



2011 UTSA Roadrunners Football
UTSA 17, Georgia State 14 (OT)
Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011
Alamodome · San Antonio, Texas
UTSA Postgame Quotes

Head Coach Larry Coker

Opening statement ...

"I couldn't be more proud of these guys today. It was a great effort and I think you could tell that. We didn't have a lot of rhythm on offense in the first half and didn't do much scoring, but the guys fought hard and stayed the course. The defense really stepped up and played a great game. Sean Ianno is a walk-on kicker and a young player. He had one blocked against South Alabama, but today he hit three to win the football game. There were so many guys that did some standout things, but the main thing was the effort and energy. Our coaches did a phenomenal job and I just can't say enough about their effort. It's one thing to give effort but not like how they gave it today. That just puts the icing on the cake. With their style of play, I was concerned that we wouldn't get the football back. Honestly, I was very disappointed in the execution of the fourth down play, because we were really out of sync there. The defense did a phenomenal job and Georgia State missed the field goal to give us the football back, which gave us the opportunity to win it and we did."

On going for the two-point conversion early in the fourth quarter ...

"Well, I knew what I was talking about today. It came down to we needed a field goal to tie it and put it in overtime. Again, they are pretty good on defense. The three-man front really caused us some problems and the blitz package did too, so we decided to run the ball. Ianno really has some range. He can hit a 50-yard field goal, so we knew he had the range if we had the opportunity to tie the game and send it to overtime."

On the execution in the fourth quarter and in overtime ...

"You have to learn how to win. We talked about execution and finishing blocks and tackles. Those things got finished in this game. I could name some guys that did some things well, but it was a tremendous team effort, especially our special teams on kickoffs and field goals. We actually blocked one field goal and that's not always a big deal, but it becomes a big deal when it comes down to the end of the game and a field goal is the difference to get the game to overtime. The last time we played overtime, it was miserable. I'm extremely happy for our coaches and I just can't say enough about our players. I'm elated for them because you say things such as 'finish,' 'work hard' and all of that and we just tell them to work hard and stick together. That's what happened today."

On if the bye week led to the lack of execution from the offense in the first half ...

"I don't think it was from the bye week. We really did a lot in the bye week from the standpoint of going against each other, but what we didn't do was go over a lot of Georgia State stuff because we focused on our stuff. We were trying to get better as a team fundamentally and individually and maybe we should have done more Georgia State things. The problem for us was just that we didn't execute well. That was disappointing because that is one of the main things we wanted to do. There were some open receivers at times that we didn't hit, but all in all, I think it was a great effort and the guys stayed the course and came back in the second half to win it."

On what happened with the miscommunication between Eric Soza and Kenny Harrison ...

"I thought I was going to be fired because I was thinking about what an awful attempt that was. On fourth down on our own 30-yard line you can call it miscommunication or whatever, but normally that isn't going to happen, especially not with Eric. I thought that this thing may not be meant to happen, but the guys came back and did a phenomenal job. Especially with us being without Steven Kurfels today. We talked about how when you have somebody out, other people have an opportunity to step up and make plays and some of the guys did that today. I think they did a good job and there are some things that they need to improve on, but that will come with game experience which these guys are just building. Sometimes it's painful because when you learn and don't win that hurts."

On the explosiveness of Chris Johnson ...

"Chris has some skills. He really has some explosive ability and we have to take advantage of that by getting him the ball. That is the type of player he is. Okotcha is a little more physical and Chris is a little more explosive. I think you can see that and that's what I want to see. I want him to keep that up and give us a chance to win these last few football games."

On the improvement of the special teams ...

"Tony Jeffery really did a great job with special teams today. He did a great job of making them better. We found out we have another deep snapper today. Nate Shaw had never deep snapped before and he did a nice job of stepping up."

Sean Ianno, Fr., PK

On the winning field goal ...

"It feels amazing. Last time it didn't feel so great."

On preparing to enter the game for that last field goal ...

"I just have to stay focused and stay loose. I need to make sure I'm kicking the ball well in the net on the sideline."

On if he knew the kick was good when he looked up ...

"I don't really have to look at it. I can usually tell just by the way it feels coming off my foot. When I looked up just to be sure, it was the best feeling in the world."

Marlon Smith, Jr., DE

On the difference on defense between the first and second half ...

"We knew we were playing good defense all along. We gave up a few big plays, but we knew we just had to stick to our plan and execute. We knew as long as we kept doing that, we would give our team an opportunity to win."

On having to get a quick stop after turning the ball over on downs late in the game ...

"I tell the guys on defense to just have amnesia and go out there and keep pressing forward. That was an unfortunate deal (turning the ball over on downs), but we couldn't keep our heads down. We had to go out there and play defense. We knew the situation and capitalized. We held our own and it worked out for us."

Eric Soza, So., QB

On the difference on offense between the first half and the second half ...

"To be completely honest, I think it was the same effort we give every game. We really didn't make any big adjustments at halftime. There were a few things we wanted to do differently for certain plays, but for the most part, we just stuck to the plan and it worked out for us."

On the last drive in regulation ...

"It's a credit to the whole team, the offense, defense and special teams. We played pretty well and well enough to win. We were able to persevere. We have to be able to finish games. That's what we've been saying in the locker room. It's a 'w,' but we can still get better. We're going to go watch the film tomorrow and go out there and get back to work next week."

On the defense getting him the ball back after they failed to convert their fourth down attempt ...

"They played a heck of a game. The defense kept us in it. They played their game and we played our game and it was good enough to win. We're not satisfied though. Offensively, we can get a lot better."