

University of Texas at San Antonio Football Media Conference

Saturday, October 28, 2023
San Antonio, Texas, USA

Coach Jeff Traylor Press Conference



UTSA 41, East Carolina 27

JEFF TRAYLOR: Seems like it was two games out there today. That was long. That was a long time, boy. But hard-fought win by our kids.

Our defense got off to a rough start early, but hard-fought win by our kids throwing the ball down the field, made some good adjustments.

Offensively it went about like we thought it would go. They're really good on defense. They're not going to let you run the football. They're just not going to let you do it. They're going to make you throw the football to beat them.

We knew it would be a game of big plays, and there was big negative plays and big positive plays, as well. So really proud of that.

Special teams we were steady. Never had to play, show up like we've been having the last week. It was more of a steady game.

But really good to see all three phases show up, and a good win against, I told y'all, a good football team. It's amazing they're 1-7, whatever their record is. I would hate to have to make a living trying to beat those guys every Saturday.

Q. Did you guys know you'd have to make big plays? It seemed like you guys were going down the field a little bit more than usual tonight.

JEFF TRAYLOR: Yeah, we knew. They make you. Those are the calls they made you do. We just had to do it.

Our kids showed up, and sometimes it looked spectacular and sometimes it looks really ugly, but when you play a team that aggressive, that's the style.

If you look at them in the metrics, they're as low as 3 in some metrics and as high as 22, 25 on how good defense is in the country, and they've played a very good schedule, too. For us to put up 41 points on those guys was really amazing.

Q. What was the key to Josh Cephus getting loose for those two gains the way he did, and why did we see him have so much after the catch, as well?

JEFF TRAYLOR: If you'll go back and watch it, watch Tykee Kellogg blocking down the field. Turn that body up, baby; turn that body up. It was really good to see a kid like Tykee. He wasn't getting all the attention, but he was like follow me, big boy, and obviously Josh and Frank put good balls, but there's just a lot more to that stuff.

No run like that ever is without a lot of help from a lot of people. Really proud of Tykee for the blocking for Josh.

Q. Cephus caught a school record 84-yard touchdown pass. What did that do for you guys in that moment?

JEFF TRAYLOR: I was apologizing to Coach Loepp because I told him it was going to be that way the whole game. Like it's not going to be like normal; it's not going to be one of those games where y'all get to sit over there and drink Kool-Aid the whole game. Y'all are going to have to be out there a whole bunch. We either scored really quick or we turned it over really quick once or we punted really quick.

I know that's an exciting game to watch when it works, and it's a frustrating game to watch when it doesn't work.

Q. We talked a lot this week about the donate the cheese messaging. Did you feel like the mentality coming out today was the way you wanted it? How would you assess the way all that landed?

JEFF TRAYLOR: Yeah, we were fine. We played hard. I've always believed there's only so many special games, and I thought we gave a special game last weekend.



I know nobody likes to hear that. You're supposed to treat them all the same. We try to. We really try to make every one of them be the same, but I knew we emptied our tank in Boca last week.

Q. The defense almost pitched a second half shut-out all the way to the last minute of the game. They're pretty good after the first quarter. What was the key to the defensive effort after the first quarter?

JEFF TRAYLOR: It's always players. Coach Loepp did a good job making some adjustments, and we quit bringing some pressures because they were max protecting and throwing the ball down the football field, and if you can't get home, you quit sending people. We let our guys go to work up front.

We play so many people; we knew it was going to be a long game. I had already told our defense the amount of possessions was going to probably be four more than normal, so you've got to be more people ready to go.

We also got the injury bug tonight. We had a lot of kids getting -- we had a targeting penalty, had an unfortunate ejection there at the end of the game, which I hated the way that thing looked. T-Haynes has started for me for four years. I can't wait to go back and see what caused him to overreact the way he did.

It doesn't matter. He shouldn't react that way.

We just had a lot of players out, and it'll be an interesting room, the whole training room. I'm sure Greg will be ready to roll Tuesday wanting to know the whole injury list so we can tell everything.

