Nebraska Postgame Quotes vs. Northwestern (Nov. 5, 2011)

Head Coach Bo Pelini

On his thoughts on the game
"We got beat. It's that plain and simple. They outplayed us, they out coached us. What are you going to say? They won the football game. They deserve it, I give Northwestern a lot of credit. We didn't respond. We did all the things necessary to lose a football game: putting the ball on the ground, penalties. I told our guys all week, I said it all week long, that this was a good football team, that we were going to be challenged and we had to be ready for the challenge. We weren't. We didn't execute, we didn't play well enough to win. I give them all the credit in the world."

On if he saw a lack of focus this week
"No, I didn't. I saw a lack of focus out there today by the way we executed, putting the ball on the ground. At the end of the day, you've got to make plays to win. They made the plays, we didn't. I give them credit."

On if this is part of the learning process
"Everything. Every week out is part of it. You're talking about a bunch of kids that are 18 to 22 years old. Every week is a chance for them to learn and experiences you have. There's a lot to learn from today."

On what the difference in defensive execution between the first and second halves
"Making plays. We got beat. We blew a coverage, we played undisciplined. We had a couple opportunities to get off the field and they run a little pivot route and get 35 yards on it. At the end of the day, you've got to make plays. You've got to cover somebody and make the tackle. We had our opportunities. We didn't play well enough to win, period. You want to talk about a team loss, that was a team loss. Every phase of the team, offense, defense and special teams contributed to it."

On why NU had trouble stopping the run
"At the end, I thought our guys got tired. We were obviously undermanned up front. We're thin up front. Chase Rome was out, couldn't play and I don't know, it just leaked. Like I said, we didn't tackle sharp there towards the end. They were just getting the push. It looked like we'd have them stopped for no gain and it'd leak for three or four yards. We called a number of different things to try and help our guys and it was just...I don't know. Like I said, sometimes in this life it comes down to want-to. I'm not saying our guys didn't want to, but maybe they wanted it a little more than we did."

On if they were a tougher personnel match-up than Michigan State
"It's just a different style of offense, and I thought, at times today, they just beat us in coverage. There was a couple things that we did that hurt ourselves, busting a leverage and some things like that. They just flat-out beat us in coverage a couple times. They have a good offense. I have a lot of respect for their offense. They do a good job. Our offense needed to come out and play today, keep us off the field. That didn't happen. That was the most disappointing thing in the football game. Our offensive line and our offense and the running game, I thought that was a match up we needed to win. That didn't happen. I don't know how many plays we played, but obviously that contributes to things defensively. That's why I say it was a team loss. The things that needed to happen offensively to help us defensively didn't happen. The special teams obviously giving up the long kickoff to start the third quarter didn't help us, and the things our defense needed to do to rise up and help our offense didn't happen. That's why I say it was a team loss: everybody contributed to it, and there's no pointing the fingers. Everybody who played in that game should point the thumb."

On if Taylor Martinez played one of his better games
"Taylor did some good things. I think there were some things he could've done better. I thought he had a couple misreads in the zone-read game. I thought overall he seemed like he played a pretty good game. I don't know, I have to look at the film. I don't think anybody played their best football."

On if he's confident that the team can come back in the next three games
"Yeah, I think we have a lot of character on our team. All you can do is do what you can do. We've got three games left, we're going to try to win out and see what happens from there."

Nebraska vs. Northwestern (Nov. 5, 2011)

Nebraska Player Quotes

Sophomore Quarterback Taylor Martinez

On his thoughts of the game

"We didn't come out to play. Maybe we overlooked Northwestern for Penn State. Other than that, I don't know what to say about the game."

On the running game

"I think in the beginning they were in a different front than what our offensive linemen expected, and maybe it threw them off a little bit. I think in the second half we still couldn't really figure out how to block, and I think that's what killed everything in our running game."

On if the offense waited too long to start throwing the ball

"It all depends on Coach (Tim) Beck's game plan. I thought we threw a lot early on too. We didn't really convert on the third and one and third and two. I think that's what killed us early on in the game. Plus those two turnovers killed us big time.
I think it killed the momentum."

On the week in practice and if he saw the team over looking Northwestern

"I thought we had a really good week of practice. Maybe some players were overlooking them, getting ready for Penn State."

Senior Saftey Austin Cassidy

On the big plays the defense gave up and if he knew why they might have happened

"It's hard to put a finger on it right now, but if I had to guess, I'd have to say it was probably just not focusing in on our keys and not seeing what we were supposed to be seeing. I know that one long pass play to start the fourth quarter that was one of those ones where our eyes were in the wrong spot and it cost us big."

