

Nebraska vs. Fresno State (September 3, 2016)

Nebraska Player Quotes

Senior Quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr.

On his performance

"I was okay. Just a miscommunication with the receivers at one point. I threw it a few times when they didn't expect it. We ran a lot, but we've just got to make sure we're on the same page on certain things like that, but I missed a few guys here and there that could've converted third downs when we need it."

On the opening punt

"Honestly, it didn't really hit me until I actually looked out there and saw the support from the fans, how much impact was on the fans and things like that. It was an incredible feeling to know how much he meant to not only the team but the community and all of the fans that were out there so that was emotional for myself because every game he always talked to me and said 'keep me off the field, the only time I want to be out there is scoring field goals' and things like that so that was emotional out there for me looking out there and not seeing him. It touched my heart a little bit looking out there."

On the game as a whole

"We started off slow, we couldn't establish the run game. We didn't really know what to expect out of those guys, we kind of figured that would happen. They started blitzing us a lot more than we thought they would. We adapted to it late, came in at halftime and made some adjustments, and went out there and started off right on the kickoff. We didn't get that fumble but they got us a stop and we went down and got in the end zone. We opened up a lot to the receivers and when we get a chance to throw we just gotta make sure we complete them. There were a few times when I could've led the guys a bit more, but like I said, just a miscommunication with myself and some of the guys. Offensive line gave me great time to complete passes but in certain aspects of the game I have to make sure I am smart. Overall, I think we ran the ball great in the second half, the first half we just gotta make sure we're locked in and communicating well. We gotta line up like we wanted to. We struggled knowing who was on the ball, who was off the ball. We just have to make sure we fix that. Coach Langsdorf and all of those coaches are stressing on knowing how to line up, that's the first thing we gotta do, we struggled with that in the first half a little bit, it was kind of stressful at one point. We stuck together and we fixed it in the second half."

On the expectation of this year

"We can't go out there and say, oh, you know, this is new to me, I'm not really sure how to do it. We've got a year under our belt, our second year in the offense, it should be clockwork, knowing how to line up and call the plays the right away. There were times when I struggled seeing which signal or which direction we should run the ball, but at the same time you just gotta be able to respond the right way. We have to fix it, like I said, I don't think they should've stopped us a single drive just because the stats that we had with one or two third downs, that's great for the offense. You don't want to be stuck in third down. It just shows that we're only first down, second down, and then we get a first down, then we're moving the chains. We stopped ourselves in certain situations, illegal holding call, not covering guys up. We just gotta fix it. First game, bunch of young guys in there, but at the same time we've been working our tails off in the offseason to fix those mistakes. We've gotta take it serious and come out tomorrow and look at the film and make sure we're locked in and listening to coaches and just making sure we don't make those same mistakes next week."

How'd you keep yourself off the turf on the second touchdown?

"Honestly, I don't know. I just found myself on top of somebody and they kinda rolled me. When that thing happens, you roll with it. I just felt myself stay up and then all of the sudden I felt 300 pounds on my back, Tanner Farmer, and he was like 'I tried to stay off you, I'm sorry,' but I just tried to get in the endzone. I always say fight the extra yards, I definitely got close to the end zone and all my guys made blocks for me. I just wanted to keep fighting and luckily I stayed off the ground and Tanner gave me a little more room to get in the endzone."

Junior Placekicker Drew Brown

On the special formation dedicated to Sam Foltz early in the first quarter

"I don't even remember what I did. I was just, I was kneeling on the sideline. I guess I put my arms up. But it's gonna be something that I didn't want to plan, I just wanted to let this whole night just kind of develop itself and not have anything staged. You know it was a special thing, it was special seeing the entire crowd get up and cheer and give their wild applause. And especially Fresno State, I have a lot of respect for those guys because they were clapping and they were pumping up the crowd too. It was something special and I'm never going to forget it."

On the first extra point

"It was crazy because we started to do the swinging gate formation, and I couldn't be more proud of Zach (Darlington) too, with his first career game ever played. I don't remember it, I don't think Zach remembers it. That's the way it's meant to be. It was crazy not having Sam (Foltz) there, but at the same time I tried to do my job the best I could."

On being the first recipient of the Sam Foltz Scholarship:

"I don't even think I could put it into words. Sam was a guy I would do anything to model myself after. Being awarded something that's in his name means more than the world to me. He was my best friend. I'm never going to forget this night, I'm never going to forget that ceremony, never going to forget the crowd, standing up and cheering for Sam. Just having that award- it's so many other guys deserving on the team and knowing that I was the one that was picked, it's pretty special to me."

