game

“I said it in the locker those guys, I wish we could keep going with these guys. We enjoy working with them. They bring it every day, and again today. That will be something we will look at and evaluate. I have no idea where that's at with as far as how many teams won or did not win today, but we would certainly love to play some more ball, just like we like being around each other, like competing.”

On the miscommunication between him and the referees

“Yes, it's unbelievable. He said he was trying to reset the clock with the clock operator. He said he wasn't looking at him, and so when he finally looked at him, it was already down to 12 seconds, and so they reset it back up to 25. Well, the game clocks running and now it goes to two minutes. They should have snapped the ball before the two-minute warning, which would have saved us 40 more seconds, and he had no explanation. You think about having the ball. We had the ball at the plus 45 at the end of the game there, we had 40 more seconds. It just came off the five-yard line. So, we just went 50 yards. Forty more seconds would have been awesome to have, and there really wasn't a good explanation.”

On his plan going through winter practice

“As we go and evaluate our whole program, looking at the ways and things that we need to get better at in several games. If we have errors, how can we get those corrected? When we go through our winter program this year, it'll be difficult. It'll be hard. I feel like we'll do a lot more football specific drills as well. As you look at winter programs, a lot of times, you're trying to get stronger, you're trying to gain weight, you're trying to do all those things, but we're going to have to incorporate the football aspect of what we're doing in the off season. Meaning, after a big workout, we're tired, we're hurting; let's do some football stuff. Obviously within the rules, and to see how mentally sharp we are because we have to get better. I think as we evaluate that, we have to look at spring practice. We have to look at how we're doing that. We have to look at how we have to get better between now and when we play our first game next year, and the way the calendar looks, the way the calendar falls, all the roster limits going down to 105 that's another thing. Now you have 118 or 20 guys, now you have 105. You have less people. All these things will be evaluated, and we will do the best we can do to help our team win.”

On players with eligibility left, specifically Joe Royer

“Obviously, it'd be great for us to be able to retain Joe [Royer] and get him back here. He's going to look and see where he's at in the NFL and evaluate that. He's certainly a guy who can get drafted and see what he wants to. If he wants to come back and continue to develop and get better and better. I feel like he's got a huge ceiling to get better and better. We know he's a talented player, but hopefully he's coming back, and we can make a good run at it next year.”