

IOWA FOOTBALL MEDIA DAY

PLAYER QUOTES

August 7, 2009

Junior QB Ricky Stanzi

on challenging for a Big Ten conference title

"We are not really concerned where the media picks us at. We are just worried about camp and the next practice we have coming up. We are always looking to win games and if we get in that position and we put in the work for it hopefully things will work out for us."

on quarterbacks James Vandenberg and John Weinke

"They are both great guys. James and John, they both work hard, they are smart kids and they know the game. They are both very good throwing the football, very accurate. They are both doing a great job learning the offense and pushing me through competition. We always try to compete at any position. No one has a clean hand on any starting job and that is the way we look at things mentally and that helps make everyone better around us."

on whether or not he has a 'go-to' receiver

"I don't single out one guy. It could all depend on the game plan or who has a hot hand, but there really is not one guy I look to. The offense might gear towards a certain player in a certain game plan but I try to keep it even."

on this year's road schedule

"Whether the games are at home or on the road they are going to be a challenge, every Big Ten game is. We have a lot of great opponents and we are going to have to be ready for each game."

on Marvin McNutt's transition to wide receiver

"Marvin is a really smart player, he has great size physically and he has great hands, he can catch anything. He knows the game and he knows how to run the routes. He is a young receiver really because he has not been playing there for a long time so we are excited to see how he plays in camp."

on tight end Tony Moeaki

"His injuries were very unlucky and I think everybody knows that. Tony is a great guy and a great friend and he works really hard. Everyone respects him on the team. He is a great athlete and he is very humble. He is excited and works hard and is excited for team success. That is the way he is mentally. We want everyone to be healthy. That is the best way to have a good team and we hope that everyone stays healthy throughout the year."

on Dace Richardson's return to the lineup

"He is a big guy and he is a really good player. He is a great guy to be in the huddle with and he will go to battle for you. Having him back is definitely a big help."

Senior TE Tony Moeaki

On announcing his commitment at the Army All-American Bowl

"Yeah, there was a delay in the P.A. system, and Dace stuttered, but it was the first time we were on national television. It was weird. I was 17 at the time so it was pretty weird. It was kind of a staged thing that they had us do, but I did want to take Iowa back to the Rose Bowl. I definitely wasn't opposed to it. I actually made my decision the night before the game. The funny part is that I didn't tell Coach Ferentz. I forgot to call him because I was so concentrated on the game. I made the decision the night before because I had to tell TV so they could set it up. So, yeah, Coach Ferentz didn't even know until he saw it on TV. I forgot to call any of the coaches."

On 9 of 22 remaining from class of 2005

"It was so long ago. I don't really look around and wonder."

On his and Dace's journey

"I expected to see him working hard to get back and I hope he felt the same way about me. That's the only way you can deal with injuries. We've been working really hard to get back and we're excited to be back. I've known him since seventh grade, so I know how he ticks, what gets him going and how to motivate him. So, it definitely helps knowing him for so long. It's exciting. I'm excited for him. He's excited for me. We're taking it a day at a time, a practice at a time and trying to improve every day. We want to do it for the team and help this team win."

Sophomore RB Jewel Hampton

On his knee injury

"It's doing really well. I was practicing on it today, I was running really well and there was no pain at all. I'm feeling really good right now... I'm probably at about 90 or 95 percent. I'm still rehabbing, but it's feeling good."

On his reaction to the media hype around his knee injury

"It was a surprise. I really didn't expect the feedback that I got. It turns out it was kind of a big deal, I didn't know people were going to care about me so much."

On being patient given Iowa's zone blocking scheme

"I definitely look forward to improving my game. Shonn (Greene) taught me a lot about patience and I'm looking forward to including that in my game plan. It's necessary."

Junior OL Bryan Buluga

on expectations placed on him

"I just have to play my game that is all I can do. I just have to do what I do best and go out there and give 110 percent every time. That is pretty much all I can do. I am just going to block it out and play football."

on getting through the pre-season hype

“Coach Ferentz has been great and he has tons of experience with this with guys like Dallas (Clark) and Robert (Gallery). He has done a good job and we have already spoken. The only thing I am worried about right now is the season.”

on pulling for Dace Richardson’s return to the lineup

“Dace is a great story. He has fought his way back from tons of things. He has been about as low as you can get in terms of injuries and to see him come back and compete at a high level is great. I am really proud of him.”

Senior OL Dace Richardson

on having to sit through a great 2009 season

“It was really hard, especially against Penn State and South Carolina. Those two games were really hard to watch. I am very happy for my teammates; they worked well and practiced well. Not to be able to participate was games like the Penn State game was hard. But, I feel like we are going to have games like that this year and I feel better about it after going through the things I went through.”

on whether he thought his football career may have ever ended

“This time last year I was contemplating things and I did not think I would be able to come back. At the time I thought I wasn’t going to be able to play. Then the doctors told me they did not do the major surgery they were suppose to do and that made me feel positive. From that moment on I have been working hard. I have been slowly making progress.

on expecting to be out there on the field for the whole season

“That is how I felt in spring ball and camp. I am just trying to play the best I can. If I play hard and I keep improving I can be back out on the field.”

Junior WR Derrell Johnson-Koulianos

On the offense he has around him

“This is one of the more exceptional groups of athletes I’ve ever gotten to play with. We have younger guys pushing older guys and older guys pushing the younger guys, so I think Coach Campbell definitely has his hands full figuring all that out. In the end, it’s going to help us all out and make us a better team.”