On bringing Sam Foltz jersey out on the field during warmups:

"It was special because the kickers, the punters and the snappers are always the first ones on the field for warmup, and me and Spencer (Lindsay) carried Sam's jersey. It was a cool thing because he was always one of the first guys out on the field with us and we just felt it was right to carry his jersey. They set up his locker with his pads and shoes and everything, me and Spencer just felt that his jersey should be out there with us just like he was watching over our head. It was a cool thing because everyone got to see it and everyone got to remember him."

On watching Spencer Lindsay getting a kickoff and an extra point

"It was cool. He's been putting a lot of work in this offseason, as has everyone. He's been through a lot with his life and I couldn't imagine going through the things that he did. Just to see him get his moments at the end of the game like that, it brings a smile to my face because he works just as hard as anyone, just as hard as I do. It's guys that don't get to play a lot, who don't get their names called very often, they're the guys that are the lifeline of this team. It was cool to see him get to go out there."

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Senior Wide Receiver Alonzo Moore

On the emotions tonight regarding Sam Foltz:

"It was tough, I kind of teared up a little bit, missing to have him punt. It was tough not seeing him back there. But I know, it was something we had to at the moment feel our feelings and then we're going after that."

On how Coach Keith Williams has helped his playing:

"He brought me a long way. Without him, I wouldn't be successful. I'm taking his coaching and putting it in the game. I kind of left one of the deep passes still on the field and that kind of got me frustrated right now that I left it on the field, but other than that I've learned a lot from him."

On Coach Williams' absence during the game:

"It was something that we went through practice, like we knew that we've got to get used to not hearing Coach's voice, so at the game time it was just normal, so we kind of got used to it during practice, but we miss him a lot."

On the day Coach Williams was at practice:

"It was great. That day that he came back, we had an excellent practice. We were running crisp routes, catching everything, doing everything that he taught us, I mean it was just great."

On the game and what to improve for next game:

"We've just got to fix the little things and keep moving forward. We can celebrate this one but we've got to come ready to work and get in the feeling tomorrow and we're going to be ready for the next opponent."

Sophomore I-Back Devine Ozigbo

On the offense taking awhile to develop:

"I just think it was a mindset thing because we knew if we did what we were supposed to do there was no way we were going to be stopped. Going into half we had some good runs but we just kept shooting ourselves in the foot and made it a close game. We came out with the attitude in the second half that we're not going to mess ourselves up. We are going to force them to stop us, and then you saw what happened."

On getting a feel for the game:

"Definitely [inaudible] getting a feel for the game, getting a feel for the defense, that was one thing. Once that happens you're comfortable, you're locked in, you understand they're going to attack you. Driving your feet, finishing runs, that's one thing the coaches harped on, so that's one thing we really focused on."

On the psychological affects of not being on the field for the first series:

"It's more physical. If I stay loose, I'll be ready. You [have to] stay locked in, Coach [Reggie Davis] preaches that. Stay ready, your opportunity could come at any time. That's one thing all the backs definitely are focused on. If your number is called you [have to] go up there and get your best run."

On getting 17 carries:

"It felt good. I honestly wasn't sure about the numbers. I knew they had to be all right but 17 carries is nice, I like it. Especially with Terrell [Newby], I know Terrell [Newby] had some good runs so as long as we're moving the ball on the ground, if I'm getting my carries I'll just do whatever I can with those."

On honoring Sam Foltz:

"That was crazy. I knew it was coming but something that heavy, I honestly teared up a little bit. This whole season's for Sam, so it's one thing we definitely have to focus on. That's one thing we talked about, [have to] finish off strong for him."

Kieron Williams Junior Safety

On proving himself:

"I feel like God has blessed me so much to even be here to play, so I think Coach Banker put us in the right situation and the right spot to be able to make plays. I just feel like we came out thinking we could win, and that's what matters."

On Fresno State's offense:

"With them having a whole new coaching staff we didn't really have film, so that played a part in it. But like I said, Coach Banker had us prepared pretty well, and I think it was just first game jitters. After we got over that, I think we played well. Fresno State played a great game tonight too."

On Lamar Jackson

"Lamar is a great player. I feel like the balls he couldn't make plays on were plays an older guy wouldn't even be able to make plays on. There's no big gashes that he had. He's a great player, and all of us are going to get better."

On playing the first game in front of a crowd:

"That's why we practice. So when we do get on that stage, we are always prepared for it. Like I said, our coaching staff prepares us very well, and it showed tonight, allowing us to have a great game."

On the interception:

"It's funny because my mom wasn't here tonight, and in high school when I had my first interception, she wasn't there either. So maybe she shouldn't come to my games. It's just a blessing to be able to play and make good plays."

On playing with emotion without getting penalties:

"You just have to love the game. I love this game, I've been playing since I was four years old. So that's the only way I know how to play this game. I think when you get unsportsmanlike conducts, it's because you're trying to be boastful about yourself. For me, I love the game, I don't love just myself."