



U.S. Air Force Academy

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Air Force Post-Game Quotes & Notes at Army, Nov. 1, 2008

Quotes

Head coach Troy Calhoun

“You just have two phenomenal institutions, and all of the guys that were involved in this game today have class. Army fought their guts out and our kids did too. It was just a good, hard, tough football game.”

(Ref: if he considered punting instead of having PK/P Ryan Harrison kick the final field goal in the fourth quarter)

“He’s been so consistent and has kicked field goals really well. We thought about if we should punt, but he’s a pretty consistent guy, so we decided to take a rip at it and get 16 points. We absolutely thought about it because of blocks or something like that.

“I just thought that we had a chance to go up by two scores. Anytime in this game I think you have to do it, and especially up here.”

(Ref: if he expected a low scoring game)

“I had a hunch coming in that it would be exactly like this. You look at it all season long and you think there would not be a whole lot of points scored just because Army has been involved in a lot of low-scoring games recently.”

(Ref: if Air Force had too many penalties)

“Absolutely. You look at it and there were some long gain penalties. There was a holding penalty that took away a touchdown early, there was the offensive pass interference, the roughing the punter and there was the pass interference at the end. So no question: too many penalties.”

(Ref: if Air Force’s poor third down conversion mark was a credit to Army’s defense)

“It is, and it is also on us for not executing, especially on first and second downs. There were times they converted but I thought maybe we would get stops. It ended up being such a game of field position. You just had to hold your wall the whole game. Their guys played a tremendously physical, very spirited game.”

(Ref: keys to victory)

“You just have to find a way to win the turnover margin. I thought that would be the key part of the game. If there was one play, I would say that punt return just prior to the half. Reggie Rembert caught it and went for a long return, and then we got 15 yards tacked onto it. That was a big play.”

(Ref: low-scoring games between Army and Air Force)

“If you go back and look at the history of this series when both teams ran this offense, you can go back and look from 1989 to 1994, and they have been very, very low scoring games. In each one of those six years, we were fortunate enough to hold them to no more than seven points. That was the key again today too.”

(Ref: the importance of the defense’s play)

“The one thing that we did not do was relinquish the ball. Anytime you relinquish the ball in a game like this on a turnover, it’s a huge thing. Field position wise it is probably worth about 40 yards. Army is good, they are really good now. Their defense and their fullback have been extremely stout all season long. That was certainly the case again today.”

(Ref: if Air Force could have performed better)

“As Harrison’s kick was going through at the end, looking at that end zone I wish there was a photo right as it was getting close to the goal posts to see that whole Air Force section standing up. I couldn’t tell if it went through or not, but they told us that it did. We played this game the way we had to give ourselves the best chance to win. “

(Ref: if there was any embellishment on the part of Harrison on the roughing the kicker penalty in the fourth quarter)

“That was a solid contact hit, and I think anytime you hit the thigh area at the top of the knee, you never know. I don’t know if you’re ready to award him an Academy Award.”

QB Tim Jefferson

(Ref: thoughts on the game)

“We didn’t really find much that worked against their defense. Their offense runs the option so they knew how it worked. This is one of those games where the toughest team wins, and I think the toughest team comes out on top.”

(Ref: if he had ever been involved in a tougher game)

“No, I think because this is a service academy, that fact just puts it on top of everything else and all of the other teams that we play.”

(Ref: if the high number of penalties was surprising)

“It was definitely out of the norm coming off of a game where we had zero. We had one penalty that took points off the board, and that factored into it. It is definitely out of our games.”

(Ref: how he felt after Harrison’s field goal in the final minutes)

“That put it out of reach. I was kind of nervous all game because we really weren’t clicking. When he made that field goal, I just felt the weight was off of my shoulders again.”

CB Reggie Rembert

(Ref: how the defense shut Army down after giving up the early touchdown)

“You have to have a short memory. You have to overcome adversity in games and keep pushing through. We knew that we had a good defense and a good plan, so we kept our confidence and we kept driving.”

(Ref: how it is having a good place kicker in Harrison)

“It is nice to have Ryan as a kicker. You can always come away with points, so that is good have. He is a great guy on and off the field.”