On his excitement and expectations for this season

“I feel great. I’m really excited about this year. We’re coming off some big wins last year and we have a lot of good guys coming back, so we’re looking to have some great wins this year. Now we’re ranked nationally, so we just need to really stay focused and get the job done. We have a lot of young guys that are showing a lot of promise and a great group of older guys that have been in the system a while. I think now is the time that we can really get over that hump and start competing for BCS Championships and Big Ten Championships.”

On knowing exactly who's going to throw him the ball this season

"There's no question as to who's throwing me the ball this year. I've been playing football since I was six years old. I've never been around a guy who has worked harder in the off-season as Ricky Stanzi has done this year. Something has changed this year or something came over him where he realized the opportunity he has in front of him. His work ethic, so far, has been unbelievable. I think he's been contagious to the receivers and to a lot of guys. Guys are seeing the work he's put in and how devoted he is and like I said, it's contagious. Guys are working harder than they ever have. He's our captain and he's going to win us ball games, so if he's doing it, why don't we all?"

Senior LB Pat Angerer

On Playing on the road and winning all home games

"We got a lot of road games against a lot of great teams. It's a great opportunity to play those great teams. I look forward to it. We want to win every game. No more pressure on one game than another game. We are tough, but we are going to have to play our hearts out.

On there being pressure from the great season last year

"I don't think so. There are 10 other guys out there who have great hearts, work hard and are great athletes. I don't really have any pressure on me. I expect a lot from myself this year and I think everyone expects a lot from themselves.

On expectations for the Hawkeyes being the highest since he has been at Iowa

"I think we expect a lot out of ourselves and we work our hardest. We worked really hard this summer. We really look forward to getting out there and competing. Every year our goal is to win a Big Ten title. We do have a lot of tough teams to play this year but every team can be beatable in the league or every team can be a loss. It's going to be an exciting season and we will have to work real hard."

Senior LB A.J. Edds

On the first practice

"It's always interesting to see the freshman get out in the mix and see how they respond the first day playing big time Big Ten football. We will put the pads on in a couple days and get a little more feel for where we are at. As for the defense, we were productive, got some good stuff in but we will take it one day at a time."

On the hype of being a senior leader

"I think it is a good thing if we use it to our advantage. We have a good group of solid guys that are experienced, veteran players that are leading and we take that hype and use it as an advantage. It's on us to keep the hype up and make sure we do something about it. It's going to be big for us veteran players to step it up even more to be successful."

On Mitch (King) and Matt (Kroul) being gone and how Edds and Angerer are going to step in those shoes
“I think the big thing about Pat and myself is that we are similar in that we show up and work hard and try to set the example that way. I don’t think we really wake up everyday and think how can I be a better leader. I think that as long as you get out there and take care of your business and bring the other guys along. I think that’s all you can do.”

Junior DB Amari Spievey

On his relationship with his mom

“My mom is straight to the point and she’s very frank. She told me what I needed to do. She said there are going to be ups and downs in my life, but just keep moving forward. She loves me either way. She told me not to give up and finish what I started. As soon as I left, I knew if I had the chance to be back here, I was going to take the opportunity again. I wanted to finish what I started.”

On this year’s road schedule

“We can’t wait. We can’t wait to get on the road and play these tough games and be on TV and show the nation what we can do. I think this team is full of competitors. We don’t want anything easy, and we want to show people what we can do. You need to be challenged to show people what you’re really about. That is what we’re looking forward to.”

On his journey

“I wasn’t focused and I was very immature (in his freshman year), but going away was a wake-up call for me, a big wake-up call. I thought my dreams were over, but that made me want to work harder. Football was my life at the time. I wanted to make sure that I did whatever I could to take advantage of this second opportunity that I have. While we were both here, we always rooted each other on and reminded each other that, you know, this is our second chance and we need to take advantage of it.”

Sophomore DB Tyler Sash

On what fans can expect from the defense

“It’s all on the defense. The coaches are going to give us the game plan. It’s up to us to go out there every day and get the job done. I want to do everything that I can to help this team out. One of my biggest responsibilities is to be around the ball as much as possible and that’s what I plan to do.”

On filling the void made by graduating seniors

“We lost a couple guys but that happens every year in every sport. You’re going to have to replace guys ever year, but we have a number of guys that can step in right away and play. We have two great defensive ends in (Christian) Ballard and (Adrian) Clayborn and a group of linebackers that are ready to go. We’re just going to work together and get the job done.”

Thoughts on a tough road schedule

“We’re excited. You want to play the best teams if you want to be at the top of the Big Ten, so we get excited when we see those away games. It puts another chip on our shoulder when we know that no one there is going to like us, but we’ll still have to go in there and play tough no matter what.”

Junior DE Adrian Clayborn*On the defense's potential*

"We have a lot of guys coming back. We also have some new guys coming in that will have to step up for us. I think we have a chance to be even better than we were last year, I think we can be ranked even higher nationally."

On the loss of Mitch King and Matt Kroul

"It's going to be a little different but I think we have some young guys coming in that can give us a spark. I think all of us together should be good."

On potential pressure of being an upperclassmen

"It puts no pressure on me. I'm going to continue to be a leader and help the young guys get through. I know when I came in, Mitch (King), Matt (Kroul), Kenny (Iwebema), and (Bryan) Mattison helped me. I'm just going to do for these young guys what they did for me. They'll be alright."

Junior P Ryan Donahue*On his inclusion on the Ray Guy Award watch list*

"Personally, I don't know if I think so, everyone does the same equal job on the team. I don't see myself as a player to watch, I see our whole team as a team to watch."

On his preparation for the season

"I'm just working on technique and looking forward to doing what I can to help out the Hawkeyes as much as possible."

On potential new special teams talent this season

"I don't know yet, once we get into spring camp we'll get a better feel for everything. We'll have guys in there that know what they're doing. I'm sure they'll do a really good job."