Q. Four games in a row; how does it feel to be on this winning streak?

JEFF TRAYLOR: Is it four? Yeah, that one should count for two because it was a long one. Yeah, we're excited, man. It's hard to do. It's hard to win college football games.

There's nobody on the schedule that you can just circle up. Care Bear and I had a knockdown drag-out this week just because she just -- 18-point favorite? We're going to kill these guys. Like no, we're not. That's not going to happen. You always say that. No. Stop. I don't want to hear it.

It's tough because people -- all that nonsense. Them guys are over there trying to feed their families, too. Those kids want to win, too, now. They're a proud university. They've been playing good football for a long time over there. That

guy is a really good football coach. He's won over 100 games as a college football coach. He won a bunch of them as a high school coach. Mike does a fantastic job. That's a really proud program, and I feel bad for him.

He got raided on transfers. He got raided. I feel bad for him. After spring, too, so he didn't get really a chance to adjust. When you lose one to the portal after spring, you can't fix it. It's too late. At least if they go in December you've got something to do in January to May.

So I feel bad for him.

Q. I wanted to ask you your reaction to the student fee vote that was announced yesterday. They voted that down. What was your reaction when you saw that?

JEFF TRAYLOR: My answer is going to be longer than the game was, so be ready.

I thought long and hard about that. I really have. Here's where I am.

One, never mistake a comma for a period. This is a pause. This is not a stop. This is something that we're momentarily dealing with.

I'm grateful that I live in America where you're allowed to vote. You're allowed to vote. I'm grateful I work for an administration that lets the students vote and speak their piece. Even though I'm not pleased with the result, I'm still grateful that we have that opportunity.

I've been through this. Nobody cares to hear it, but I can remember how Mr. Albritton felt at Gilmer. He lost two school bonds for high schools that we needed desperately. I'm talking about kids getting leaked on, rain. It was terrible.

That community just kept working and kept working, and now third time is a charm. We passed that bond. We have one of the most beautiful high schools in the entire country. I don't care where you go. There's not a better high school in the country than Gilmer.

It was work. There was a lot of people just rolling their sleeves up listening, talking, understanding each other, doing a better job of being empathetic towards both sides.

So now, it's a beautiful high school.

One day there's going to be an indoor. We got lucky this week because the weather -- we got to come in here. We can't come in here next week. The floor is not going to be down.

So it's going to be bad weather next week. North Texas is going to be working in their indoor next week. Where are we going to be? In the rain, I guess. One day that thing is going to be built. One day Pat is going to have that baseball field. One day Karen is going to have that practice facility, just like we got the soccer thing done, just like we got the football thing done. It's all going to happen. It's a comma. It ain't a period. We've got to go to work. We've got to figure out what that is, and we've got to get it done. I'm grateful.

We all learned something, and we're going to bounce back from it. As long as I've been here, somebody in this city has stepped up.

Somehow we'll figure it out, whatever that looks like. We'll figure it out.

This place, I got hired December 9, 2019. Somebody can't do anything but give us a like on Twitter. Some people can write big checks. Some people can give a little. We've got all that in San Antonio. We'll get it figured out again.

Q. We spent most of your first three years here talking about all the dramatic finishes and different things that played out at the end of the games. Is it nicer as a coach the last three weeks you've had a little bit of a cushion towards the end?

JEFF TRAYLOR: Yeah, in my journal I wrote down I was going to enjoy if I ever got that opportunity again, and I've tried my hardest, but it's impossible. I'm out there and we're out of people to put in the game, and Ligon is still out there and B-Matt is still out there and Trevor is still out there, and I saw Kyle get hurt, and I'm just like, good Lord. There's never a time where you can just like enjoy it, until the season is over and you win your bowl, and I ain't even got to do that yet.

I don't know. I'm trying to be better at it, but I'm really grateful for the month of October because September wasn't so good.

The Roadrunners have been really good in November except for one time, and we're going there Saturday.

