

Northwestern vs. Iowa
Oct. 29, 2022
Kinnick Stadium
Iowa Player Quotes

K Drew Stevens

On staying comfortable through pressure...

"It's pretty comforting knowing Luke Elkin and Tory Taylor both are pretty robotic with the snap and hold and getting it down. At the end of the day, if I do mess up, because I am human, the defense has my back."

On the moments leading up to the 54-yard field goal...

"Before the game we set these things called lines. I set mine at the 36-yard line, which is where (the line of scrimmage) was. So then, I was like OK because you always have to be ready because you don't know what (coach) is going to call. I saw the linemen subbing on the field... heard the call, ran out there and kicked it. You don't really have time to worry about it."

On how he felt after the 54-yard field goal...

"It was a great feeling. It is always a great feeling when you P.R. in something. It is all your hard work paying off."

On his celebration after the kick...

"That wasn't planned."

On competition and comfort level...

"I am always comfortable. My comfort levels really haven't changed. I would almost say that I am doing as well as I am right now because of Aaron (Blom) and because of how good he is. It has always pushed me to try to be better and to be the best player that I can be."

DL Deontae Craig

On getting a birthday victory...

"Today is my birthday, so I just want to give a shout out to the team. Went out there and battled the full 60 and gave this kid the best birthday present he could ever have. It's exciting to play Homecoming in Kinnick. Any time you are in Kinnick, it is a special opportunity. Today it just so happened to be a birthday. I am definitely excited, we executed well the whole game."

On what created the pressure up front...

"The attitude of our front four. We rush at all costs. We want to be the hardest working team and the most physical team every time we step on the field. Shout out to the offensive line, too, because without them pushing us every day in practice you wouldn't see the results you saw today."

On second string players contributing defensively...

"When your number is called it is your job to step up. It is your job to go in and make a play. That is what we do. We are called twos, but when we are out there, we are all ones. We just wanted to get some energy any way we could. Thankfully, that paid off."

On his sack...

"Most importantly, it was a win. Check that off the list, but obviously a sack is cool. Now I am just moving forward, focused on Purdue."

On total team win...

"Obviously it is great any time you do win, no matter what your record is. Especially for us, it has been a month now, with the bye week in there since we were able to get a W. Everybody knew this day would come eventually."

You can see it every day in practice. Offense and defense giving everything they can every rep and every play. Certainly, proud of them. It was a full team effort, and like I said, we are just getting ready for next week.”

QB Spencer Petras

On the team bouncing back...

“It’s great. We’ve been talking all year really, but especially after last week, you can’t get down for too long. You have to keep working and push it through and that’s kind of what we were looking at there. We pushed it through. That doesn’t mean anything for next week, but today we played well enough to win and put some points on the board. For the most part, I thought it was a pretty good performance all around.”

On the balance of the offense...

“We ran the ball effectively today, which is great to see. That is how we are built is to be pretty balanced like that. It makes our life easier in the pass game when we can run the ball like we did today. It was a step forward I think.”

On production in pass game...

“It’s good to see what happened today, everyone getting involved. That’s how we want to play. That is a goal every week. For the most part, everyone brought it today and played their best. We just have to keep working and keep executing.”

TE Sam LaPorta

Feeling in the locker room after the game...

“It was a lot of fun out there today. I was running off the field with a smile on my face after a lot of the drives. We were having fun, moving the ball down the field, and executing so I was having a lot of fun. Just felt like being a kid again, running around and playing backyard football, obviously much more on the line than backyard football, but a lot of fun.”

On everyone’s involvement offensively...

“I think we got a lot of guys involved today, felt like a lot of guys had the ball in their hands. A lot of guys made a lot of plays. Spencer was doing his job today getting the ball to the guys that were open. I feel like that started with running the ball effectively. We ran the ball effectively, efficiently on the ground and stayed ahead of the chains.”

Pass game progressing with WRs back...

“It’s something to build on. Every week we are trying to get a little bit better at certain things and stuff that we take off the tape. Getting guys back and healthy is definitely something to contribute to that. I feel like it was something to build on today and we are going to do that after watching the film tomorrow.”

How did the team turn the page and move on...

“I think the luxury of having a game every week except for the bye week is nice because you watch the film on Sunday and you learn from it. You kind of just get rid of it. Monday morning you have a new game plan to learn... the coaches get the game plan out to us really quickly. We start developing our game plan for the week. Looking ahead instead of looking backwards instead of ‘Hey, we could have done this better’ or ‘I wish we would have done that’, those are sorry words. Those are excuses. So getting to look forward, turning around right after the game benefits a lot of guys.

RT Connor Colby

On moving to guard...

“On the bus ride home last week I got a text saying they were going to try me at guard this week. First day out

there was a little bit of an adjustment and just getting comfortable in the left-handed stance. I thought I did pretty good and overall as a team we took a step forward.”

“I kind of feel more at home at guard now. There’s always stuff to get better at and I am going to choose one thing each day to work on.”

On the game today...

The way we practice every day, it was just a matter of time. We still have to take it one game at a time, because what we did today has no bearing on what we will do next week so we still have to keep that mentality. As a unit we gained confidence today and it was a lot of fun.”

LB Jack Campbell

On the win...

“We work year-round for this stuff so anytime you come out with a win it’s big. I feel like this is going to get us going in the right direction with the momentum. I am going to say this throughout this whole press conference, we didn’t change anything this week. We didn’t put pixie dust on ourselves, we have just been doing the same thing we do week-in and week-out. We played great in all three phases and played complementary football. So, when we can do that, we are going to outcomes like we got today.”

On Jay Higgins...

“He went in there and did a great job. I think he got about every tackle when he was on the field, and we are going to be able to build off of that. He’s a great kid, he loves to learn, and he’s physical. When you have all of those things in one person, you’re going to get a pretty good football player. He will continue to grow and continue to improve, and I am excited to see what he can do.”

On being a finalist for the Campbell Trophy...

“It is an honor. First and foremost, when I am a finalist for something like this, I have to thank all of my coaches, my family, and my teammates. They put me in the position to be able to succeed. I am super grateful and blessed to have great people around me and a family that supports me. The coaching staff and position coaches that push me day in and day out. My fellow linebackers and teammates push me to be a better player and man.”