

University of Texas at San Antonio Football Media Conference

Saturday, September 5, 2026

San Antonio, Texas, USA

Coach Jeff Traylor

Press Conference



UTSA Roadrunners 45, UTRGV Vaqueros 16

Q. Jeff, what was your message to the guys in the locker room after this week one win?

JEFF TRAYLOR: I don't know how honest I want to be right now. I'm having to think through this so I can answer this thing as politically correct as possible.

Some good things and some bad things. Typical first game you need to play but you're probably not ready to play. A lot of missed tackles. We didn't break any tackles. We were inconsistent. Extended a drive, hit high on the quarterback, had a face mask, had a DPI, had a penalty on the sideline. All these extended drives that we had them off the field. That's disappointing.

There was some positive things as well. Offensively, Owen McCown was really, really special. Obviously the day DJ had and the run A'Marion had, the game Will Henderson had. Unbelievable catch by BJ in the back of end zone. There were some positives.

And first, hats off to Travis and those guys. Their crowd, their band, that was awesome. That was awesome. They came in here and made a lot of noise very similar to playing Army. It was very loud. It was like we're not used to that in here, so that was cool. It was a great college environment for the first game.

Q. Jeff, what do you think you'll see on film when you look back at your offense and kind of review what worked and what didn't in today's game?

JEFF TRAYLOR: It will be hard to say. I would say inconsistency. That's what would come to my mind right now; that would be the word. A lot of positives and some things that keep you up at night.

So yeah, whenever you have that many yards on that few

of plays, I think we were over 500 yards on 58 plays, I don't want to ruin the moment, but at the same time, we got to get a lot better before Saturday.

Q. Jeff, we talked for a while now about Owen's health and how he would look this year. What did you see getting him back in live action today?

JEFF TRAYLOR: Yeah, he's like the kid from 2024. We turned a blitz loose and totally escaped and threw the ball away. He had a zero out where he should have thrown his hot and he didn't, so that's on him. He still escaped again, which that was good to see.

Made a first down with his feet once. So quarterback run game will be back in play again, so that was exciting. And, yeah, he was really good.

Q. With the new offensive coordinator what were your impressions of how everything flowed and got communicated and operated today?

JEFF TRAYLOR: Yeah, we operated fine. Have one presnaps, two presnaps on the O-line. Had a holding. That was disappointing. Yeah, we were clean. That wasn't it.

It was literally they had nine starters back on defense and Brian has done a good job with those kids. They play hard. They cause some trouble. They're little, but they cause problems.

They have done a super job over there. They played well. They played really well. You can tell they've played a game. They were more comfortable and they played well.

Q. Coach, you said last week that you guys were preparing to play both quarterbacks. How did you feel your defense responded to that challenge?

JEFF TRAYLOR: I didn't think we contained them at all. I'm sure Brad is going to be licking his chops next week. I thought they both ran around on us pretty good.

So we've got to get better contained and leverage. We got



a lot of work to do before next week. Got a really good team we're fixin' to play. Yeah.

Q. Coach, they only converted 7-18 third down and 1-3 fourth downs. I know you allowed a lot of yards, but what can you say about your defense locking in on those crucial plays?

JEFF TRAYLOR: Except for the last drive we were really good in the red zone. I know the way -- I don't know who keeps stats, NCAA or media, I don't know who does it, but it's not a successful red zone play if you kick a field goal.

I mean, in my opinion -- this isn't my opinion. This is data, analytics, right? Those are four-point plays. When you hold teams to field goals you're allowing three instead of seven, that's a win. That's not a red zone success.

So I would say we were -- I think the stats are going to say they were three for four in their red zone maybe. I don't even know. In my opinion they were 1-4 because we only allowed them to score a touchdown in the red zone on the last drive.

Yeah, I don't want to hear anybody say that was our threes. I don't care. They play for UTSA. We coach them. They need to stop their butt when they're down there, and we didn't.

Q. Jeff, you mentioned next week. In addition to the rivalry aspect of that, it's been a while since you guys have been 2-0 I think and had really significant early season September momentum. Have you thought about how important that is to getting people excited and getting things going to start a season?

