

WASHINGTON STATE

F O O T B A L L

IDAHO AT WASHINGTON STATE – SEPT. 17, 2016 WASHINGTON STATE POSTGAME QUOTES

Head Coach Mike Leach

[On when the team started to settle into its own]

"I saw it there partway through the third quarter and part way through the fourth, where I thought it was the best. All three sides, I thought, played together for that portion. I thought we played hard the whole game, but I thought we played tight early on. The defense loosened up and played better than the offense, sooner. The Special Teams unit was fairly explosive throughout the day. The sloppiness, with regard to penalties is alarming."

[On the play of James Williams]

"I thought James Williams played really well. He's explosive. He's elusive. He's not a guy that thinks about 30 inconsequential things. He just goes out and plays. He's fairly elusive because he's got really good hips. He's a guy that... James Williams hates that this game concluded. He always wants games to keep going, which is kind of what your after out of a guy."

[On how the team prepared differently for this game]

"We had better focus throughout the week. It was one of those weeks where it was a fairly intense week. Different teams have different personalities, but with this team it has become apparent that a lot of this intensity has to come from us, as coaches. I think, as coaches, we could've done a better job of evaluating that and sorting that out earlier. As coaches, we have to be on them all the time, and it's got to be all kinds of intensity and bunch of stuff that's old fashioned. But if we're ever going to maintain the integrity of the game of football, it will come back in a hurry, I hope."

[On what message the team can take from this win]

"We played better. That's the sole evaluation of any of it. Did you play hard? How well did you play? We played better, we played hard, we played sloppy, and then we got in a rhythm on all three sides simultaneously. That portion – we've got to be able to magnify it for all four quarters."

Running Back James Williams

[On feelings surrounding his first career touchdown run]

"It was like a dream come true. Every Saturday, I'm sitting down and wondering how it would feel to score a touchdown on Saturday in front of a big crowd, on TV, and I just lived it today."

[On moving up on the depth chart and getting an opportunity]

"I didn't know until I saw the depth chart, and I was like, 'Oh, I'm second string now?' I knew that all week, so I had to practice harder, stay focused, and not make any mental errors. I just know as soon as I get the ball, I've got to run as hard as I can."

[On play of the offensive line]

The O-line did amazing. They made some changes right at the beginning of the game. I give all the credit to them. I wouldn't have busted any of those [runs] without them, literally."

Cornerback Marcellus Pippins

[On thoughts when he picked up the blocked field goal]

"Just run fast and don't get caught. Don't get caught."

[On how he was able to field the blocked field goal with ease]

"I was thinking, because I watch a lot of NFL Football, and every time there's a fumble, it's like the ball automatically just has grease on it, so no one can pick it up. So, I was thinking I've got to be able to get this ball. I was kind of timing how it was bouncing – I know how to look at a ball and how it bounces – and I knew it was going to take one more bounce and then it was going to bounce up. So I just got under it, scooped it, and took off."

[On how the blocked field goal changed the game]

"We were already going as a team. That just shot it over the fence, but we were already going as a team."