



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Head Coach Scott Satterfield

Opening Statement

"Good afternoon. First, I want to thank our fans because that was an awesome atmosphere again on Saturday. I know it was a hot day and I felt it for sure on the sideline. I looked up in the stands and everybody's in black and cheering their tails off and it was awesome. It was a great atmosphere, and we obviously fed off of that. Our guys played a complete game. I thought from offense to defense and kicking, we really did a nice job with it defensively to get a shutout. It is very tough to do that, especially nowadays in college football, to shut a team out with the way these offenses are and with the great skill players that teams have. We created three turnovers and that was huge defensively as well. Offensively, we were very efficient again and Brendan [Sorsby] was very efficient as a passer, and we took care of the football. I thought that was huge as well and our special teams were solid. They had a couple of great return men back there and we did a good job of covering those guys. I believe we punted twice in the game and we knocked a couple field goals down again. It was a complete game, and it was great to get our first Big 12 win here at home, and to be 1-0, which was one of our goals. This week we have a great challenge. This is the first time this season we will get on a plane for a road trip to go to a place that has great tradition and can put up a ton of points. I feel like they score a lot of points every year. Even if you go back 10 or 15 years, they are always putting up points and this will be a great environment in the Big 12. I believe a lot of our away games in the Big 12 this year will be some great environments for college football. This game will be at night, it's a blackout and I'm sure it will be a sellout. It's a great environment for football and they are a very good team. Offensively, they have been lighting it up. They have one of the best running backs in the country. He is 230 pounds, and he can run and is a fast, extremely talented back. Their quarterback has been great, and I believe he's leading the Big 12 in touchdown passes. They spread you out, throw it all over the place, and they tempo you to try to get you out of position. Defensively, they gave up a lot of points the first week, but I feel like they have really settled in the last few weeks. Their guys play hard and get after it. They have a couple of good return men as well. It'll be a great challenge for us, but we're looking forward to it. We will have a great week of practice this week and we will be ready for Texas Tech."

On how the defense settles in

"I still think we're learning. We're learning about what our players can do within the scheme. We are learning about where we need to play them. We have had some injuries, particularly up front, and I think that's hurt us at times, and in the secondary losing Josh [Minkins] for that one game. He comes back again this week and gets a pick on the first drive again, which was great. But I do think we have learned a lot over the first month of the season. So far defensively, I still

think we're continuing to get better and better. We're going to face some great offenses, starting this weekend. As we move forward in the Big 12, there are some really good quarterbacks, great schemes and really good skilled players. So, we'll be tested as we move forward, but I do think when you're playing a team like this, they are going to move the ball, they are going to house a lot of yards. We have to do a great job, we have to get in the red zone and try to hold them to field goals and somehow create turnovers."

On how he prepares the team for a guy like RB Tahj Brooks

"It's difficult, I think to try to simulate that. Obviously, we use several guys in practice to be able to try to simulate that. But you're not going to simulate a guy who's 230 pounds that runs like he does. When you're trying to defend the pass, and you're spreading everybody out, you're getting a little bit of thin in the box there and if he hands it off now you only have one guy trying to come tackle him. So, we have to really rally to the football, try to get a lot of hats to the ball whenever he does run it."

On Brenden Sorsby and Xzavier Henderson's connection

"Yeah, it was good to see, we haven't done much of that since I've been here. Xzavier certainly has the talent. There were two great throws I thought, outside shoulder, our guy catches it, or nobody catches it, and he [Brendan Sorsby] dropped it right in there, and X [Xzavier] went up and got it. So, it was great to see that versus press man and we're obviously going to see a lot of man throughout the next eight games. And to be able to throw and catch like that, we're going to need that. That's a great part of our offense if we're able to do that. Because if teams do load the box to try to stop the run, you're going to get some one-on-one out there. We have to have great confidence to know that we can throw it out there and complete those balls."

On the quarterbacks matchup

"I think two different offenses though, they're more of the up tempo, spreading out, rolling with, and getting in rhythm. Obviously we're a little bit more huddle, ball control, run the football, play action, and those type things. So the similarities are certainly similar in size, both from Texas. They are both really good quarterbacks, so it should be a good matchup between the two."

On Houston playing slow and if that helped the defense stay fresh

"Yeah, I think so. If you only have to defend low to mid 50s, it's certainly going to help your defense as compared to 80 or 90 plays, which I feel like Texas Tech owns a lot of plays. So that is something that is certainly in the back of my mind. I'm not necessarily going into a game saying, 'Hey, we have to have the ball for 35 minutes.' You don't necessarily do that, because offensively, we're just trying to move the football. I think what has worked out is that we have been able to have some long drives. This year we've had some 15, 16, 17 play drives, and occupying the clock a lot. But while you're doing that, your defense is getting the rest. They're getting fresh. The coaches have more time to go over scheme. We think about the iPads over there, so there's a lot of benefit to that. Then I also think, when you're playing teams that are the tempo type teams. They love to be in rhythm. If they're standing a lot on the sideline, it's

hard for them to get in rhythm. So as much as we can do that, that'd be great. But I do think each game could be different. The way you have to play off the game and how the game is going to figure out how to occupy the ball."

