

# 2011 UTSA Roadrunners Football UTSA 49, Minot State 7 Saturday, Nov. 19, 2011 Alamodome · San Antonio, Texas UTSA Postgame Quotes

# Head Coach Larry Coker Opening statement ...

"Well we finally broke that game open. We were ahead in the first half, but I still didn't feel good about it. We got ahead and we almost just quit playing. We made some adjustments at halftime and we came back there and opened it up. I just can't say enough about our players and the coaching staff, but more so about our student body and our fan base. As I told the student body, 'This is your team.' We're very proud of what we were able to accomplish this year. We're a long way away and we know that, but we made some big strides. We have a barometer from this year about where we are and where we need to go."

## On his greatest source of pride from this season ...

"There are so many things. The university has just been terrific as far as the support we've had there from our student body. From a personal standpoint, I don't think I've done enough there because they have been terrific for us. The city has been fantastic. The Alamodome is a phenomenal place to play. I want to coach here and play here forever."

# On summing up the season in one word ...

"For me, personally, it would be 'awesome.' I've had the chance to be back in coaching. It's exciting. It's fun, especially when you win. For [Athletics Director] Lynn Hickey and [University President] Dr. [Ricardo] Romo to give me the opportunity to do this, I just can't say enough about it."

#### On the suspensions of several players for this game ...

"It was very unfortunate, but I had to do it. We've got to do things the right way from the start. We're not going to be here three years from now and trying to get things going in the right way. We're going to build it, and build it the right way from the start. We have some policies that we expect you to follow, and if you don't follow them you don't play. I really can't go into specifics other than to say that it was a policy violation that we couldn't ignore."

# On the disappointment of having to suspend some of his players ...

"Friday was a down day for me. I was excited about this game and I was excited about Saturday. This thing is not about me, it's about them. I wanted this to be a great situation for these players that work hard day in and day out. It's not about making me happy, it's about them getting the opportunity to excel and be happy; and for that not to happen is a big disappointment."

#### On how he feels about the foundation they laid this season ...

"I think we laid a great foundation. I look at three games that we lost that we really could have won. I look at that in reality and think that maybe, in the long run, we weren't supposed to win those games. Now we know how tough it is to win. If we win all those games then we think we've got this thing figured out and we're just going to roll through everyone. It's a process. I learned a lot and we've got a lot more to do."

#### Mark Waters, Sr., S

#### On how it feels to conclude his senior year ...

"It feels picture perfect. I couldn't ask for anything better. I wanted to go out with a bang, and my teammates wanted to go out with a bang with me. We did and I couldn't ask for anything better than this."

#### On the atmosphere in the locker room after the game ...

"It was emotional. I had an emotional moment. My teammates love me and I am really going to miss them."

## On looking back at this year in the future ...

"I will never forget this year; never. Not until I die will I ever forget this year."

## On where he believes the program will be in five years ...

"I will be right here on the sidelines when they are in a bowl game cheering them on. The very first bowl game I will be right there with them. I'm a Roadrunner for life."

## On how player suspensions affected them ...

"Definitely we are a team, but we always have to persevere. That is why we have ones, twos and threes that are always ready to step up when needed."

#### Kam Jones, Fr., WR

# On how player suspensions affected them ...

"I think it was difficult because we had three starters that did not play with us today. Losing two guys on defense and one on offense, it was pretty tough to overcome that, but we still had to come out here and play."

## On how the learning curve will begin to progress ...

"I am honestly excited. I think that because of the rate at which we matured this season - and I don't know if people expected us to mature as fast as we did - next year when it comes time to compete with the big dogs we will be ready. As far as playing goes, we will just keep going and keep maturing when we play."

# On if the season was what they expected ...

"It was good and it was mostly what I expected. I knew there was a chance we were going to lose a few games. That is a part of being young and a part of growing. I think for the first season we finished just how I expected. We won a couple of games and lost a couple games, but that is a part of being a brand new program. We just need to learn from it and keep going."

## On going from here and into the WAC ...

"We just need to go into the offseason knowing that next year we are going to face better competition. We just need to come together as a team and let everyone know that we need to buckle down and get serious. We cannot have any kind of distractions on and off the field and we need to get ready to go to work."

#### Evans Okotcha, So., RB

#### On how player suspensions affected them ...

"Our team did a good job of not letting this affect us and not letting this affect our game plan. We couldn't let it get to our heads. Whether we lost starters or backups, whatever the case may be, we just needed to go out there and play without recognizing it."

# On how what was accomplished this year will affect the seasons to come ...

"For the most part I think that to move forward we need to do a better job of executing. We always come up with a really good game plan on our opposing defense and sometimes we mess around with a couple of mistakes, like exchange mistakes or route busts, we just have to do a better job of executing. It is all a part of a learning process, but we have grown from the beginning of the year and I think we will continue to mature and do better."

#### On his 77-yd run for a touchdown ...

"I thought I was going to make it. Coach Bush called that same play and we had good blocking and good scheme. I got out in the open field and I got tired. I need to work on my stamina. I thought I was going to score on the play and I had to do a little something to get that guy off that was catching me. I just have to work on my stamina. It was a good play call and great execution by the o-line."