JEFF TRAYLOR: Yeah, we've thought about it a lot, because they been the reason we haven't had that success, so that makes it worse.

Three years ago Army is the one that messed it up, but the last two years it's been these guys.

So they've got a really good team. Brad is really good. Both those receives are really good. O-line is massive. Their defense, I haven't got to study them as much because it's a new defensive coordinator, but excited to see what that's going to look like.

I know he feels really good about the talent they brought in. He thinks they have a real chance to make a run. So we will need some fortune. We will need some breaks in order to come out of there with a chance in my opinion.

Also wanted to say to Erik Walsh and the City and the

Alamodome, you know, on Friday they emailed us and let us know we couldn't get in the Dome, so I called Erik Walsh who is always great about answering my calls and letting me know. He verified on Monday there was no way we could get in here.

So when you're a football coach, you have to make your schedule for the entire week, so because we didn't have anywhere to practice outside, we usually practice 80 minutes in the Alamodome. I couldn't practice outside for 80 minutes.

So I took fifty minutes off the Friday practice and spread it throughout the week.

On Thursday at about 2:30 I was notified that the Alamodome worked extra time and went way above and beyond to get us in here. By then my kids were already gone. I had already practiced fifty extra minutes and I wasn't going to punish my kids and make them practice.

I'd had to get -- travel down here. Just a lot goes into a week of college football. Doesn't excuse the fact that a lot of work was done by a lot of people to try to get us in here, and we couldn't uphold our end of that just because our week has already been planned.

So it's like now, the week, next week is planned. Every minute all the way to the game. So I want to make sure and thank those guys. They went way above and beyond, and the Alamodome has been great partners of ours. It's one of those things that it just happened.

First time in seven years it's happened, so want to make sure to say that.

Q. Coach, what role did penalties play in your offense overall?

JEFF TRAYLOR: Yeah, that's a great point. If you look at the third quarter we had an offsides that killed a drive, we had a holding that killed a drive, we had an offsides that killed a drive.

Should you be good enough to get 15 yards? Yes, you should. There is a reason they don't make it first and 15. Not very many offenses would get first downs. There is a reason it's first and ten. We're not good enough to make it first and 15, first and 15, and surely not first and 20.

So then we missed the field goal which kind of made it feel even worse when we missed it, right? We had a great drive. Great throw to DJ. Gets down there. Had a good six yard run, had good turbo call, and their helmet came off. Slowed us down.

 . . . when all is said, we're done.®

Just one of those days. And we played good enough. I mean, I know I sound like we lost, but I'm happy we won. Even though it doesn't look like I am.

Q. Jeff, what do you think the message will be to your team this week on the magnitude of this Texas State game so early in the season?

JEFF TRAYLOR: I just have to be really careful about answering all that stuff, JJ. I coached GJ Kinne, as you all know. You're all tired of hearing about it. Cari is tired of hearing about it. She knows and she brings it up to me all the time. He played for you. He knows everything you do, right?

So he knows I'm playing everything he is saying and he's playing everything I'm saying. He's watching everything I'm saying.

So I know that they've done a wonderful job. They're a very, very good team. We know that there is a few trophy games and the bowls, which we been very good in lately; conference championship games, which we been really good in; and rivalry games in, which we're 2-2 in those, I think, since I've been here. Not exactly sure. I think that's right. I'm sure Greg will be glad to point out when I'm wrong.

Am I right or wrong, Greg? What are we? 2-2, thank you, Kyle. I was sure Greg was sitting on that.

So it's a trophy game, right? When you're in college football, if ya'll want to be nerdy here for a while I can be nerdy, too. These kids been practicing for nine months. They practice -- let's say they practice 250 days. They have given up about three hours of their life a day for 250 days. That's 750 hours to get ready for this game today.

The average college football play is four to six seconds. That's how long it lasts. Each kid usually plays 30 plays for us on defense. So if each play -- let's give it five seconds, right? Help me with my math here. If it's five seconds, in a minute that is 12, right? So you're talking about they play three minutes today. They worked 275 hours to play three minutes.