On how important third down is on defense

"I think first down is huge. When you're playing a team like this is to try to get them in the second and long situation. Because second and medium, second and short, they can run anything they want. You can take shots, you can run the ball, you can do whatever, and now they feel like, okay, they're still manageable situations on third down. It's much easier to defend when it's third and long, compared to that third and short, or third and medium. So that is huge. Finding ways to get them off the sticks, and for us on our side to stay on the sticks. I think I look at their defense, and they've done a really good job on the third and short stuff. They pack them all up in there. They play hard, they run hard. That's a game within the game."

On how important it is for the defense to get real game reps

"I think it's huge. We have played a lot of guys, a lot of young guys have played, particularly on defense, and rotating guys in and out, keeping our guys fresh. Pitt was about as fast you can go. They're a high tempo team. I feel like we've been able to do that. We played as a heap the first three, four games. So, this game being at night, it'll be a little bit cooler. That'll certainly help that part of it, but it will be a different environment. We're going in an environment where 60,000 people are screaming for the other team. And this will be a different environment, and a test for our guys."

On what is being done in practice this week to prepare for the tough environment ahead

"Offensively, getting the crowd noise going in practice, working on communication, working on our cadence within that. There are several things we're going to be doing within practice. We have a lot of old guys on offense, veteran guys that have played in big-time games on the road before. Hopefully, that doesn't faze us, and we're able to execute and do the things we need to do in order to move the football and be successful."

On how Antwan Peek Jr. has shined in his role

"He's made some big plays for us, not only at the star spot as you mentioned, but also in the special teams. He had a big-time, physical tackle on kickoff team Saturday. I think he's done a nice job of fitting in there. And really, his strength is to come down and be physical and tackle. I think he's done a great job with that. Jiquan Sanks has done a nice job as well. It doesn't hurt to keep those guys fresh and rotate and utilize them in the situations where we need to. I think that's some of the things that I'm talking about while working some stuff out. Defensively we need to find out when we need to have Sanks in. We need to have the certain guys in the game to be able to make the plays."

On how their conditioning keeps them in the game

"There's no question. And it goes back a little bit to the question about playing a lot of guys, and I think that's going to help. If you ever rotate guys in and out, it keeps them fresh, because

it really affects the second and fourth quarters after you play the first and third quarter. To keep those guys fresh, we have to keep rotating. I think Rob Jackson should be back this week. He missed last week, so he should be back. That will give us another guy, defensive lineman wise. It certainly helps to have the depth that we have this year, that we've created, and we'll utilize it. That should help with the conditioning factor."

On how they are preparing for Texas Tech

"It's a Big 12 game, and it's a Big 12 game on the road. So, whatever we've done the last few weeks to get ready to play, it should intensify a little bit more this week. Focus on taking it one day at a time. We have to be our best on Tuesday, it's got to be our best Tuesday practice we have had. Getting ready for these guys. Our guys have done a great job with this, staying in the moment, not looking behind or ahead and I think that is the key. I know it's pretty simple to say that, but that is the key to have the best Tuesday practice we can have and stay in the moment. But it's a Big 12 game on the road. Everything's going to be more intense this week, for sure."

On the defensive line

"Kam's [Kameron Wilson] really giving us some good minutes there at the defensive line position. Causing some havoc, particularly on third downs, getting into the backfield, that's been great. We're getting some good production out of those guys. We've had to use a lot of guys in there and rotate them around. Eric Phillips has been playing really good football this year as well. Getting into the backfield causing pressure. We have to have it out of those guys. They have to continue to get to the quarterback, particularly this week with a team that may throw it 45 to 50 times. So, we have to be able to get in the backfield and try to get him to move a little bit and get off the spot."

On his desired quarterback

"We love to have guys that are mobile, to be able to get in and out of a pocket if they need to, also to be able to run the football if they need to. Also to be able to decipher defenses, make accurate throws, and make the big plays when you need them, like the third down plays. He's [Brendan Sorsby] done a great job with third down. Has he played perfect? No, but that's going to be hard to play perfect. I think he's played very, very well, and we're going to need great plays out the quarterback as we continue to move forward this week. He's had a great four games so far. We just have to keep this thing going."