Q. What does it say about the way the team is playing right now that you've been able to at least have that success?

JEFF TRAYLOR: We're getting better. We're getting better. We're a better football team today than we were yesterday. We took quite a few injuries tonight, so we'll have to realign some folks, and that always slows down the

progress a little bit, but nobody is healthy this time of year.

This is where the real games start. That's why November, games that remember. You never remember those games in September and October. Every game we talk about in this room right now, it was somebody in November.

I'm excited to go into November with a really good football team.

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Trey Moore

Press Conference



UTSA 41, East Carolina 27.

Q. Trey, what does it mean to you that you're sitting here as the school's single season sack record holder?

TREY MOORE: It means a lot. Just all the work I've put in, seeing it come to fruition, I just give all glory to God, but yeah, it means a lot.

Q. Did you ever imagine you'd be able to accomplish something like that so early in a season?

TREY MOORE: Yeah, I've got a lot of confidence in myself, so I saw it coming.

Q. What was the key to your performance today? Anything that stood out to you?

TREY MOORE: Just being relentless, and just the defense as a whole, that really was a key to the game, just continuing to be relentless. They made some plays. They're a good team, so we just continued to be relentless, and the results show that.

Q. Trey, they were able to move the ball a little bit in the first quarter but you guys were pretty good after that, almost pitched a shut-out in the second half. What was the key to that change?

TREY MOORE: I think it was just settling in to the defense and what they were doing. We believe that they're a better team than what their record shows. We knew -- when everyone was talking about the whole trap game, we knew that was going to be the case. They were a good team. They made some plays, and we came into halftime, made some adjustments and cleaned it up and finished the game out strong.

Q. You guys are halfway through conference, 4-0.

What do you think has been the biggest key to turning the season around and starting so well in conference?

TREY MOORE: Just continuing to play together and through all phases of the game, special teams, defense, offense. You guys hear it week in and week out, whenever we have games like that, we're going to have success. If we can just continue to build on that and continue to have games where the whole triangle comes together, you'll keep seeing this result.

Q. I know you guys took some injuries on defense today. How did you feel about how the unit pushed through that and different guys stepping up to fill in?

TREY MOORE: Yeah, y'all know what it is; it's next-man-up mentality. We believe that. We have a lot of players that can play. So someone goes down, next man's up. Could be me, could be whoever it is. Next man's up. That's how it went.

Q. Last couple years you guys have played so many close games now. This is four in a row that you've won by two touchdowns. What's it like as a player to not have some of that drama going on this year?

TREY MOORE: It is a little bit nicer not to have your heart beating that fast at the end of every game. I don't know what it is, why it's like that. I couldn't tell you. But we do appreciate having some cushion when we win the game.

Q. You guys have won four games in a row. How does that feel?

TREY MOORE: It feels great. Better than losing, that's for sure. It feels good.

Q. You guys have another tough game next week, some would call it a rivalry game. You guys kind of control your own destiny moving forward. What was the mood like with the guys moving forward?

TREY MOORE: Yeah, we already talked about it. North Texas, you guys know how it is every time we play them. It's usually a tough, close game. We're going there, up to



Denton. We know what happened last time, too. We all know. So we're definitely going to be ready to go, and we're going to be focused this week for sure.

Q. Coach was just telling us that last week was one of those special performances and sometimes it can be harder for a group to bounce back after that. What is that challenge like from your perspective?

TREY MOORE: From my perspective, that's not really the case for me. I can't speak for everyone else, just for myself. Whether it's good or bad, I'm always just focused on the next play, the next game. Whatever I can do to improve going forward is really what I'm worried about. Whether the results are good or bad, I'm just worried about what's coming up next.

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Frank Harris

Press Conference



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Q. Frank, you guys come away with a big win. What was the mood like in the locker room?

FRANK HARRIS: You could tell we weren't too excited. We didn't play our brand of football. We've just got to get better tomorrow, watch the film, just get better for next week against North Texas.

Q. What do you think was lacking?

FRANK HARRIS: On the offensive end we went out there, had another turnover for a touchdown, and we got in the red zone, we didn't capitalize like we knew we could. Then we got down there, once again, had a lot of unsportsmanlikes. I had one myself. Stuff like that, we've got to get better at, and that just can't keep happening.

