

Kansas Player Quotes

Junior Safety Justin Thornton

On the attitude of the team thus far:

"We've done a good job coming into camp; we've had a positive outlook on everything. Guys are just motivated to work hard. That's we do here; we work hard."

On the confidence of the team following a 12-1 season:

"We've never experienced that success that we had last year here. I think a lot of the guys are taking that and feeding off of it. We want more. Once you get a little piece of it you want more and more. We're hungry for more and that's what we're going for."

Junior Running Back Jocques Crawford

On the transition from junior college to Kansas:

"It's been kind of tough coming from a junior college. The workouts have been kind of difficult. Right now I'm on the right track as far as getting stronger and learning the playbook."

On the biggest difference between junior college and Kansas:

"The whole feel of things. The scheduling conflicts, it's not necessarily a conflict, but I always have to do something. That's a big difference."

On the affect of Orange Bowl on his decision to attend Kansas:

"It did make it a little more attractive during my recruiting process."

On wearing #3:

"I have been told about this number. A lot of pressure comes with wearing the number three here. I just have to try and live up to the hype. I am just going to try and do that to the best of my abilities."

On expectations:

"The coaches are expecting me to come in and do a lot of things. There are a lot of expectations for me and hopefully I can live up to them. I don't want to let myself down and I don't want to let my team down either."

On adjusting to Division I football:

"It has been very hard having to take the back door to Division I. If you want to become that star player then you have to do what you have to do to get on the field. The pace at practice is a lot different. In junior college we would get water breaks in between plays. Here we may only get one break throughout the practice but we are always moving."

Senior Receiver Dexton Fields

On the new receiving coach David Beaty:

"I think that we're going to be better. He brings some stuff to the table that our old coach didn't bring. He's coached an all-American player at Rice and I like some of the stuff that he's teaching. Some of the stuff that makes my game better."

On why Justin Thornton might surprise people:

"He's a hard worker, he listens, he's willing to learn, and he's willing to put in the work. I've seen him countless times not just the summer, but even in the winter in

the weight room by himself trying to get bigger, trying to get stronger. He always asks me questions. He always workouts."

On his confidence in quarterback Todd Reesing:

"With Todd back there you always have a chance to win or to make something special happen. You can't help but get excited about that."

Junior Running Back Jake Sharp

On being an underrated player from the state of Kansas:

"You know a Kansas kid who is equally as talented as a Texas or Florida kid, he's not going to have the hype and all those things. That's just the way it is and I don't really care. You know these Rivals(.com) guys, they do all that stuff. The thing I want to do is show Kansas kids that if you work hard you can play for KU. You can go win Orange Bowls. I'm definitely blessed to have the opportunity."

On being the main rusher for KU:

"I don't know what that load is going to be in a spread offense, but I'll definitely carry as much as they like me too."

On losing running back Brandon McAnderson to graduation:

"He's a great friend of mine and he's a great ball player, but we've got a bunch of new guys this year with the addition of Jocques Crawford to our running back corps. And Angus (Quigley) is great, Angus is a great running back."

Senior Linebacker James Holt

On new defensive coordinator Clint Bowen:

"Coach Bowen has a lot of things to bring to the table. He has a smart mind defensively. He knows what's best for us to be successful defensively on the field. Coach Young, those are large shoes to fill, having coached for over three of four decades, he has a lot of time under his belt. I have a lot of confidence in coach Bowen. It's going to be a great year with him. The defense is responding to him well, so I think it will be good overall."

On the style of play under Clint Bowen:

"We're pretty much doing the same thing flying around, playing hard-nose defense. It's still the same mentality of football we have had over the years."

Junior Quarterback Todd Reesing

On knowing that he is the starter:

"The only difference is that I have to come out here everyday and know I am the guy. I have to practice at that level everyday. Also they kind of look to me to step it up when practice isn't going well. I've got to play at the top of my game all the time. Guys look to me to make plays. It has been a lot of fun though. It's fun knowing that you're going to be starting that first game. And you can focus on working on your skills and not worry about looking over your shoulder and competing. It has been a good camp so far."

On maintaining that high level of statistics from last season:

"That's the last thing I'm worried about. I could care less about how many yards I throw for or how many touchdowns. It's all about the team. I could play better than I did last year and not have the same statistics. As long as I'm doing whatever I can do and play the best I can for the team. That's what is most important. I am just

trying to make myself better as a football player and a quarterback and help lead this offense."

On goals for the season:

"We're taking the same approach as we have every year here. We're taking it one game at a time. Obviously we want to win the Big 12 north. We want a chance to play for a Big 12 conference title. Those are our goals. We're going to take it one game at a time. If people want to say we're a one year wonder, they can say whatever they want. We'll come out here working hard every day and we'll play the best that we can. And we will, we'll be ready to go every game. Whatever happens, happens."

Junior Quarterback Kerry Meier

On playing multiple positions:

"I learned a lot last year from playing multiple positions. It's not too bad. From the outside it might be viewed as something that is hard to do, but once you get into a rhythm and the flow of things then you get more comfortable and it's not too bad."

