



POSTGAME QUOTES

K-State 34, UCF 20 | Sept. 27, 2025

CHRIS KLIEMAN, HEAD COACH

Opening statement...

"Yes, it is my birthday, and when it got to 31-20 and they were driving, I was telling the guys, 'here we go again.' I'm proud of the guys for getting some stops on defense after we gave up some explosive plays, which was disappointing in that respect. We learned from it. Then we came back and Gunner Maldonado made a couple big plays, Qua Moss made as good an interception as I've seen here—it was a Jacob Parrish type play, and additionally was proud of our offensive line. We inserted guys like Devin Vass, [who] has been in the program for four years, [including] Gus Hawkins and Andrew Leingang. You know, it's easy to see the Taylor Poiriers, Sam Hechts and [John] Pastores, but all of those kids have been in our program for a long time, and they had a lot of heat on them to perform. I thought they came off the ball, and I thought that they blocked really well. As you guys that have been around our program know that we're a different team when dealing plays, and sometimes we maybe get too hard on the offensive line when Dylan's [Edwards] not in there—because Dylan makes some things right if they're not right. He was obviously the spark we needed and well, truth be told, we needed that spark. We needed Blake Barnett's spark. We needed Joe Jackson's spark. We needed Linkon Cure's spark. We needed a lot of things, because we thought Jayce [Brown] could go but couldn't go. Adonis [Moise] got hurt on the first series and couldn't go, Bryce Noernberg got hurt on the kick return. He was the next guy in and so, we went with [Jaron] Tibbs, Sterling [Lockett], Isaac [Koch], Caleb Medford and we only had a few guys healthy at wideout. So we ended up playing a lot more, bigger 12 personnel people, which was the way we had to do it, to win the game. We faced adversity, and we're always going to be in tough ball games in the Big 12. [I have] so much respect for Scott Frost. He's a really good friend of mine. I worked with him for a few years and talked to him before the game. I can't imagine what that football team, those coaches, and those players are going through, with the death of a coach and it's fresh in their mind. My hat's off and my heart goes out to their team, because that is really hard and they came in here and battled their tails off, when I know that their hearts are on their offensive line coach who just passed."

On Avery Johnson making significant target changes...

"He [Avery Johnson] took what was given to him, knowing we probably lost some big play threats when Jayce [Brown] couldn't go and so he had to change a couple of things. He had to get out of the pocket and make some throws, which he did to Sterling [Lockett] and [Jaron] Tibbs. Then we asked him to run the ball a little bit more, something that we thought we needed and when we were down some line-ups we knew we needed."

On Dylan Edwards run game opening up plays...

"I thought they opened up a lot. Just by the naked eye, it looks like the field's about 60 yards wide when he's playing, because he can hit something. We saw it with his 75 yard touchdown run, they have angles on him, and they don't get him squared up. He's a physical runner. He's not just a scatback. He's a physical runner. He ran through two arm tackles. And guys, when he gets an open field, nobody's going to catch the kid."

On Brian Lepak's decision to coach on the field...

"That's a great question. It's something that Brian [Lepak] wanted to do. Drew [Liddle] was up there last year in the box with Brian because Connor [Riley] was down on the field. We started it off the other way, and then Brian asked to come down. Drew was fine. Drew was a team guy to go upstairs. We had two offensive line coaches, and Brian wanted to come down. I'll talk to those guys and see how it worked out."





AVERY JOHNSON, JUNIOR QUARTERBACK

On the emotions going into the locker room...

"It's such a result based business that when you don't feel the success of winning, it's hard to go five days a week of practice and then come out here and lose a game. Then when you come off a bad start, like we did, really felt good to win today and have that energy on the sidelines. And like, we played really well as a team today, and guys stepped up and made plays. So it was a really good feeling in the locker room after today."

On having Dylan back...

