

Texas Tech Football Press Conference
January 18, 2013
Texas Tech Head Football Coach Kliff Kingsbury

Opening Statement

“It’s been a hectic month, but we finally got the staff done. A lot of them have been recruiting this past month and have been doing a great job. I’ve been pretty excited about how it’s been going. I wanted to give a rundown of the staff and what they will be coaching and then we’ll open up for questions.

Defensive Coordinator - Matt Wallerstedt. He was at Texas A&M last year as linebackers coach. That’s where I got to know him. He’s been a DC in three other spots including Air Force. While I was at the University of Houston, we faced him and it was one of the most challenging schemes I’ve seen as a coach. He does a great job. He’s very aggressive in both coaching and recruiting which I’m really excited to have him on our squad.

Co-DC will be Mike Smith. He played here. That’s where I got to know him. He’s been with the New York Jets for the last four years and coached outside linebackers.

Trey Haverty played here when I was playing. He’s been at TCU and was the DC at Millsaps College before that. He’s coached safeties and receivers. He’ll coach safeties and be there special teams coordinator here.

Kevin Curtis is another former great player from Texas Tech. He’s been at Louisiana Tech for the past three years. He’ll coach our corners.

John Scott. He was just hired yesterday. He’s from Georgia Southern which has a tremendous track record of having great teams and great defenses. I think they led the nation in points allowed last year on defense at Georgia Southern. He brings a lot of energy and is a great recruiter. I’m really excited to have him.

Offensively, we have Sonny Cumbie - kept him. Y’all know Sonny’s been here a long time. Great player here. Been a great coach here. He’ll coach the outside receivers and he’ll be a co-OC.

Eric Morris is another former red raider. A wide receiver here. He was with me at Houston for two years and then was up at Washington State last year. He does a great job coaching the inside receivers.

Mike Jinks who we got out of San Antonio Steele. He’s won a state championship down there. He’s one of the most respected high school coaches in the state. I’ve known him a long time

and he'll do a great job for us. He'll be coaching running backs for us.

Offensive line, we have Lee Hays. He was at West Texas A&M, he was the offensive coordinator at Baylor, and most recently he was with the University of Houston. He'll coach our offensive line."

Questions

On other coaches and Coach Kingsbury calling plays

"They'll have a big input in the game planning. That's the biggest thing with me having the head coaching duties. They'll really take a big step in the game planning and the practice preparation."

On having a young staff

"I think it's good. I think it's all positives. I want guys that want to be head coaches. I think that's how you get the greatest work ethic out of them. You don't want guys who are content to be at a certain level. You always want them to move up. That's what this group is. They all want to be head coaches and I think a bunch of them will be one day."

On process of hiring Coach Wallerstedt

"I knew Matt and I was thinking that's who I wanted when I came here. Texas A&M wanted him too. They made it difficult to get him, which was smart because he's a heck of a coach. We worked through the process and it took a little longer, but we eventually got what we wanted."

On the time it took to hire Coach Wallerstedt

"It took about a week or so. It wasn't too long, but longer than most people would have wanted."

On keeping the some of the coaching staff in the family

"I think it means a lot to them. I think this place is special to them. I was telling the team during our games at Texas A&M that at halftime, I would sneak over and check out the Texas Tech scores. When you're part of this place on the level that we were, it stays with you. A lot of these guys reached out to me when they already had great jobs. They were coveted employees at the universities they were at and wanted to come back here and they know what we can make this place."

On giving Mike Jinks his start at the college ranks

“He’s been an incredible coach down in San Antonio. I think any high school coach across the state that you would talk to, they would list him right at the top. I couldn’t be more happy and thrilled that he wanted to be a part of this.”

On what scheme DC Matt Wallerstedt wants to run on defense

“It’s going to be multiple. It’ll be aggressive and that’s what I’m excited about. I know he’ll attack and go after people and that’s what I want. Something that matches our offense.”

On recruiting with the young coaching staff

“It’s been really receptive. A lot of these guys have had previous relationships with coaches at the schools they were working at. It’s been great. They’ve came right in and have hustled hard. They’ve done a great job wrapping up this 2013 class.”

On expectations on signing a full class

“We’ll see. We’re not going to force something if we think they don’t fit our system. We’re not going to try to fill a number. When we have all of our ducks in a row for an extended amount of time, we can really do some work. We’ll see how that goes.”

On the amount of remaining scholarships

“We’re still working on that. We’re still figuring some of that out. There’s been some attrition - obviously. Always at semester. We’re still figuring all these numbers out.”

On game plan for spring practice and spring game

“Not the exact date. I know it will be later. We want to get them in the weight room and give them an extended amount of time to get with our strength coaches and to learn the offense. To be able to be in meetings and to learn the offense and get a good feel for it. It’ll be pushed back more than ya’ll are probably used to.”

On new strength coach Chad Dennis

“He was at Houston with us and also at Texas A&M so he knows the system and program that we’ve used the past two places I’ve been. He’s big on making better football players. He’s not big on Olympic lift type break records in the weight room. He wants you to break records on the field which I share the same sentiment in that area. It’s been a good fit and he’ll do a great job.”

On the new coaching staff and the local relationships

“It’s been good. They know a bunch of people in this area and are already familiar with the area. The overall transition for all of us has been pretty smooth.”

On how fast the new staff has had to recruit

“I think it’s been good. Like I said, they’ve had previous relationships at the schools. They’ve recruited a bunch of the same areas that they were asked to recruit now. It’s been pretty smooth for a bunch of them as far as recruiting areas and the players they were after.”

On the Co-DC’s responsibilities

“It’s kind of the same deal. He’ll coach the outside linebackers and have input into the game plans. Coming from New York, that’s an aggressive defense. He has a bunch of ideas he’ll share and bring that to part of our staff.”

On setting up recruiting territories

“We haven’t set them up yet. We’re just getting them done right now. We haven’t had time to really organize the exact areas. That’ll be something we do after signing day.”

On the last month and a half

“Fast and furious. It’s been hectic but it’s been fun to be back. Everybody has been great here, I’ve said it a bunch of times. It’s been a great energy and a great vibe about this place and I can’t wait to get the players out on the field and to get that going.”

On adding to this recruiting class in terms of positions and numbers

“We are just trying to fill specific needs, now that we got Coach Wallerstedt in there. He’s looked at what he really thinks he needs on defense, and we have a pretty good feel for what we’re looking for on offense to kind of feel immediate needs and go from there.”

On Sonny Cumbie

“Just his story - I think playing here and being a walk on and having the success he did and having watched him grow when I was in college and then grow as a coach. I mean he’s what Texas Tech is about and he does a great job coaching and he’s coveted by a lot of schools and we’re lucky to keep him. The kids here loved him. He has a great report with everybody and couldn’t be happier to keep him on our staff.”

On recruiting needs before signing day

“I think numbers wise, O-line and D-line is an immediate need that we’re trying to address and a lot of good skill players coming back on offense – we’re just trying to wrap it up and get the guys who can get in here late.”

On Eric Ward returning for his senior year

“Very excited to get him back, and we all know he’s a tremendous player and he had a tough decision. He has a family and he has graduated, so for him to come back and want to represent Texas Tech one more year, that was huge for us. To have a senior leader at wide receiver in that room, I think it’s going to go a long way.”

On attrition

“We’re still working through that, so we’ll see. Grade wise, things of that nature.”