On Brendan Sorsby's mindset and style

"He's got good poise in the pocket. I feel like the first four games we've had a lot of pressure come at him, and he's been able to stand in there and make the throws. One of the plays earlier in the game Saturday we threw a skinny to the field, they blitz, and he ends up getting hit in the head. They call the penalty on it, but he stood in there and threw an accurate ball right to Jamoi [Mayes] which was a big play for us. So that speaks to his poise and his toughness. I think when he does run the football, he's going to get yards and he's trying to fight to get yards. Touchdowns are a great example, there's two guys there, and he just lowered his shoulder and tried to run them over. I mean, he's 230 pounds. He's a big kid. He's going to try to go get yards,

which I love, because that describes our football team. If your quarterback is fighting to get yards, it makes everyone else play a little bit harder. I think that's what I love. We tell our team we want to be physical at every single position, including the quarterback, and that's what he's been able to do."

On how unique Brendan Sorsby is as a QB

"He's unique in the fact that he can throw the football with such a quick release, and he's accurate and he can run. I think he's a special player. He is still young and learning. He's continuing to grow as a player, and I think we still haven't seen his best ball."

On defending special team plays and field goals

"We work on our special teams every day, and particularly our field goal team every day. We have to have proper splits. We need to have the guys stepping down like they're supposed to and not relaxing on those plays. It's the snap, it's the hold, it's the kick. It's all three of those operations. There's a lot that goes into this and we have been very solid with that. We need to continue with our protection and concentrate to do that every single day. We need to make sure our guys don't relax. When you relax, that's when bad things happen."

On preparing for Texas Tech's Offense

"We work on preparing for these types of things. We do sudden change all spring and all camp, so our guys are used to that. We work on this throughout practice, and it can happen at any point. Our coaches don't know when it's going to happen and I'm the only one that will do it. For example, it can just randomly happen in period six, where we have a sudden change. Now all of a sudden it is third and seven and everybody runs on the field, and I can see what we are going to do here. We have practiced a lot of that sudden change, and I think it's just part of football. It is part of knowing what's happening, what's the field position and what's the down and distance? We have talked about all of those things with our guys, I feel like our guys are ready for those type plays, and it's just about execution whenever they happen."

On Washington State keeping Texas Tech in check last week

"They did a great job in that game. I thought they created some turnovers and then capitalized on those turnovers. Their quarterback can run and he's a really good player. They had a good scheme and ran the football really well on them. Defensively, I thought they played great as well. Washington State was home so that obviously helped. We are going to try to just break it down into segments. It is hard for us to break it down as a whole game, so we look at it offensively, defensively and special teams. We break it down into segments and take little pieces and parts of what people had success with and try to put that in our game plan. We try to do that with every opponent that they played and take the best things that they did and then try to apply that into our game plan."

On talk of cover two being bad for offenses and football in general

"I think that's pretty funny because whatever the defense gives you, your job offensively is to attack that. If you have got two on the roof, then you should be able to run the football. I don't

understand what people are saying. They are saying the touchdown passes are down in the NFL, so the rushing touchdowns should be up, in my opinion. Whatever they're giving you on defense, you should be able to attack it in a manner that will get you points. I think it's about executing and attacking. I do think football is crazy, because it goes through different cycles. I don't know how many years ago, but many, many years ago everybody wanted a 3-4. After that it went to the four down cover two, and Tampa two, and four down pass rushing. Now it has gone back to three now. There are so many different evolutions in football over the years, and I think we'll continue to see that. Offensively now, it's been crazy, and you see everything on offense now. That's why I think college football is fun to watch because of all the different things that you do get to see."

On evolution of defenses

"If you have three down linemen and then essentially three linebackers and five defensive backs, there's a lot of things you can do with that. You can drop everybody, obviously eight people, which we do. You can also bring six or seven people on the blitz and from all different areas. I believe it gives you a lot of versatility. I think it enables you to get a lot more speed on the field when you think about five defensive backs and then three linebackers. I think there's a lot of stuff you can do with this, more so than maybe a four down. This is where you got your four down linemen, now you're one less person or body back in the back end. We have our star position, which is a hybrid position, where you know they can be a linebacker, or they can be that extra safety that you have in the back end. So, to me that's the advantage of this defense."

Redshirt sophomore quarterback Brendan Sorsby

On being back in his home state of Texas

"Getting to go back home is very exciting for me. Should have a ton of people there, a lot of family, a lot of friends, so it'll be good to get back to Texas. Obviously, like you said it's still probably four and a half, five hours away from home, but it's going to be good to be back."

On getting the team doughnuts

"I tried to get enough for the staff and the offense so they could enjoy some donuts but, obviously, the defense getting a shutout was a big deal. So, I tried to reward them. [Derrick] Canteen picked them up. So, I'm sure he had to make a couple phone calls as well. It was definitely a good experience, and the guys were really happy about it."

On Xzavier Henderson

"All the work that we've gotten in practice, outside of practice, and just being able to trust him with the ball. When I throw up a 50, 50 ball, it's not 50, 50, he comes down with it. It's just nice to have that connection with him. Hopefully we can keep building off it too and try to find him more often."