"Yeah, I mean you saw it. Just electric with the ball in his hands and all he needs is a little crease, and offensive line did a great job of opening up holes for him. And, I mean, the rest is, is just Dylan. I mean, if you get Dylan to the third level, which our offensive line did multiple times today. Good Luck."

On how opening up the run game held UCF's defense accountable...

Yeah, I think so. When Dylan's [Edwards] running the ball well, it opens up stuff for me. When I'm running the ball well, it opens up stuff for Dylan. I give credit to those defensive ends at UCF, both of those guys were 6'4-6'5, with long arms and played the read game really well, and made it hard to get pools on a lot of stuff. When we did get pools, it was to try to beat guys to the sideline. Those dudes could get up and run a little bit, so credit to those guys. I think just being able to have Dylan back this week really helped us, and it really started to look like K-State's top offense—where we have a run game that we can count on and then put the ball in the air as well."

DYLAN EDWARDS, JUNIOR RUNNINGBACK

On his 75-yard touchdown run...

"I got the hand off and just saw grass, the guys up front did their job and I got through it real well."

On how it felt playing again...

"It was a good feeling out there and playing football. That's something I wanted to do all these weeks I've been out, and just watching the game from the sideline, it definitely was a sad feeling, but going out there and playing football is something I really wanted to do, and it felt real good."

On his physicality running the ball...

"I just take pride in being a football player, going out there and playing my game. I don't consider myself a scatback. I feel like I've played football for so long, and I can play it in different ways. Just going out there and playing my game and playing free, that's something I did today."

WILL SWANSON, SENIOR TIGHT END

On the emotions from today ...

"First of all, it feels good to get a win. Second of all, the energy that we had as a team on the sidelines— I think that's what separates us from how we've been playing in the past, and it's, without a doubt, our energy."

On if the emotions played a role in the sideline warning...

"Yeah, and I thought it was a good thing because we hadn't had a sideline warning in the first four games. So it was obviously a good thing."

On the offense being more efficient..

"I haven't really looked at the stats, but I know we ran the ball. We ran the ball pretty well and I think that our preparation during the bye week in the last week of practice by running the ball, getting us in a rhythm and everything, helped out."





GUNNER MALDANADO, SENIOR SAFETY

On the impact of his interception...

"I think a turnover is always an energy boost. And I think, me being a guy that's coming back, I think maybe a little added on us."

On playing without his knee brace ...

"Yeah, I took it off last week during practice during the bye week, and I think that's a big step for me just feeling like myself again. Because, I definitely didn't feel like myself."

On what they showed the fans today...

"I think we showed that adversity hit this year, and you know when things don't go our way, we can come back and answer because, you know, we had a defense had a couple plays that shouldn't happen but we can bounce back from it."

On if the bye week came at a perfect time...

"Yeah for sure. I think it was good. And we definitely changed our mentality during the bye week. So we came out with energy. It felt like we were having fun again, playing football. I feel like that was a big emphasis for us this week."

LOGAN BARTLEY, FRESHMAN SAFETY

On his overall performance...

"I feel like I did good, but there's definitely areas of improvement, especially as a whole defense, for sure."

On getting the UCF offense off of the field after some big plays...

"Just resetting and realizing,, we were holding [UCF] pretty good in the first half. It's just that we got to eliminate those explosive plays, because most of their drives that they scored on really just came off one big play that extended it."

On the atmosphere of playing in front of a lively crowd

"Oh, that was awesome. That's probably the reason why I came here. It's an awesome environment and it's for better."

SCOTT FROST, UCF HEAD COACH

On the UCF offense coming back in the second half after little action in the first...

"Yeah, we just can't start like that. Watching them on tape, really the way people got after them is they earn first downs and made K-State defend runs and then get another first down and make them defend runs and circulate, or something popped, and that happened for us in the second half, we didn't earn any first downs at the start of the game, just quarterback guys in the wrong place, here or there, K-State making the right call against what we had on them here or there. And we just sputtered in the first half, and we couldn't get any momentum going. The second half, we started doing and some of the runs that we expected to hit hit, made a couple of good adjustments for how they were playing our different formations. But going into the game we expected them to use tempo and try to go faster around the quarterback, which is what happened. And because of that, we wanted to try to control the ball and time possession, and it completely went against our plan to begin with. And we left the defense, in their defense, we left our defense out there too long, and we got to keep fighting despite that, but we didn't put them in a good situation. "

On Tayven Jackson suiting back up in the game...