On playing quarterback:

"Right now, through the first couple days of practice, quarterback has been the main position I have been working on. I am still playing receiver, but right now we are just focusing on getting me some reps at quarterback. You never know if Todd (Reesing) is going to need backup or if we need something changed up, then I will be right there ready to go."

On punting:

"I am still right there at the top of the depth chart for punter. I have been working on my punting game as well in case they need me to punt. We brought in a new punter, Alonso Rojas, and he has a lot of leg. But I have been here a while and I feel that I am punting well enough to win the job."

On the team's attitude:

"I think the attitude has changed for the better. The environment in the locker room and the positive attitude that everyone carries around with them is a really good thing. The attitude and the effort that everyone has had in the first couple of practices has been great. Everyone is enthusiastic about the opportunities we have in front of us."

Senior Wide Receiver Marcus Herford

On the team's expectations:

"We still have a lot of work to do and a lot of goals that we want to accomplish. Even though we went 12-1 and won the Orange Bowl last season, we still feel like we fell short of a lot of our goals. We still feel like we have a lot of work to do and once we do that then the sky is the limit for this team."

On the offense:

I think this offense is going to be amazing. We have so many different guys who can do different things at the receiver position, at running back, at quarterback, and we have some great linemen. So I think that this is going to be a pretty amazing deal for us this year."

On the team's identity:

"We still feel like we are the underdogs, even though we supposedly came out of last year as the top dog. We have a lot of battles out there because of our so-called weak schedule. We feel like any team you play in the Big 12 is a tough game. We are still considered a lower team, and we are going to continue to thrive off of that throughout camp."

Senior Linebacker Joe Mortensen

Thoughts on the team:

"I am confident with our defense and our offense. We are really excited and we have a great schedule this year with some tough teams. We are having a nice camp so far and everyone is working hard. This is my last year playing college football so I am excited."

On how the program has changed since his first season:

"The attitude around here has changed a lot. Coach Mangino has brought this program from the bottom to the top. I remember as a freshman when everybody said that the only thing that mattered around here was basketball season. Now everyone is looking forward to football season, and we are really proud of that."

On the team's expectations:

"Our expectation is to win every ball game. We take it one game at a time. That was why we were so successful last year. We want to be in a good position to win the Big 12 North and win the Big 12 Championship."

On this year's schedule:

"I am excited to play the teams we are playing this year. Last year people said we didn't play anybody, but this year we are going up against the best of the best. With Oklahoma and Texas it is definitely going to be a great year. I like playing teams like that."

Senior Wide Receiver Marcus Herford

On using his second year to his advantage:

"It's going a lot more smoothly, we still have work to do, but things are going better."

On the new building:

"I love it, we are having a lot of fun with it."

On the new building's help for game preparation:

"It's going to work out really well, and we won't have to travel as much."

On handling expectation:

"People are still saying we can't be as good as we were last year and we have a harder schedule, but we still want to win the north, that was a goal that we didn't accomplish last year."

On confidence in a starting position:

"It is nice, but it is not a big deal as long as we're out there doing what we need to do."

Sophomore Cornerback Chris Harris

On the new building:

"On game days we can just come here and we won't have to travel anymore."

On playing without Marcus Henry:

"We still have most of the team. Some people have needed to step up and they are stepping up pretty well."

On Dezmon Briscoe:

"He has gotten a lot better, stronger, faster. Has had four years of working out and training which has helped him a lot."

On being an accomplished player:

"I'm one of the leaders now, one of the oldest. I have to make sure everyone is doing their job."

Freshman Offensive Lineman Jeff Spikes

On improving since last season:

"I'm more focused. I've focused on learning the plays, I've taken more time to learn them, and have taken on a leadership role."

On this year's offensive line:

"Communication is the most important thing right now. We have a pretty good group of guys and if we can communicate well, we will play together."

On Kansas' tough work outs:

"It is one of the toughest things I have ever been a part of. It is emotionally, mentally, physically stressful. But I trust the coaches and it is a good experience for me."

On motivation to do well in work-outs:

"I have a lot of family, I just want to do well for my team and make myself a better player."

On pro potential:

"I take every day for every day, and every week for every week. If they come to me with an option or something is there, then I would definitely take an opportunity to go further, but now I'm just trying to get through camp."

On the most challenging thing so far at KU:

"Learning the offense fast enough, running it, understanding it, and then understanding the defense. That's been the most challenging thing for me."

On this year's offensive line being better than last year's:

"The sky's the limit for this offensive line. We have a lot of talent and we're working together well."

Sophomore Wide Receiver Dezmon Briscoe

On his personal improvement:

"My coaches helped me improve one of my weaknesses last year, which was dropping a lot of balls, and I have been working a lot on that in practice, catching balls when I'm tired, and drills like that."

On breaking records at KU:

"I have thought about it, but I put it at the back of my mind. It's not something I think about."

On his new hairdo:

"I put 'Jayhawks' on one side and my number on the other. It was something that me and a couple of teammates got together and decided to do."

On the new facility:

"It shocked me. I didn't think it would be as nice as it is. I saw it from the outside and it's a really nice place. The locker room is more spacious. It makes it a lot easier and we can take our time on game days."