Q. Wanted to ask you about the offensive scheme. It seemed like you guys were focused on going down the field a little bit in this game. Is that kind of a function of what East Carolina was doing defensively?

FRANK HARRIS: You know, they just loaded the box. There was always an extra guy in the run game, so they were giving us no choice but to throw the ball. They were kind of challenging us to do that. I think Coach Burke did a great job of just calling the plays, and the receivers and O-line did a great job of just doing their job.

Q. How much do you have to change your approach as a quarterback when you know you're going to be looking for some big plays down the field? Is there anything different about how you make your reads or anything like that?

FRANK HARRIS: No, just trust the play call, trust your protection, trust the receivers are going to do what they're going to do, and just go out there and play football.

Q. I know Josh Cephus had the 84-yard touchdown catch. Seemed like you kind pump faked, maybe drew the corner in. Take us through what you saw on that one.

FRANK HARRIS: It was just a little RPO, little post and a wheel, where the flat -- the wheel backer, he tried to play the rail route at first and then he tried to get off of that and play Oscar, so I kind of pump faked it because I was going to throw it, and when he came to get Oscar, Cephus was wide open. I threw the ball to Cephus. He did a great job of just getting some YAC after the play, and I think that was Tykee blocking for him or whoever that was, did a great job of just blocking, so hats off to those guys.

Q. You have your name on a lot of records here, but now that's another one to be able to say you're part of the longest passing connection. What does that mean to you, if anything?

FRANK HARRIS: Yeah, it doesn't really mean too much to me. I think it's more for Cephus because he did all the hard work.

Q. Speaking of Cephus, he became the second Roadrunner with 3,000 receiving yards. The other one was Franklin, so you've thrown to both of them. What does it mean having him out there catching passes for you?

FRANK HARRIS: You know, he puts all the work in throughout the whole week. I have the utmost trust in him. He's proven that he deserves that. Throughout the whole week he puts a lot of work in. He's a hard worker. He's a great teammate. Then on Saturdays he goes out there and proves it.

When I see him out there, I know it was a one-on-one man coverage or something like that. Go give him a chance, and he always makes them right.

Q. (Inaudible) more than 100 yards today. What's it like to see how he's developed in that area?

FRANK HARRIS: Yeah, just how he's developed as a person, as a player, I've been with him since he was a true freshman. To see the growth that he's had, he's put a lot of work in to get to where he is, and Coach Price does a great job of just challenging the receivers just to get some YAC after they catch the ball. I think all those guys have responded well to that, and he's going to keep challenging those guys.

Q. How physical was it out there? Looked like you took some hits a little bit today.

FRANK HARRIS: I got hit one time. He hit me right in my stomach, so it knocked the wind out of me, but other than that, it was just football.

Q. How are you guys feeling on this four-game winning streak? Seems like you guys have put together a real solid month.

FRANK HARRIS: We're not really satisfied. Like I said, the mood in the locker room wasn't what you would have thought after a win. So we've got to watch the film, get better from it, and get ready for next week.

Q. We talked the last couple years about all the different comebacks and fourth quarter drives and close games you've been a part of. Now it's a few weeks in a row that it's been pretty comfortable down the stretch. What's that like for you as a player?

FRANK HARRIS: Yeah, it just means a lot, going out there and defense doing a great job of giving us the ball back, stuff like that. Having a lead like that just means a lot. Early in the game you just separate yourself, so it doesn't come down to the wire at the end.

We're just fortunate enough to have some of those games like that. That's not common, especially in college football, and especially not conference. We would love to keep it rolling, but if not, we're up for the challenge to come down to the wire.

Q. Are there any keys you can point to why you've been able to make that happen or build some of these advantages, something that's working for your team?

FRANK HARRIS: I think we're just playing great football from the offensive end and defensive end and special teams as a whole. I just think we just keep doing our jobs, keep doing our 1/11 and just playing our style of football, I think we'll be fine.

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