"Well, he got planted in the turf pretty good, which didn't make me happy, but I was told it was a collarbone, so we were planning on moving forward without [Tayven Jackson]. I give him a lot of credit. It was an AC sprain, same with [Jacurri Brown]. Jacurri Brown got one at the end of the first half, so I honestly left the locker halftime thinking [Cam Fancher] was going to come back in. We started with Jacurri, and then they said [Tayven Jackson] was ready and he came back in. Those kids are tough."





On the team's overall ability to not give up

"Yeah, I don't think this team will ever give up. I think we could lose three or four straight and this team wouldn't give up and we're starting to develop a bond. And I said this early on, but you got to go through some success and some hard things in order to really come together as a group. There's no doubt now that this group has been through some hard things. I think that's brought us close together. I think it drained us of some energy. It brings me some energy, just the emotions of everything. But I think in the long run, it'll make us better again. Credit to Kansas State. And I'm a Chris Klieman and Kansas State fan. But, you know, we got to learn to execute better, and that's part of being a young team. We can't get them into the red zone and false start and have delay of games, and we're starting to make adjustments and call things that weren't necessarily on the call sheet because of what they were doing. Kids were a little slow to get it. You know, the biggest turn of events in that game was we hit the big pass to go down, and we were down three points, and couldn't get a stop right there. That would have given us all the momentum in the second half to come out with the ball down three. At times, the defense smothered them. At times, we just weren't quite where we're supposed to be, and they made us pay for it. We got to be able to catch punts. It's little things that we need to keep improving, and that's on us as coaches to make sure that [they get fixed] we still have a relatively young, inexperienced team, and we're doing our best to stay ahead of the curve, but every game in the big 12, in my opinion, is going to be like this, pretty evenly matched teams. And if you play your best, you got a great chance to win. If you play less than your best, you're gonna get beat and we got beat by a good team today."

MYLES MONTGOMERY, SENIOR RUNNINGBACK

On the fight he and his teammates showed...

"I commend the guys for fighting and not giving up when it's hard, especially in the Big 12. It comes down to just coming out faster, especially going on the road. We can't afford to just come out slow, especially in the Big 12 on the road. So we'll get that cleaned up. And in the next away game, we're attacking them. So it's a learning experience more than it is heartbreaking. I mean, we want to win every game, but the reality is that's hard. It's really hard to do."

On the mood of the locker room after the loss...

"It kind of goes back to what we were trying to do over the off season. Guys are just going to fight, no matter the outcome. Just fight for one another, and whatever happens happens. That's kind of how we do things now around here, just give it your best once you give your best, and let the chips fall where they may. So I'm proud of how the energy is in the locker room."

On playing after the recent passing of O-line coach Shawn Clark...

"I can't speak for everyone else, but I know for me personally, it was a bit different pregame. You know, I started crying. It wasn't the same, you know what I mean? We're gonna miss him."

ANTOINE JACKSON, JUNIOR CORNERBACK

Is their positive attitude after the game...

"Yeah, 100% we got a long season. We got eight more games. We got a great opportunity next week, Kansas, a good team coming to the bounce house, and we got to protect the home turf."

On if K-State switching quarterbacks through them off...

"We just played it the same. Like I said, we prepared for it all. We wrapped it in practice, and we were just ready for it all."

On things UCF can take away from this game...

"A lot of things we can improve on. But to circle back, what I was saying we just had to keep fighting. We kept going, we just kept coming and coming and coming and coming. But there's definitely a lot of pain that we didn't win."

