



# THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Strategic Communications

## ***Iowa 24, Utah State 14***

### ***Player Quotes***

***Kinnick Stadium | Sept. 2, 2023***

**Jay Higgins**

**Linebacker**

*On the standard for Iowa, defensively:*

“I saw a video from Inky Johnson talking to a college team. He said expectations are external and the standard is internal. Just trying to live up to the standard and keep the defense moving forward.”

*On Utah State’s up-tempo style:*

“I feel like we did a good job handling the tempo. These dudes were getting to the line of scrimmage. Usually teams get to the line of scrimmage to see what [formation] you are in. These guys get up to the line of scrimmage to run a play. I feel like we did a good job handling the tempo. Everybody got aligned. Everybody’s eyes were right. Obviously, there are some things to clean up. Obviously, a pick six would have helped us... It is the first time this group, this defense has played together. I am really proud of the guys.”

*On the linebacker core and linebacker Nick Jackson:*

“Great communication out there. We planned for them to bring tight ends. They didn’t bring any tight ends. When they did bring in tight ends, it was big guys in the core. The ability to change from what we have been practicing all week, and communicate... Pre-snap communication, [Nick Jackson] told me the play was coming, and examples like that are all you can ask for.”

*On defensive back Deshaun Lee:*

“I am really proud of the dude. Young guys. Obviously, they were going to try him with the vertical. They rolled out to the field to throw a long pass back, and stayed on it. That is a play that is not going to show up as a pass breakup or interception, but in the defensive room, when Coach Parker is watching defense, he sees a young defensive back stay disciplined, stay patient. That is all we can ask for.”



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**Cade McNamara**

**Quarterback**

*On the opening-drive touchdown pass:*

“I was so fired up. We had the exact look we wanted. To be honest, I was kind of surprised that play was called that early. I was expecting maybe a play action or something, but when Brian [Ferentz] called it and we got the look that we wanted, I was just so fired up to be able to hit that. Seth [Anderson] made a great play on it.”

*On recovering from injury:*

“It is getting better. I knew I wasn’t going to be 100% going into this game. There were a couple awkward positions I was put in, today. To be honest, I think the offensive line really kept me protected today. They did a really good job. A lot of those plays, I was still getting into my second hitch and there was still no one within three yards of me. It is getting better. We will take a look at it tomorrow. I am going to do everything I can to get healthy.”

*On the touchdown pass to tight end Eric All:*

“The amount of joy we both had when that happened. It was kind of a lot different than we practice it. He got caught up on the line. They were bringing a lot of pressures today, so he was able to clear out there for me. All I had to do was just put an easy ball on him.”

*On game-day traditions at Iowa:*

“We have the best fan base. I was so excited. I mean, I was feeling it in pre-game when the student section was already full. We were bouncing around, we were getting fired up, and we were just warming up. It was a really special moment for me to be able to swarm out with my teammates for the first time. The longer I am here, the more I understand how special that is for this program. Today is definitely going to be a day that I will never forget... Same thing [with the Wave]. These are a combination of just unbelievable experiences. I think it is the best tradition in all of college football, so for me to be a small part of that and experience that is an unbelievable moment.”



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**Luke Lachey**

**Tight End**

*On how the game unfolded:*

“I thought we had a great start and think we can continue to build off of that. It’s our goal every week to go out there and get a win.”

*On chemistry with quarterback Cade McNamara:*

“I just want to go out there and be a security guy for the quarterback as a tight end. Every practice, we just try to get on the same page as Cade. It ghas been a great experience and I’m happy he is here.”

*On Utah State’s defense:*

“Defensively, they put a lot of guys in the box. I felt like we needed to be better at finishing our blocks. We did a good job, but we can always work on it and improve on finishing those blocks.”



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Logan Jones  
Center

***On chemistry...***

“We have made a big jump. I’ve said it before about our comradery, and today we played a lot more together than the past couple years. The biggest improvement we made was our communication. Last year, I struggled a lot with communication. We’d have Mason [Richman] making calls, and I would have to ask for a call and whatnot. But now, I see something, and then Mason sees something, and we are just all on the same page. Our communication is there and I felt very confident each snap in what I needed to do.”

***On standards of being an offensive lineman at Iowa...***

“There is a standard for what we do here. Not just as an offense, but a standard to go out there and give your all every single play. There were a couple of drives where we were leaving some things out there on the field, and we understood that. We have such great leaders on this team.”

***On improving heading into Week Two...***

“The first game, it is kind of hard to see what we are going to get. They have a new defensive coordinator, so we are trying to watch personnel and figure out what they are doing. At the end of the day, it is about execution and getting things done. We have to go back, watch the film and see the things that we’ve improve on.”