An Interview With:

COACH KLIFF KINGSBURY

Q. How similar is TCU’s offense compared to Baylor’s offense?
COACH KINGSBURY: Different. Baylor does what they do. Nobody in the country does what they do with the spacing, the way they space you out, run the ball very well, play up tempo and find ways to get those receivers to the ball in space.

Q. Have your players been able to bounce back from a heartbreaking loss?
COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah. I mean last year we lost, you know, by 100, so they are a resilient group, and you get an opportunity to play in an NFL stadium, against a Top 5 team. It’s a bowl atmosphere with a split down the middle. If you can’t get fired up for this, I said it on Saturday, you got issues. So they’ll be ready to go. They have a great mindset and they know we gotta get better this week.

Q. Do you have an update on Ian Sadler?
COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, I mentioned it earlier, just day to day. Just day to day. I’m not sure if he’ll be able to go or not. But we’re going to try to get him moving today and see how he feels.

Q. The tenacity that they showed on Saturday just hanging in there the whole time, that’s gotta be a good thing to look at, carry over. Can you tell us how you see that?
COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah. Just effort, the effort was outstanding. It’s just we didn’t play as clean as I thought we did the previous two weeks. We missed a few things here and there on offense. And then defensively you had some big third and longs, third and 11, third and 23 that should have got up the field and didn’t and they ended up scoring points on those drives. So you just have to keep that same effort and clean up the execution.

Q. Coach, what do you think was the biggest hiccup on that second to last offensive drive? Just you guys gone three and out. What do you think is the biggest hiccup to get going there?
COACH KINGSBURY: I don’t know. Like I said, they made a good play. I mean they’re a good defense. We ran it twice, like we had the entire second half early in drives and then threw it on third down and didn’t make it happen.

Q. That was just kind of the formula you felt like?
COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, that’s what we’d done the whole second half was run first and second and then when we needed to throw, throw on third. So did that again.

Q. Looking back do you think you could have been more aggressive at all is it just execution standpoint more?
COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah. I should have called better plays. Definitely.

Q. What’s been the biggest turn around you’ve seen with the penalty situation?
COACH KINGSBURY: Just maturity. Yeah, just the group being older and growing up some and hopefully that continues.

Q. As a coaching staff, at the conclusion of the game, what’s one thing that you guys have come together that you’re going to build off of from the TCU game?
COACH KINGSBURY: Just the effort. Just the effort. Guys kept playing, kept fighting. So that’s something you can work with.

Q. Is Hatfield going to be your kicker going forward?
COACH KINGSBURY: It’s going to stay open. We like the competition. He stepped in there and made a big kick for us, but it’s going to stay open.

Q. Just philosophically, can you walk us through maybe at the end of the game where if a team has a chance to score would you ever consider letting the team score so you could get the ball back or would you like to take your chances with your defense?
COACH KINGSBURY: I mean I think every situation is different. We felt like we had a chance to stop them. We got them to fourth down, and they made a great play.

Q. (No microphone)?
COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, I think so. I think if there was a different situation, different time. Timeouts, all that comes into play and you may think differently.

Q. What have you seen from Russell since the end of last year, quarterback for Baylor now and getting more reps this spring?
COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, he looks great. Slid right in there and they haven't missed a beat. Actually production has gone up. So that's a credit to him and their offensive coaching staff. And he's very athletic, can run and a great thrower.

Q. Last week, I guess Tuesday you struggled (No microphone). What's the key to (inaudible)?
COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah. I don't know. We didn't do a good job of it last week, so we'll have to get better at it this week. But they got really three big-time guys that jump out at you. You talk about Lee and Cady as well. You can't just concentrate on one, unfortunately, because they got three that can really fly and make big plays.

Q. Was it sort of a déjà vu seeing TCU sort of kick itself in the foot with all those penalties? Did you take notice of how inopportune those happened to them and think back, oh, gosh, that was us a year ago?
COACH KINGSBURY: No, not really. I know they had some that did come at inopportune times, but I was just proud of our guys in an intense game like that to stay focused and for the most part play a clean game.