That's a kid that played 30s and outs today. Yeah, those guys know how big this game is. You on get 12 opportunities. If you play 60 snaps in a game, 60, you're only going to get to play five minutes. Five minutes. For 275 hours of your life that you gave up.

And you wonder why they get upset on the sideline when they don't get to go first or get the ball thrown to them or

they might pout or stick their big lips out.

We know. We know they enormity of the situation and we know how small the opportunity is to go out there and grab that thing. We got to be better, and we weren't good the last time we were over there and weren't good enough last year.

You impressed with all that math, Greg? God bless. Birds Up.

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Owen McCown

Press Conference



UTSA Roadrunners 45, UTRGV Vaqueros 16

Q. Owen, can you just tell us your thoughts on this game?

OWEN McCOWN: Yeah, yeah, obviously first game. Ton of energy. Credit to them. I thought they brought a great away crowd. Just a ton of energy. Obviously first game back for a lot of guys. We were tired of practicing against each other. Finally got to bring the juice out and play game one and got the win.

Q. Coach Traylor was just telling us he felt it was a little sloppy in some areas. What do you think you'll see on film when you look back at this one? F?

OWEN McCOWN: Yeah, I think speaking from offensively, I thought we were executed for the most part. Had a lot of big plays. Not many plays in general in the first half. There was a lot of explosive plays.

So I thought we executed well. Passed the ball. Ran the ball. There is two throws I wanted back a that third and fourth down in the second half, but I think outside of that and the penalties we'll clean up.

It's game one and ultimately we got the win.

Q. Talk about the second half a little bit. Offense feels like it stalled a little bit in the third quarter. What's the reason for that in your mind?

OWEN McCOWN: Yeah, just execution. Like I said, starting with me. That fourth down slant to Jamel, I missed a little high. Had a guy in my face. Still got to make the throw.

Down there in the red zone, same thing. DJ coming across on the drag and just missed the throw. So just execution things at least from my perspective. So those little things

will get cleaned up though.

Q. Owen, this being first time getting team on the field today with a lot of newness around this roster, what was the biggest thing that stood out to you or that you feel like you learned about this group today?

OWEN McCOWN: Yeah, I think my message to those guys was just play free, be themselves. We got it going. Obviously defense did a great job getting the first stop and getting the ball in the first drive, and going to score really I though freed up us. Obviously there was nerves going into it, but a bunch of competitors and glad we got the win.

Q. (Off mic). Did you notice a difference?

OWEN McCOWN: Yeah, no, felt great. Nothing different than what I learned in spring and fall camp. So just about the same. Brings a ton of juice. Level headed. So I love it, yeah.

Q. You had a very efficient first half, 10-12.

OWEN McCOWN: Yeah.

Q. How did you feel going into the locker room after the half?

OWEN McCOWN: Yeah, felt great. Offensively you don't want to get too high because you still got to play the second half. I thought Coach Bowie called it great. Protected great. Guys did a good job getting open and running the ball really well.

Q. You told us during the week you were looking forward to taking a hit again for the first time. How did it feel in live action?

OWEN McCOWN: Yeah, yeah, that first one I was going to throw the ball away and then just had to tuck it. It was going to my right so I jumped up a little bit. It was a good hit. Luckily we got the flag, but it was fun to get tackled again for the first time a little bit.

Q. We talked a lot through camp about if there will be



any level of rust after some of the stuff you went through in the offseason and last year. How did you feel just physically today? Anything stand out?

OWEN McCOWN: No. I thought as far as rust goes, I thought we did a great job execution-wise. Like I said, it was first game so had some penalties we'll get cleaned up.

I thought we executed really well.

Q. Are you able to play kind of any more freely or differently down to down if you're not worried about managing some of the injuries you were last year? Did you notice a difference today?

OWEN McCOWN: Yeah, for sure. I just think being able to scramble and spin out of pockets and just throwing the ball away, little things like that that I don't feel kind of limited, so just feel free and ready to go.

Q. How do you think your team will play next week?

OWEN McCOWN: Yeah, obviously big game, big rival game. I know Texas State will be on a hate-on just like we will. It's a big rival game. Whoever has a better week of work practice-wise and in the execution of the game will ends up on top.

