

Nebraska Postgame Quotes vs. Chattanooga (Sept. 3, 2011)

Head Coach Bo Pelini

On his general thoughts on the game

"We're where I thought we were going in, which I just told the team means we have a long way to go. Positively, I thought for the first time out only having two penalties for 20 yards is a step in the right direction. It's been a big point of emphasis for us. I was disappointed we saw the ball on the ground a few times. It says we had four [fumbles] and lost two. Obviously we caused the one, where we didn't hear the pater call on the punt. Offensively, it was just that one. We've got to be better in that regard. We've got to become more efficient--really, in all phases of the game. Sometimes it hurt us, sometimes it didn't. We played undisciplined at times. We made some unexcusable, in my opinion, mental errors. The communication needs to get better. It's about where you usually are after your first week. It was sloppy football and we have a ways to go. I think it gives us a good benchmark of where we are, and now we have to work to get better. I told the guys in the locker room, now is the time to roll up your sleeves and go to work."

On the operation of the offense

"I thought the operation of the offense was fine as far as getting up on the ball. I thought we got the ball snapped quick. Those things, the logistics of it, were fine. The execution of it wasn't very good. Too many busts, a couple communication errors out there on the field--just a lot of things we need to get better at. I just believe offensively, you have to be very efficient. You can't have many no-yardage plays, lost yardage plays, things that really had nothing to do with what the defense was doing but were self-imposed by us. You've got to fix that, because that's how you lose drives."

On the play of Quarterback Taylor Martinez

"I thought he was up and down. I thought early in the game, Taylor was very anxious. He was really putting a lot of pressure on himself. I thought he was anxious. I thought, as the game went on, he let the game come to him, and that's when he becomes a better football player. I thought overall he had a pretty good first start. He didn't get a lot of help around him at times. We had some busts around him and things. But I think overall, not a bad day."

On the play of the offensive line

"Very inconsistent. Really, across the front, it just wasn't up to our standard. There were some good things, I saw some good things out there, I saw some guys perform well. Up front, you've got to be clicking on all cylinders and you've got to be playing good across the whole front, and we weren't always doing that. And some of those things were communication errors. There's a lot of reasons why, but we've got to get that fixed. We've got to get better in that area next week."

On the performance of Place-kicker/Punter Brett Maher

"I've been saying all along, we feel really good about Brett and what he brings to the table. I don't know if you can have a better start than he had. He really hit the ball well. He hit a couple punts into the wind that were big time. He had a good day. Great day."

On the play of Defensive Lineman Cameron Meredith and the rest of the defensive line

"From my vantage point, I think we played really well up front. We played a lot of guys, we're deep in that area and that's going to help us. We'll be able to keep guys fresh. Believe me, I can tell you this: we weren't perfect. There's a lot of--fundamentally and technique-wise--there's a lot of things we need to fix up front, in the front seven, and in the back end. A lot of the things that happened to us were self-imposed, some communication errors and some missed checks, that type of thing. Just bottom line, not being on the same page."

On the status of Linebacker Will Compton and Offensive Lineman Spencer Long

"I'll know more tomorrow. He has no brakes or anything like that. We'll find out more about it after a night's sleep and once the doctors assess it in the morning. I don't think it's anything long-term. Spencer Long is fine."

On the play of Safety Daimion Stafford

"I think Daimion played really well. He's a physical guy. He's an excellent tackler and he's someone that I think is right in there. He's playing pretty good football, and I think he's only going to continue to get better as he continues to get more repetitions and gets more comfortable in the defense."