

Nebraska vs. Tennessee at Chattanooga (Sept. 3, 2011)

Nebraska Player Quotes

Junior Place-kicker/Punter Brett Maher

On how his nerves were:

"They were pretty good. I was happy that coach had the confidence to let me try that (a 50-yarder) for my first kick, and I was lucky enough to put it though."

On if he could imagine his first day going any better:

"I was pretty blessed to have a pretty good day. I didn't really have a lot of ups and downs, but I know it'll come throughout the year. Just have to keep working hard to try and duplicate that every week."

On what it's been like replacing Alex Henery:

"I think it provided me with some motivation, but at the same time I understand what a great career he had, and to go out there and expect to have a career like him is probably a little bit farfetched. So I just tried to stay grounded. I was actually lucky enough to work with him some before he went to Philadelphia. He's a great friend and he's been a great mentor to me."

Sophomore Quarterback Taylor Martinez

On how things went:

"I would have hoped for the offense to do a lot better than what it did today. I don't think we came out very strong up front, and I think we have a lot to learn from. Hopefully the next game we do better."

On if his 19 carries were more than he expected:

"I don't even know how many times I ran. It was pretty much based on what the defense was running, that's pretty much how much I'm going to run the ball."

On if he put pressure on himself today after the offseason:

"I just came into the game as a normal game, hoping our young guys would step up and (do) a great job. I think our young guys, our young offensive linemen, and our young tailbacks and receivers did a pretty good job for their first game."

On if he felt more comfortable with some things as the game went on:

"I felt more comfortable with the game tempo and the offense. We've never really ran this offense before in a game. I think as a unit we got more comfortable as the game went on."

Junior Defensive End Cameron Meredith

On how it felt to play healthy:

"It felt great. As you said, the first game last year, I got hurt with my shoulder. It didn't really slow me down that much, but I was still hesitant making tackles. Since I got that surgery, I've been full speed ever since. It feels good."

On how he would assess the defense's play:

"I thought we did pretty well. Of course there's some stuff we have to correct. I thought for our first game it was pretty solid out there. I thought we played pretty well."

On if Chattanooga surprised them with anything:

"To tell you the truth, I thought they were going to do a lot of draws and screens, but we prepared for that pretty good. We didn't see any of that, we saw like one or two. But it really wasn't a big play for them. I thought we were well prepared. I thought the coaches prepared well for this game. I'm happy with the outcome, and I can't wait for next weekend."

On how much substituting was done on the defensive line:

"The first quarter, it was mostly ones. In about the third series, we started transferring people in and out. On third and long, we'd put Eric (Martin) in, or Josh (Williams) or Joe (Carter). We kind of put some people in for situations. I think it was about the third series we started putting a lot of people in."

On if he noticed Chattanooga's line focusing on Jared Crick and that freeing other guys up:

"I thought they were just worried about the D-Line as a whole. Not to brag or anything, but I just think we've been kind of been known at the University of Nebraska for a good defensive line. So I think they were trying to do some stuff to protect their quarterback; slide protection and pass stuff like that. I thought we defended it pretty well."

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Nebraska Player Quotes - Postgame

Freshman Wide Receiver Jamal Turner

On his first Husker game

"It was exciting. Walking out of the tunnel for the first time, it takes your breath away definitely. I'm just honored to be playing here at Nebraska. It was really exciting."

On what stood out to him today

"The fans. I would say the fans. They were awesome. I love it here."

On the play where he reversed fields in the fourth quarter

"I don't want to say it was a busted play, it was just a bad play with the defense they ran, and I just tried to make something out of nothing. I ended up cutting back and got tripped up, but I got the first down and that's all I was looking for."

On the transition from high school to college

"It was pretty hard, but we have a really, really good wide receivers coach, Coach (Rich) Fisher. He's always on me about details, small things. If I progress in the little details, I'll be a pretty good wide receiver. It wasn't too hard because we have some really good coaches. I adjusted pretty well."

Freshman Offensive Lineman Tyler Moore

On what he thought of the game

"What I thought of the game was a lot different from high school of course. Getting the start for the first time was a pretty nice thing. I had a lot of fun playing today and playing in front of 85,000, you can't have much more fun than that."

On what it was like before the game

"Lots of nerves, lots of nerves throughout the day, since I woke up just straight nerves the whole time. Luckily we were able to receive the ball, hit someone and finally get rid that. It was pretty nice."

On how he thinks the offense performed

"We did OK. We have a lot to do, and everyone knows that, coaches know, the players know that, and we just have to keep working."

Freshman Linebacker Trevor Roach

On his experience today

"It's something you want to do your whole life, and now being a part of that it's just a great feeling."

On the hamstring injury he suffered in fall camp

"It feels really good. It's 100 percent. It hasn't bugged me at all lately."

On how he thinks the defense played today

"We did good. We have to watch the film. It's hard to tell by just being out there and playing. Once you watch the film you can get a sense of it then."

On how nervous he was when he entered the game

"I was pretty nervous, but I knew I had a good set of guys around me. They helped me out a lot. I wasn't that nervous when I went in with them because I know they have my back."