

ECU HEAD COACH SCOTTIE MONTGOMERY

Opening statement

"We had some breakdowns on offense, a lot of breakdowns on offense. This game looked a little bit like it looked last week, instead our offense didn't get a chance to come back and respond to some of those offensive plays they made. Once we lost Colby Gore they found a matchup they liked and kind of went out there and got us. Last week was really tough, it was a tough physical game on us. Coming in to this game we knew Holton (Ahlers) was a little down, he practiced one time last week in the second practice because of being banged up. But we thought he felt pretty good. He got out there today and just didn't move around the way that he normally moves and didn't see the field the way he normally does. Looking back at it, we need to get him as many snaps as we can get him but make sure he's healthy moving forward. Physically, we have to get better quickly.

Is the main thing his knee?

Yeah, he was just sore throughout the first quarter of the game and then I just couldn't let him get hit anymore because he was struggling protecting himself.

Inaudible

First things first is always the health with our kids. We have to make sure our kids are healthy we lost D'Ante [Smith], [Peyton] Winstead, we lost quite a few guys from last week that are banged up, so we have to figure out a way to get them healthy as quickly as possible.

Looking last year at that score when you beat them and how quickly things turned today, what have they done come a year later?

If we get healthy we'll be a really, really good football team. I'm not blaming it on, or making excuses or explanations but we have to find a way to be available for some of our coaches and some of our schemes for the quarterback. We have to be able to have an offensive line in front of him that is healthy. Then, when they have one-on-one matchups, they had a really good player. Number one is a really good player. We felt like, going in, if we could continue to rotate our corners and get Colby [Gore] on him or switch out and get some other looks on him, we'd be good. Well, they found a matchup, they aggressively attacked it. They took our front out of the game a little bit and played the perimeter game throwing the ball a little bit better than they've thrown. So, we have to go back to work on that.

It seemed like you couldn't make adjustments as the game went on. What was the issue with that?

We wanted to make an adjustment, but by the time you get to the middle of the second quarter or by the end, the one play that really hurt us because I didn't feel like we made one adjustment on the sideline offensively was when Holton broke out, tried to get in the slide and took on a shot. The ball came out and that was a big, big turn in the game. That's the growing pains when you have a young quarterback. We have to continue to work to get him better. He'll learn from it and move on.