On if they were supposed to have someone over the top

"We were supposed to have two guys on him, but there was just a little bit of confusion on looking into the back field a little too long. I think when you do that big plays happen."

On the difference in the ball game

"I'd really just have to say that when the game was up for grabs in the fourth quarter, when it could have gone either way, they just outplayed us. We couldn't get a stop when we needed to. You've got to give the credit to those guys. They deserved to win the game. They outplayed us. They wanted it more than we did. It's embarrassing to say that, but they're a heck of a football team, so we just have to give them credit and refocus on ourselves and take a good hard look and figure out, why exactly, we had that let down in the fourth quarter."

On if it was a tough loss to swallow considering they received Blackshirts this week

"Definitely, we take a lot of pride in getting those Blackshirts and to do what we did today, it's embarrassing. You're not going to win a lot of games giving up 30 points or however many points we gave up and 500 yards of offense. Last week we were able to shut those guys down. You're not going to lose very many games when you give up three points. It's hard to win when you give up that many points. I think we gave up 25 first downs which is just embarrassing to be honest."

Junior Wide Receiver Tim Marlowe

On the offense's slow start

"We just couldn't get into a rhythm today. We were shooting ourselves in the foot early with penalties and turnovers. We just can't do that. We're a rhythm offense. We like to get up and get going and get a fast pace to us. Today, with penalties and stuff like that, we really just put ourselves in bad situations and we can't call the plays we want to call."

On having to depend on Martinez throwing the ball

"Absolutely, our run game wasn't working too well. We had to transfer over to the pass game, and Taylor did a great job today. He really grew as a passer. He was accurate all day even in those 40 mile-per-hour winds. Taylor played a great game."

On his touchdown and day

"It's always a great feeling getting my first touchdown, but I'd trade that in any day for a W. It was fun getting some balls thrown and we did a good job in the pass game. But at the end of the day, all I want to do is win. That's what I came to Nebraska for. We just have to get better as a team."

Nebraska vs. Northwestern (Nov. 5, 2011)

Nebraska Player Quotes - Postgame

Kicker Brett Maher

On how he thought he played
“I thought I played alright, but in the end it doesn't really matter. I'd take the worst statistics in the world if we were going to win on Saturday's."

On how often they practice onside kicks
"We practice them every week. It's just something that didn't end up working out for us."

On if he has two different options on onside kicks and he bases it off how they line up
"They kind of told me which way to go before and it just didn't end up working out for us."

On the roll-out punt
"We put that in this week knowing that it was going to be really windy today. We thought that it could be a tool to use going into the wind, and they had a good return guy so we tried to keep it out of his hands. If that opportunity presented itself that was the plan going in the whole week."

Defensive End Eric Martin

On how what he thought went wrong
“We just weren't focused. You win the game during the week and we just didn't win the game during the week. Give a lot of credit to Northwestern, they came out and played their hearts out. We just laid an egg."

On the final Northwestern drive
"They just came out and they just played hard. They had a good game plan and they came out and played their game plan to the fullest and they trusted their coaches. We didn't execute our plays well. The result wasn't as good as it should have been."

On if they underestimated Northwestern
"Yeah, you could say that. Like I said, you win the game during the week. Our preparation wasn't good enough."

Wide Receiver Kenny Bell

On what he thought of Martinez's performance in the passing game
"He did a good job. He delivered some good balls. As a wide receiving corps we didn't get it done today. That's on us. He did a good job. We need to get better."

On if he expected to throw the ball as much as they did
"No."

On why they threw the ball so much
"That's what we got from their defense. That's what we thought we could win with. But again, we weren't good enough."

On the wide receivers blocking throughout the game
"Not good enough. That's going to be my answer for a lot of stuff."

On how hard it was to come back from those early mistakes
"Anytime you shoot yourself it in the foot it's a tough time. It's a problem that we've had the entire year. We frequently do it and we need to get it fixed."

Nebraska vs. Northwestern (Nov. 5, 2011)

Northwestern Head Coach Pat Fitzgerald Postgame Quotes

Opening Statement
“Obviously a great program win for us to come on the road and probably put together our most complete game of the year. It was not perfect, not a work of art. There are a lot of things we can correct, especially some turnovers at inopportune times where we gave them really good field position. I'm proud of the way our seniors have stayed the course throughout this year. It's been a tough six road games for us. Some things have happened well, some things have happened negative, but they have been the ones that have led us through it as well as our captains and our leadership council. The credit goes to those young men. There's a lot of guys to mention just from individual playmaking. You go from Kain (Colter) to Jeremy (Ebert) to the play of our offensive line today and our defensive line today that held them to 122 yards rushing. We thought we were going to have to control the line of scrimmage on both sides to win, and I thought to run for 207 and hold them to 122 was something we needed to do. But Coach Pelini and his staff have a great group of young men. They are very well-coached. We had to make a lot of adjustments early as to how we were going to play them; we had never played them before. We had to find out what things were going to be like and I thought our coaching staff did a tremendous job. Great in-game talk, great adjustments and a lot of the credit goes to our young men for making the plays in the arena."