Q. (No microphone).
COACH KINGSBURY: Knee injuries.

Q. (No microphone)?
COACH KINGSBURY: Yes, sir.

Q. (No microphone)?
COACH KINGSBURY: There is not. They're still dealing with their issues.

Q. (No microphone)?
COACH KINGSBURY: I'm not sure. We gotta work through it this way.

Q. Coach, you had a huge (indiscernible) so far, just finishing the game throughout the season. With the effort that you saw last week, what becomes your new message this week to the team?
COACH KINGSBURY: I mean, the same. You know, once again, had the ball, had a chance to win the game and didn't close it out and then had a chance to get a stop on defense, didn't do it. So just continue to fight, give that great effort, clean some things up and then when you get a chance you gotta finish it.

Q. How surprising was it to you with as many plays as both teams ran on Saturday that there wasn't a turn over?
COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah. That's incredible. We had the one safety that really could have ended up being the difference in the deal. But for them to run 103 snaps, that's a credit to that quarterback. As many times as he has the ball in his hands, to not turn it over, that's phenomenal.

Q. Did you feel limited in your play calling at all just based on Pat's injury?
COACH KINGSBURY: A little bit, but you know, I felt more for him because I knew he couldn't do what he normally does on some of those things. But as I said Saturday, I was just very proud of the way he battled and hung in there. He was very good for not being 100 percent.

Q. Did he show you something maybe that you don't always see in practice, just the moxy that he had to gut it out?
COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah. I've never seen him injured like that. And he didn't want to talk about it, didn't want the trainers to look at it, one of those deals, kind of stood off by himself and just hung in there and kept making throws and gave us a chance at the end.

Q. (No microphone)?
COACH KINGSBURY: I think a lot. You know, if he can go out there and limp around and drag his leg around and still complete passes and lead us on scoring drives. He ran for a couple of first downs kind of limping around, that shows his teammates what he's all about, and it fires him up.
An Interview With:

COACH DAVID GIBBS

Q. How is the squad feeling day afterwards? Any major lumps and bumps?
COACH GIBBS: I really don't know. Met with a few of the guys. You know, we're -- defensively, obviously, it's a work in progress. But we'll continue to do what we've done, and like I say, I'm a broken record. We'll keep getting better and better and working on the same fundamental technique. It's not going to show up against a team like that obviously how you would like it to. We would love to have batted the ball down on fourth down and win the game and learn a bunch of lessons while you're winning rather than learn lessons losing. But it is what it is. They made the play; we didn't make the play. Obviously gave up way too many big pass plays. But the kids fought hard and played hard. That's all you can ask from them.

Q. What do you think they learned from Saturday, your defense?
COACH GIBBS: I think they learned if they'll just keep fighting and keep playing we'll have a chance to win a whole bunch of football games. They don't have to be perfect. And I think sometimes when you're trying to rebuild a defense, you know, I think sometimes guys, they over react and they panic. You hear me use that word all the time. They want to let's go zero blitz and make a big play and stop them. But the truth is all you're going to do is speed up the process of the other team scoring faster, and also speed up the process of, you know, giving up more big plays. So you know, what did they learn, you know, I hope they learned, if they just do their job, which I've been saying since day one and take care of your business and trust the other ten guys to do their job, that we'll be okay.

Q. Have they gotten better in that area?
COACH GIBBS: I think so. I do. I think so. I mean I think, you know, there's obviously there's certain positions we're over matched when we go up against some of these teams. It's not rocket science to figure that out. At the same time, you know, there's certain calls that I made in the game where you can't give up a big play in those calls, and they know that. But for whatever reason we're at that stage where they did. But I don't see guys freelancing. I see guys being held accountable by their coaches, which, you know, it can't get here fast enough for me where sooner or later it will show out there on Saturday afternoons, or Saturday evenings.

Q. Is it sort of like you might not see even incremental improvement and then all of a sudden they jump to a different plateau in how well they play?
COACH GIBBS: Well, obviously you know, playing against Arkansas, TCU and now Baylor, it's probably not going to show up a whole lot. I pray it does, you know. But they have good -- you know, they got good work habits. They got good attitudes. Are they disappointed, yes. Discouraged -- you know, disappointed, not discouraged. That's my theme of the week, because we -- for whatever reason, we played better against the slow teams that line up and run power football than we played against the spread teams which we see every day. That doesn't make a whole lot of sense to me, but that's the truth. And we got a lot of work to do and we'll get back at it this afternoon.