PK/K Ryan Harrison

(Ref: thoughts on his 48-yard field goal)

“It was good and I was glad that we could be on the winning in. It was a well fought game. Those kind of kicks are what you live for, and it’s a lot of fun.”

(Ref: on how hard he got hit and if he embellished at all on the roughing the kicker play)

“Definitely, yes, there was definitely some acting going on. He hit me good, but I don’t know if it was worth 15 yards. Last game, I got hit and it was only five yards, so I really didn’t act well enough.”

(Ref: if that violates the honor code)

“I don’t know, I don’t think so. There was the intent to deceive, so yes, I guess so.”

Team Notes

- Air Force uses honorary captains, along with game captains. The honorary captains were **Maj. Gen. Mike Worden** and **Scott McKay**. Worden graduated from the Academy in 1976 and was a three-year letterman. McKay is a 2001 graduate and three-year letterman. The game captains were seniors **Todd Newell**, **Aaron Kirchoff** and **Ryan Harrison**.
- Air Force improved to 7-2 overall and secured a second straight winning season for the first time since 2002-03. Air Force’s 16 wins in two seasons (with at least three games remaining this year) are the most since setting the school record of 22 in 1997-98.
- Air Force has won four straight games this season which is the longest winning streak under head coach Troy Calhoun and longest since opening the 2003 season 5-0.
- Air Force improved to 29-3-1 all-time vs. Army, including an 11-9 mark at West Point and a 26-11 mark in Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy games. The Falcons have now won three straight and 11 of the last 12 vs. Army. The Falcons won for the sixth straight time at West Point since 1996. The Falcons improved to 54-29-1 all-time vs. Army and Navy, including a series-best 48-26 in Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy games (since 1972).
- Air Force improved to 1-0 this season and 4-0 under head coach Troy Calhoun in the month of November.
- Air Force’s win improves the Mountain West Conference’s non-conference win total to 24, which ties the conference record set in both 2003 and 2007. Air Force improved to 3-1 this season vs. non-conference opponents.
- Air Force improved to 5-0 this season away from Falcon Stadium. The Falcons are 4-0 on the road and 1-0 in neutral site games. Air Force’s five road wins are the most since the 1998 team was 6-0 with four wins on the road and two in neutral site games.
- Air Force improved to 3-0 this season and 8-1 under head coach Troy Calhoun during the second half of the season (last six games). Prior to Calhoun’s arrival in 2007, the Falcons were 12-24 over the last six games of the season since 2001.
- Army’s touchdown on its opening drive marks the first time this season the Falcons have allowed a touchdown on the opponent’s opening drive. The score is only the second allowed, as Navy opened the game with a field goal on its first drive. Air Force forced five punts and two turnovers on downs in the other seven games.
- Air Force forced three turnovers (two interceptions, one fumble) to mark the eighth time in nine games this season the team has forced multiple turnovers in a game.

Individual Notes

- Senior PK **Ryan Harrison** kicked three (21, 29, 48) field goals in the game. Harrison has hit 19 of 21 field goals this season and has hit 29 of his last 31 dating back to last season. Harrison’s 19 field goals ties the single-season school record he shares with David Adams (2000) and Dave Lawson (1974). Harrison has hit 38 of 48 (.792) for his career and ranks fourth in Air Force history in field goals made and third in percentage.
- Sophomore OLB **Andre Morris, Jr.**, recorded his first-career interception. The interception came following a tipped pass by senior DE **Jake Paulson**. The interception is the seventh this season by Air Force.

- Freshman QB **Tim Jefferson** scored his second touchdown of the season, a one-yard run to give Air Force a 10-7 lead in the second quarter.
- Senior DE **Jake Paulson** recorded 2.5 tackles for loss. Paulson leads the Falcons and is among the Mountain West Conference and national leaders on the season with 13.5 for 67 yards.
- Senior OLB **Hunter Altman** recorded eight tackles, including 2.0 for loss for seven yards. Altman has 5.0 tackles for loss for 13 yards this season.
- Sophomore PR **Reggie Rembert** had four punt returns for a career-best 57 yards, including his second-longest return this season of 35 yards. His previous career-best was 53 yards vs. Houston where he notched his career-long return in his only attempt in the game.