

Husky Stadium

Nov. 25, 2017

Washington State Head Coach Mike Leach

Did anything change in this week of preparation coming off the bye?

I don't think the preparation really changed. I didn't think we transferred it as well as we might have. I think that this is a really good team that you have to play good and play together in order to be them. And of course their strength is the offensive line and the defensive line and I think that showed today. I think they did a really good job there, on both the line of scrimmage. But, you know, the biggest thing is we went out there and we played anxious and squandered all kinds of opportunities in the first half. Then it became a series of over corrections after that.

How do you think Luke Falk did today?

It kind of depends when. I saw about three different Luke Falks today. I saw the first half guy, which that guy was a complete stranger. I saw, you know kind of in the middle of the game, just a guy struggling to get on track. Which I thought he courageously did. And then I saw the Luke Falk at the end, and that's the guy I'm a lot more familiar with. We had tempo, bouncing around, and the team responds to it.

Did you consider removing him from the game and putting in Tyler Hilinski?

Not really. Luke has done a tremendous job with that type of thing. He's had a great career. You know, statistically the best PAC-12 quarterback in history. And, you know, sometimes you just have to fight through it. I mean you can pick out whoever you're favorite quarterback is and I can certainly circle a game he's had like this. And he probably didn't, relatively speaking, have it against quite as good competition. But that's just part of it.

Washington State at Washington Post-Game Quotes

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COUGARS' PLAYERS

QB Luke Falk

What were they making tough for you guys out there tonight?

They just executed. When you have four turnovers it is hard to win a football game. We just went out there, they executed and we didn't. If we got any points on the board in the first half, maybe the momentum would have switched, but we just weren't able to do that, or put it in play to get things rolling. It is disappointing, but they played hard, and credit to them.

Were there any changes in preparation with the bye week?

We approach the bye week like we always do and it is just the same preparation. We go out here and unfortunately we just didn't play our game.

How would you evaluate your own performance tonight?

When you turn the ball over four times, it is not a good game. I don't think I played that well, I had to give my team a chance and I didn't do that.

RB Jamal Morrow

How big of a challenge is that front to deal with? How hard is it to handle them in your running game?

Credit to them, they are a great defensive front, especially Vita Vea, he is definitely a great player. We just tried to make some adjustments in the second half to make it work, but when you get behind it is really tough to capitalize off of anything. Credit to them, we just have to execute better and prepare for the bowl game.

How disappointing is it when you guys know what is on the line, again this year to not play to your standards?

It is disappointing. You play this whole season for it to come down to this game and to play like we did, it sucks. You just have to take it and move on and get ready for our bowl game.

With so much on the line, do you think you guys might have psyched yourselves up for it too much?

No, I think we went into it with the same attitude that we usually do. We knew what was at stake, but we still didn't come out and execute or do the things we needed to.

WR Tavares Martin

What was the mood like at halftime? What did Coach Leach say?

He was positive, telling us to get out there and try to fight back. He was being positive but we just couldn't execute.

How discouraging is it to go into a game like this and not be able to perform to your standard?

It is not discouraging, we just had to execute more. We have to get back to practice and work on some things and bounce back.

S Hunter Dale

Coach Leach described the team as anxious, how did that apply to the defense today?

For this game we knew what was at stake and you could definitely tell that people wanted to play good and really wanted to go to the Pac-12 championship. Stuff like that. We knew the hype on this game. You could kind of see out there and that people were trying to overplay, do other people's jobs, and trying to make that one tackle or play that they thought would win the game. That's something that we have to learn from the film and get better from it.

Did you think the hit from Hercules Mata was targeting?

Personally I didn't think that it was targeting. But the refs called it. Not much we can do with it but move on. We've got to see that on film too.