Q. In the second half TCU kind of got their run game going and ran on the right side. What was kind of the difference between the first half and the second half?
COACH GIBBS: I don't know. I wish I could tell you. You know, I think toward the end there our guys got fatigued. Even though we rolled a bunch of guys in there. There's no excuse. We're gapped out, and we didn't stop the run. So therefore, gotta do a better job coaching, and gotta do a better job executing the calls. But the calls didn't change, just like they hadn't changed the whole seen from the first half to the second half.

Q. Bethel suited up for TCU, didn't get in the game. Do you know if he's 100 percent healthy?
COACH GIBBS: He had a good week of practice last week. He actually had a better week in practice. We'll see how he practices this week.

Q. (No microphone)?
COACH GIBBS: We'll see how he practices this week and then we'll go from there.

Q. As a defensive coordinator across college

... when all is said, we're done®
and he beat our double team, which I've never seen happen, but it happened Saturday night. And then obviously the other kid didn't get covered. We assigned on him. Just didn't go with our coverage. Don't know why.

Q. What about the play before?
COACH GIBBS: We were actually in an option defense, and Dakota was responsible for the quarterback and he made a nice play, which got us to fourth down, which was a big play. Quarterback probably should have pitched it, but he likes -- we knew he liked to keep the ball in the red zone. He has a knack for keeping the ball or keeping it on option. But didn't finish.

Q. What's Dakota's overall play been like so far?
COACH GIBBS: He's getting better. He's getting better. He's playing like a freshman, makes two good plays and then makes -- you know, he was unblocked two of those stretches at the end of the game where they're running over our left side, their right side. Dakota, he's unblocked and just didn't make the tackle. Just can't quite get there. Whether he's fatigued or whether it's a slow reaction to the path of the back. But he's gotten better. He has. He just -- he's a young man playing in a big man's game right now. But he'll grow up.

Q. Was there ever a problem during the game Saturday?
COACH GIBBS: You know, I really didn't. Even that last play of the game D.J. and Pete who we've tried to sub and keep fresh, they both played almost 100 plays. And last play of the game, you didn't notice it, but D.J. ran over their left tackle. The guy stepped to the right and D.J. spun to the right and got in the guy's face, so even on the last play of the game they were playing hard.

Q. (No microphone).
COACH GIBBS: He's double covered. I mean we're playing cloud, we're jamming and sinking with him, and deep third player right over the top of him. Quarterback threw it blind, which he did a great job. Which if he throws it blind then the corners gotta intercept the pass. If the corner does what he's supposed to do, it's an interception, but there's a reason we got no turnovers.

Q. Is there any discussion of letting their offense get the ball back or are you opposed to that kind of philosophy?
COACH GIBBS: Until my boss tells me let them score, we'll keep fighting. And to be honest with you, the way they went down the field I'm shocked we got them to fourth down. I thought they would have run right over us. But our kids, at least they fought and got us to
fourth down. Just gotta learn to finish.

Q. You mentioned the no turnovers. How surprising was it the amount of plays both teams ran there wasn't a turn over in the game?
COACH GIBBS: It's impossible. I call it karma. Somebody's not living right. It's not me. It's gotta be somebody else. But yeah. That will never happen again. And if justice just catches a ball it's floating in his face. But that's football.

Q. You played five corners, (No microphone).
COACH GIBBS: Yeah. We'll play them all. The truth is we tried to play them all. We played them all against Sam Houston because they're spread, and anytime you play against spread teams we try and keep them all in the game because the truth is there's not a big enough difference between our starter and our fifth string corner. So you know, the only reason they didn't play a whole lot against UTEP and Arkansas is because we put the better tacklers out there. Obviously it was more run emphasis. But yeah, they'll all play against this week and hopefully they play better.

Q. Who do you consider your best corner?
COACH GIBBS: We don't have a best corner. We don't have a best safety. And I helped coach T.B. so it's on me. I gotta get them better. I really do.