On his thoughts on how Colter controlled the offense
"The sky is the limit for him and for his future. But more importantly he just stayed in the framework of the offense. To take advantage of the clock, to do things that winning quarterbacks do. The first guy that goes up to him is Dan Persa. So that's what we've got; we've got a football family. We've got guys that stand each other up on each other's shoulders when guys are down. I'm proud of the way he played. To highlight him would minimize the play of our offensive line and our wide receivers and our running backs. I thought it was a team effort today."

On going for it on fourth down on the final drive in the fourth quarter
"There's no question we lost momentum. I just felt like that was a time to go for the win. We talked about two things: we wanted Bo to take his timeout, which if we don't get it, they are down one. He decided to let it go, so we're going to take it down. Great talk by the offensive staff. We talked through about three different concepts. To go out there with the first play and see what they were going to do was a great adjustment by Mick McCall. A great job by our offensive guys, especially Kain going out there and being patient on the option play. And then just going down on the blocks. It was a very physical game today. I thought it was one of the more physical games we've played. To come on the road and get this kind of win was big."

On how the rush defense shut down Rex Burkhead
"We just fit right. We tackled better than we have all year. Last week we showed the guys eight plays that if we did what we were supposed to do when we were supposed to do it, those big gains wouldn't have happened. We've been doing a lot of teaching, a lot of coaching this year. Moreso on game-day than we have in my 15 years as a coach. We've got a lot of young guys not just because of youth but because of experience and they are working to get better. You work your tail off to make November significant 11 months of the year and we need to keep going one step at a time."

On how critical Burkhead's fumble in the redzone was
"Any turnover in the redzone is critical. It's a game-changer. And we equalled it out by turning it over in the end zone. So, like I said, there are a lot of things we can clean up but the guys came very focused. I thought we handled the crowd well, we handled the noise well and a guy that doesn't get a lot of credit for that is our center. We have a redshirt-freshman center, Brandon Vitable, playing in this kind of hostile environment. I didn't see a snapping infraction, didn't see an offsides once today. I think that shows the focus of our guys."

Nebraska vs. Northwestern (Nov. 5, 2011)

Northwestern Player Quotes

Wide Receiver Jeremy Ebert

On if the team had a 'can't lose' attitude tonight

“Yeah, kind of. All of the seniors have to have a pretty solid record in November if we want to play in a bowl game, so that is our attitude."

On the tough Nebraska environment

"I think we are used to it. We played at Iowa at night and we have played at some good environments. It was nothing new. It was fun."

On the 81-yard touchdown catch

"Kain saw the safety roll down and I had man-to-man coverage. Cain threw a great ball and I was lucky enough to out run them."

On Kain Colter's role in the offense:

"Kain had a great game. His poise and confidence, you can trust him with everything. It's nice to have two great quarterbacks."

Quarterback Trevor Simeon

On his reaction when quarterback Dan Persa went down

“I just got ready. It has happened before. The coaches have always told me to be ready to go if something happens. I just got loose and waited to hear."

On how Colter plays three positions in one game

"He is a special dude. I can tell you I sure haven't been around a player that can do as much as he does. I haven't seen a guy that does what he does. Really, it is just fun to take a step back and watch him go.

On what the message was on the sideline in the fourth quarter

"We just were going to keep our foot on the pedal. We knew they weren't going to lie down, by any means. We ran the ball really well, so hats off to the offensive line. They took care of business down the stretch."

Quarterback Kain Colter

On how much easier it is to step onto the field with as much experience as he has

"The biggest thing it helps with is seeing the defense. When you're out there playing receiver, you can see where the blitzes are and how they are coming. It makes the reads a lot easier."

On what he saw on the long touchdown pass

"The safety went to the boundary and the middle of the field was open. I just wanted to put the ball out there and Jeremy made a good catch and a great run after the catch. It was huge."

On how hard it is to play receiver and quarterback in the same game

"I don't know if it is hard. It is more fun for me. I'll do anything to get on the field. I feel like I'm really prepared and athletically I can go out there and as the season has progressed, I have learned some techniques at receiver. I can get open a little bit more."

On why they thought they could compete with Nebraska

"We needed to compete down the stretch. They're a great defense, and I feel like we could go into the game and make a statement. We had a great week of preparation and a great game plan. We just went out there and executed, and I feel like we have let some games slip away where we shouldnt. Our record does not reflect on our team that we have."