

# BAYLOR FOOTBALL PLAYER QUOTES ON THE HIRING OF MATT RHULE

## **K.J. Smith, junior, defensive end**

### ***On his thoughts on head coach Matt Rhule...***

"We met with him for just a few minutes before the actual press conference out there. And I just like the message he came with – competing every day and hard work are the basics of football. So, I'm ready to get to work, really."

### ***On Coach Rhule having a great defense this past season...***

"That's a big thing, it's a big deal, especially if you can come in and do that in the Big 12 where there's great offenses, having a great defense will go a long way."

## **Patrick Lawrence, sophomore, offensive lineman**

### ***On his thoughts on head coach Matt Rhule...***

"I thought he had a great message, a lot of energy, a lot of excitement. And as players, we feed off of that. Looks like he's ready to get going and start building, and that makes us excited as well."

### ***On if he followed the coaching search...***

"Not really. You just kind of see it on social media, and you can't really think too much of it. You'd see one person one day, one person the next. We know Baylor is a great place to be, so we knew we'd get a good coach."

### ***On finishing the season strong...***

"I'm excited. I want to finish this season off strong with a bowl game win. But after that, I'm ready to start building. Like he said, you rebuild every season, with a whole new team, basically. So, I'm excited about that as well. But first things first is the bowl game."

## **Zach Smith, freshman, quarterback**

### ***On his initial thoughts of Coach Rhule...***

"We had a brief meeting before the press conference. Initially when meeting him he seems like a really energetic and fun guy to play for. We know he's a players' coach, and he's a great coach. So, I'm looking forward to what he can do here."

### ***On Coach Rhule's success at Temple...***

"That's an outstanding thing to do, really. To go from 2-10 and turn around to 10 win-seasons consecutively, that's a great thing to do, it's a hard thing to do. It seems like he's a great coach, and I think he can do it here too."

## **Travon Blanchard, junior, nickel back**

### ***On moving forward with new head coach Matt Rhule...***

"Something he talked about while meeting us is that we're going to practice hard and prepare hard, and of course he's going to put the best players that he sees fit on the field. So, even though you have a new coach and new system, it's still football. After all the X's and O's are drawn, you win with good offense, good defense and good special teams. We're excited to see what he brings."

### ***On Rhule's defense...***

"I'm just really excited about him. For me personally, and I think I can speak for the defense, we want to be the best. That's the reason we work so hard and that's why we put in the extra time with film and practice because we want to be the best. He says he does a really good job of developing players, and that's exactly what we want. We're just waiting to see."

He has a pretty good resume. In the past, he had the top 10 defense. For a defensive player like me that's something that stands out. I'm pretty excited to see what he can bring to us."