Q. What do you find more consistent with Baylor, their pass offense or their run offense?
COACH GIBBS: I think the average 380 yards rushing and 380 yards passing. So you tell me what you want me to stop and I'll try. Let me rephrase that. I'll call a defense that's supposed to stop it. And then they'll run it anyway. No, they're, shoot, they're phenomenal. We got our hands full again. Again, we gotta give our offense a chance to win the game at the end. That's our goal.
Texas Tech University
Football Media Conference
Monday, September 28, 2015

Eric Morris

Q. Coach, going back on the TCU game, how do you think your offense did?
COACH MORRIS: Decent. You know, we scored some points but squandered some opportunities for sure. Probably guys up front in the run game did a good job. Didn't hold up as good as I would have liked a couple times on pass protection. They got to Pat a couple times, got some pressure on him and got him hit quite a few times. But did a great job. De-Andre played like a possessed man out there, it's good to see. He stepped up, he was a leader for us in the huddle and he did a good job. But we had a couple opportunities to put it away and we didn't, we came up a little short.

Q. Kliff was saying that Pat is day to day. Was he exceptionally sore on Sunday?
COACH MORRIS: Yeah, I haven't talked to him yet about it, so we'll see how he progresses. We've got two really good quarterbacks, so not extremely worried about it.

Q. Did (inaudible) emergence in the offense game playing kind of come about by what TCU was showing you defensively or did it also have to do with Pat being hampered a little bit by that leg?
COACH MORRIS: No, it was something we saw on their defense, but then he started running, breaking some tackles, so we just kept feeding him. When a guy gets hot like that and is calling for the ball, it's the first time since we've been here we had a guy on the sideline that legitimately you could see it in his eyes and he was telling us he wanted the football. He's old enough that we rode with him and he didn't prove himself wrong. He did a great job and we blocked well up front and on the perimeter to spring him a couple times. So yeah, it does nothing but open up things down the field for us if we can get a running game going like that.

Q. (No microphone.)
COACH MORRIS: Yeah, Zach Austin, and then we'll personnel some stuff and move some people around this week and get our best four out there in some positions to move inside and outside. So you'll see a little bit of moving around. But I didn't think Giles played very well. It was a big moment for him to have to kind of step in right then and his eyes were pretty big and there's definitely, as a true freshman, we expected that. He's got to continue to get better, but you'll see Zach Austin there with him this week.

Q. Is there any chance Batson could be moved?
COACH MORRIS: No, we're going to keep him and Jakeem over there. I need to keep Jakeem's reps down a little bit. If he plays over 60 reps, he goes down a little bit in the way his game comes out, the way he's graded out, so I want to keep them rotated over there. We have plenty of guys over there that can step up and make plays.

Q. What you do you see when you look at the Baylor defense?
COACH MORRIS: Yeah, they're really good up front, that's what's going to be challenging for us. Oakman and Billings are as good as anybody we'll play this year. Billings stands out more than anybody on tape
that I've watched this whole entire year. He's a kid that we have to know where he's at at all times and account for him. His effort's unbelievable and he's really strong. Oakman off the edge, he's a guy that also we have to know where they're at. The back end, I think their corners are playing better this year and their safeties are doing a good job, too. They've got the linebacker back, Young, that was banged up and he's just as productive as any linebacker in the league. So we definitely have it cut out for us. We've got to play well and execute and not turn the ball over.

Q. Coach, do you think if you have to go to Webb on Saturday that it's been good that the competition between him and Mahomes throughout the springs, throughout the fall, do you think that will benefit getting ready if he possibly had to start this game?
COACH MORRIS: Yeah, he's ready. He's done an incredible job coming in extra every single week and preparing like he did when he was a starter, so been proud of him in that regard. He hasn't slouched off and not put the time in. He's in there putting hours in, breaking down film, knows where to go with the ball, been around this offense for a long time, so yeah, we wouldn't blink an eye.

Q. How surprising was it to you that in a game where both teams ran as many plays that they did that there wasn't a turnover in the game?
COACH MORRIS: Yeah, pretty impressive by both sides. Impressive by TCU running a hundred plays with no turnovers and us as well. But we count the safety as a turnover, so I don't think we were as clean as they were. That's something that can't happen, especially at that point in the game, a big game like that. So that was our one big mistake on offense, I thought, and allowed them to get the ball back and a couple points on the board, which could have been huge at the end of that game. But there's not one thing that you can point to. There's about 15 to 20 things that could have made that game go the other way. So I thought the defense did a great job of getting us the ball back quite a few times. So we had opportunities and just didn't get it done. When we got it back there at the end, we still -- we had two runs called that we still like on tape and had been good for us all day and so wouldn't take that back the way we handled it, either. Just got to capitalize on those opportunities.

