



POSTGAME QUOTES

September 19, 2009 • Martin Stadium • Pullman, Wash.

Final Score: Washington State 30, SMU 27 OT

WSU Head Coach Paul Wulff

On the team never giving up...

"Very thrilled to watch our kids keep competing and playing hard. Two out of our last five games we have won in overtime and those are character things. Fighting last week and building that kind of character and belief and staying together is so critical when you develop a program. Those are the things we have been working on all offseason, our covenants that we live by and stand by as a program. A lot of those things showed up today."

On the beginning of the game...

"We started out very sloppy. I really believe the last two games, the kids have wanted to play extremely well. If anything they pressed and they've been tight. We dropped four or five passes in the first quarter, we got stymied a little bit when B.J. Guerra went down at guard."

On young defense growing up...

"Defense made plays to get our momentum. We just need plays made and this team will feed off this energy. You have to be able to make enough plays on your football team to keep your momentum and win ball games. As we grow and develop, we will. We had nine first-year or second-year players out there playing. We had at one time out there five freshmen, so there were a lot of guys out there playing their first football and I was just proud of their effort and their belief, and they kept competing. As they continue to grow up, they're going to be outstanding."

On key moments in the game...

"The defense, obviously, was huge. Then our momentum got better. Then the offense went down 80 yards on the last drive to tie it up. I thought that was big. I thought the exchange right at the end of half, where they had the ball down there and we took care of the clock, got the ball back, and we punched it in there right before half. I just thought there were some really good transitions, how we handled them and executed."

WSU Assistant Head Coach Chris Ball

On defensive adjustments...

"We made a couple of adjustments, had a package sifted down to what was working which was what we were going to go with. (The players) were into it, they were really into it, and boy they really stepped up. I was really proud of our defensive coaching staff and the adjustments we made. The kids, the kids were into it the whole game. They didn't give up. Gave up a couple big plays early, and we didn't run that coverage anymore. The kids did a great, great job. They believed."

On playing a lot of freshmen on defense...

"I was comfortable with it. I mean what other choices do we have? Let's play the best guys and let's get them going. This is a process and let's play the best guys who give us a chance to win."

WSU linebacker Alex Hoffman-Ellis

On the game...

"We did a great job in the second half of preventing against big plays...Defense definitely made some big plays and the offense stepped up when they needed to. At the end we really came together. It was a real team effort."

Continued...

WSU linebacker Myron Beck

On hard work paying off...

"This feels so good. We've worked so hard from January to now. It pays off and it feels real great. We just have to keep the momentum going and keep trying to take it over to next week and play a great game. It feels good for it to pay off."

WSU Kicker Nico Grasu

On rebounding from earlier miss...

"I tried to just flush the first one and just move on. It was on the field goal unit. If we didn't miss the field goal and the extra point we would have won it from the get go. So, I kind of owed it to them."

WSU wide receiver Jarred Karstetter

"It feels great, especially with the strides I think we have made this year as a team. It feels better, and I think it has felt better all year, but you always want to win. So, it's just great to get a win."