Q. Do the players feel the magnitude of this matchup? I know it's only week two, but it's a pretty big one here.

OWEN McCOWN: For sure. When that's your rival, I think people know what the standard is when you play a rival for sure.

Q. On top the rivalry aspect, a lot has been made about your guys' struggles on the road. What are you doing to prepare to remedy that?

OWEN McCOWN: Yeah, we prepared all week, or all year, even in the offseason. You can't -- there is so much you can do. Road in-season games are only played in season, so it'll be a big test for us. Obviously both sides really want that one. We're excited for it though.

Q. There was a lot of shifting in your offensive line this year. I know your right tackle shifted out. Protecting your blindside.

OWEN McCOWN: Yeah.

Q. Did that change your mentality in the pocket at all?

OWEN McCOWN: Not really. I think we have a lot of depth in that room, which is a good problem to have. No

matter who is out there I trusted and really thought they played well today.

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Ahamad Chapman

Press Conference



UTSA Roadrunners 45, UTRGV Vaqueros 16

AHAMAD CHAPMAN: How ya'll doing?

Q. We're great. Thanks for coming. How does it feel to get this win today?

AHAMAD CHAPMAN: First I want to thank God. You know, I won't be able to do none of this without him.

It's great. Putting that work in, showing on the field.

Q. When you go back to look at the film after this one, what do you think you'll see from the full game?

AHAMAD CHAPMAN: Couple missed tackles. Team played well. We just got to dial in little things.

But not too much stuff.

Q. How did it feel to get the Roadrunners first interception of the year and with it being a pick six as well?

AHAMAD CHAPMAN: Felt great. Like I said, I thank God. I knew I was going to get picks and things like that, but a pick six, you know, got to thank God.

Appreciate it though.

Q. How did it feel to get your first live game with your brother on the opposite side, playing with him in front of 33,000 fans at the Alamodome?

AHAMAD CHAPMAN: It's a blessing. It's kind of like real cool. Me and him always dreamed about this when we was younger. Now it's actually coming true. He should have had that pick. I don't know, I think it was a pick, but we ain't going to talk about it.

Q. I did want to ask you about that. Seemed like that was an exciting moment for you guys before the call came through. What was it like being able to celebrate with him on the field in that moment?

AHAMAD CHAPMAN: It was turnt. Like I knew it was third down. I looked on the other side. He was over there. I knew the play was cover two. I was like, yeah, one of us is going to make something. He was looking at me, I'm like, oh. He threw the ball. Saw a pick. He got it. I'm like, oh, yeah, we turnt. It's going to happen all year. I'm telling you.

Q. What was it about him that you think allowed him to emerge as the starter for that spot this year?

AHAMAD CHAPMAN: He just do what he normally do. Just work hard, you know, keep his head down at work, listen to coaches. Nothing to it but to do it.

He like that though, so I knew it was bound to happen.

Q. Were you able to help him through that process this fall? What's it been like having that connection as you get up to speed?

AHAMAD CHAPMAN: It was great. At first when I tried to help him too much I felt like I kind of slowed him down a little bit. I kind of forgot -- not forgot, but you know, I am his brother so I want to help him as much as I can.

But he know what to do. Once I backed up he started balling and I can focus on myself a little more, you know what I'm saying?

Q. A lot of new faces in the secondary, cornerback and safety. How do you guys think you played as a unit?

AHAMAD CHAPMAN: We played good. We got things we need to work on like more turnovers, tackles. But besides that, for our first game and a real new defense, we played great, you know.

Q. They say the jump from week one to week two you



always see some significant improvement. What do you think we'll see out of the Roadrunner defense next week?

AHAMAD CHAPMAN: Going to be more big hits. Going to punch the ball out. Didn't get no forced fumbles I don't think. We work that all the time, so we need to capitalize on those.

Q. For a week two game that's a pretty big one around here, do the players feel the magnitude of how important this one is?

AHAMAD CHAPMAN: Yeah. Yeah, we ready. We know what it is. We know what we got to handle and take care of.

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