Q. (Question about Jakeem.)
COACH MORRIS: Up and down, similar to last year. Some really explosive, really good things, and then some things that killed us. He had three drops and that's something that he hasn't done this year, so something that he's got to clean up and we can't go back to where we were last year with him where he's really high and really low. He's got to be more consistent and we're going to find ways to get him the ball and he can't drop it like that.
Jared Kaster
Branden Jackson

Q. Jared, how’s the team handling the tough game, the tough loss?
JARED KASTER: It’s good. We’ve got another great opportunity again against another top five team in the country in an atmosphere that’s unbelievable. When you play there, it’s one of the greatest experiences you’ll ever have is playing there. It’s a phenomenal stadium and it’s a fun atmosphere. Who wouldn’t be pumped up for another game like this?

Q. What do you see when you look at the Baylor defensive line?
JARED KASTER: They’re good. I mean, they have, you know, probably two of the -- two guys that really stand out, Oakman and Billings are probably the best at their position. But you go and you prepare like you do every week and you go in there confident and you work on your technique and you prepare for it.

Q. When you guys see Pat continue to play after being hurt, what does that do for the rest of this offense?
JARED KASTER: It’s good. It motivates us to see a guy go out there and do what he does during a stress time like that. It motivates you and keeps you going for the rest of the game.

Q. Dings to the confidence because it ended up not going your way on Saturday? Everybody still feeling pretty confident?
JARED KASTER: Yeah, like I said, we have another great opportunity against another top five team in the country. If you’re not fired up, you’re in the wrong business.

Q. (No microphone.)
JARED KASTER: Yeah, they really don’t have to play many games, that’s how good they are. They’re going to come at you straight up and that’s how they’ve always been and that’s how they’re going to play us, and we’re going to have to get prepared for it.

Q. Branden, how do you slow down the Baylor offense?
BRANDEN JACKSON: We have to disrupt their timing. We’ve got to get back there to Russell and kind of get him off his game. Also, penetrate that big, talented offensive line and slow them down and things like that. Pretty easy question and harder to do, but we’re up for the task and we’ll see how that goes.

Q. You guys were able to compete with them last year in a neck-and-neck game until the end. How much does that help your confidence going into this week?
BRANDEN JACKSON: Yeah, we really haven’t been using too many references from last year to kind of build on this year. We kind of feel that we’re a new team and going in a new direction, so that really hasn’t come to mind. But as a player, you never forget those times and like competing against players. I’m sure a couple of us remember last year’s competition, but at the end of the day it didn’t come out in our favor so there’s not too many positives I would personally take from that game. But yeah, I’m excited for Saturday.

Q. What did you see from your side of the ball the other day? How do you feel like you guys --
BRANDEN JACKSON: There was a lot of ups and downs. I see guys make plays, guys missed plays, guys be in a position to make plays. At the end of the day I see a group who were very resilient, stayed together and fought the entire time and that’s all I can ask for. We’ll clean up the mental mistakes and things like that, but as far as people being in position, you’ve just got to make those plays. Yeah, as long as no one quits, that’s all I was worried about and we fought to the last 23 seconds of the game. Next time we’ve got to fight a little harder a little and maybe we won’t have to be put in that situation.

Q. You moved inside a lot when they brought Gary Moore in. Do you have a preference as far as playing inside or outside?
BRANDEN JACKSON: I don’t really have a preference. I just understand that we’ve got Pete, who’s fast off the edge, and then Gary, who’s been pushing me for time the entire game, so I know coach is going to get out there. I’m just happy that they have enough confidence in me to put me at three and not take me out of the game completely.

