



THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Strategic Communications

Iowa 20, Purdue 14

Player Quotes

Kinnick Stadium | Oct. 7, 2023

Joe Evans

Defensive Line

On the defensive line's performance:

"I am very proud of everyone in that defensive line room. We got together as a unit for a player-led meeting on Thursday and said just how important it was to play for each other out there. Play for each other and have some fun... Win games, have fun and be proactive. Really proud of those guys and how we all competed today."

On defensive lineman Logan Lee hauling in 10 tackles:

"I didn't know he had 10 tackles. That is crazy as a defensive tackle. I see how he works every single day in practice. Honestly, that is crazy for a defensive tackle to have 10 tackles, but not that surprising."

On defensive lineman Logan Lee as a leader:

"I have been around him for five years, and he is a tremendous leader. He is a team-first guy in literally anything he does. Like, anything he does, I am not kidding, is team first. He has been one of my all-time favorite teammates, because I know that... He does everything for the team and always puts the team first."

On whether he anticipated a breakthrough regarding team defensive statistics and pass pressure:

"Absolutely, based off of how hard those guys work inside the defensive line room. I had a feeling eventually it was going to come. Continue to just keep pushing and pushing and pushing in practice. One of these days it will fall for us."

On week-over-week improvement of the defense:

"I think things were clicking better out there today. Honestly, like I say a lot, it starts in practice. With the group of guys that we have, it is let's just keep going. Let's keep on improving. That really all started, and I have said this all the time, with Jack Campbell. Last year we were 3-4, but we were still competing [hard] in practice every day. We had phenomenal looks, knowing we had to keep improving. I see that with this group, too."



THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Strategic Communications

Aaron Graves
Defensive Line

On a breakthrough performance for the defensive line:

“We held a defensive line unit meeting on Friday before we left for the hotel, and we just talked about how we have been playing super stuck up, tight and stressed about messing up our jobs. We said we’re going to go out there, have fun and play together as a unit. I can speak for everyone on the line and say that we had more fun today than we had in any of the other games.”

On gameplay against Purdue:

“I don’t think there was anything particularly different. It was the mindset that we had going into it. It was a lot different than the other games, for sure. We knew their quarterback would run the ball if we got in his face earlier than we did, but I think we were relentless today as a group. Our pursuit of the quarterback was very good today, and that played into our success.”

On the leadership from the defensive line:

“To have those two (Joe Evans and Logan Lee), I would include Noah Shannon in that mix too, they’re our leaders. They have been around for a long time and they have seen a lot of football. They know what it takes to be a winning team. They bring that attitude to the practice field and to the game field. They know the attitudes that we need to win football games.”



THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Strategic Communications

Nick Jackson
Linebacker

On the defensive line's performance today:

"They play with a chip on their shoulder every single day. It comes with their preparation, and this week they did a phenomenal job. I am really proud of those guys that finally got to experience that at home. They have been looking for that all year."

On stopping the run:

"It all starts with the guys up front. They played very physical, very fast and they were disruptive in the pass game. They did a heck of a job helping out Jay [Higgins] and I, making it a lot of easier. Big props to the guys up front. They are making plays."

On big moments for the defense:

"Everytime we step on the field, we want to get a stop. In those situations, we had the right reaction and made the play when we could. At the end of the day, I am happy that we came out with the win."



THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Strategic Communications

Deacon Hill
Quarterback

On Purdue's defensive strategy:

"We were expecting man coming into the game. Probably thought they were going run a little more cover two, but they just decided to go a lot more man."

On what he saw on the touchdown pass to tight end Erick All:

"We worked on that play all week. Play action and Erick was going to slip through on the wheel route. I was just trying to get him the ball and let the playmaker score. It was a huge momentum boost for our team, a great drive and a great job by Erick all around."

On his performance:

"I think in the first half I was a little jittery, but when I came back in the second half, I did a great job trying to be a calm presence for the team. The offensive line was apologizing to me any time I got hit, but I just told them to keep doing what they were doing. I trusted them 100 percent. This is just everything that comes with being a starter and playing in your first game. I was probably too excited to be out there, but that's not an excuse."



THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Strategic Communications

Kaleb Johnson

Running Back

On the key to returning from injury:

“My family and my teammates motivating me and encouraging me to stay on top of my treatments. I was down and hurt, and I was sad to be out, but they kept me encouraged and told me what to do. I was able to get it done.”

On sitting out due the last few weeks:

“I was hurting inside, but at the same time, I was cheering on Leshon Williams and all of the other running backs, because they are like family to me. So, I love to see them progressing, too.”

On feeling better:

“It means a lot, because during fall camp my ankle hurting was really affecting me and my game. After the healing process, I feel 100 percent now. I feel really good.”