Q. (No microphone.)
BRANDEN JACKSON: It’s very easy, actually, because we know that we try to take it on our shoulders. You know, playing Arkansas, we knew they were going to... when all is said, we’re done.
run the ball. Playing TCU, we knew it was key to try to stop Boykin and their explosive offense. And then go on to Baylor is similar to a TCU-type thing. It's not hard to play with confidence against these teams because they are the better teams. I feel like it's more difficult to play against a team that you feel like you may be a little bit further ahead than. So yeah, there's not going to be a lot of extra motivation for this game. You don't need much to get up and get going for this. It will be exciting on Saturday.

Q. How much responsibility do you have yourself and the defensive line (inaudible) going up that Baylor has that might require extra men in coverage to limit how much you guys can rush the pass --
BRANDEN JACKSON: Yeah, a hundred percent. This defensive line wants to lead the defensive group in general, and we know that they have talented guys on the outside, they have a talented running back and talented quarterback. So we know they're obviously explosive and they're going to make plays. We put on defensive line, Coach Smith has already established that we have to make our presence known and make it often, so we have to disrupt their timing. We have to penetrate that big offensive line and get to Russell, kind of get him off his game. If the defensive line doesn't do what we're supposed to do, it may not go in our favor. So we'll put it all on our shoulders. We've got a couple big 350-pound guys, so I'm sure we can handle the workload.

Q. When you guys see what Mahomes went through on Saturday, does that fire up the defense at all so you can fight through that?
BRANDEN JACKSON: Yeah, absolutely. It doesn't surprise us at all, but I mean, it gets us going. We get to see it a lot of time and we always talk about the difference of being injured and being hurt. He wasn't injured, so he fought through that and he fought the way we practice every day. You get nicked and bruised, but if you can't go, then make them drag you off the field. I mean, that goes to his character, his work ethic and he didn't miss a beat. I'm proud of a young guy stepping in like that and like I say, it's no surprise to us.

Q. Any extra motivation (inaudible)?
BRANDEN JACKSON: Yeah, he's earned that right. Guy had a phenomenal season last year and he's a mannequin walking around. Big force, dramatic force, first-guy-off-the-bus type thing. But as a whole, he competes against everyone and we have great guys on this side of the ball that we feel like compare good with him. And yeah, it will be a good thing, but there's no extra motivation. I don't look at his stats, I'm sure Pete doesn't do anything like that. We're just going out there trying to get better, and at the end of the year we'll see and laugh about who did better.

Q. How was it to see a game with as many plays for both offenses to not have a turnover in the game?
BRANDEN JACKSON: Yeah, that's crazy. It's disappointing as the defense, but then again our offense wasn't throwing it the other way, either, so it kind of eases the pain. Coach Gibbs always talks about the turnover margin. We had a couple of them hit us in the hands that we dropped, so that's something we've got to start capitalizing on especially against these explosive offenses we have in the Big 12. When you get a chance to make the opportunity, you've got to get 'em. The gimmees, the layups, you've got to get those. You can miss a slam dunk, but the layups, it's too easy, we've got to make those. So we'll focus on I'm sure this week trying to get the ball back to our offense, give them more possessions and slow down the explosive offense.

Q. Not speaking to you specifically but as college defenders in general, it seems like there's a more looking to make a bigger hit than a wrap-up tackle. Do you see that from a defensive side as well?
BRANDEN JACKSON: Yes and no. You know, it's hard. There's so many rules where you can hit a person and things like that. I know back there in secondary when you've got these fast receivers transitioning from track to football and they're just running past you, if you throw your hands up too early, it's a flag. So a lot of guys look to disrupt the ball and that's just a technique the different coaches teach. But I feel like a lot of times you've got to mix it up. You've got to go to the football sometimes, you've got to slow the defender down by getting a good hit on them. That's really also up to coaching and preference and kind of the flow of the game.

Q. Coach Kingsbury said this game with Baylor has kind of a bowl-like atmosphere having gone through a couple times. What are you looking forward to going in?
BRANDEN JACKSON: Yeah, this is an amazing opportunity. It's a great atmosphere. There's always good turnout from both fans. It's electrifying. As far as being a bowl thing, it always felt like a bowl game to me until last Saturday and the Jones was rocking, and as loud as it was, that's probably the loudest I've heard any stadium since I've been in college football. So if we can come out and top what we did there, if fans can top the electric environment that we had going on in the Jones, then I'm sure I'll start feeling like that's a bowl game again, but right now I had a bowl last week and it was a great game.