

Nebraska vs. Illinois (Oct. 1, 2016)

Nebraska Player Quotes

Senior Safety Nathan Gerry

On how he would evaluate the first three quarters and how they turned it around in the fourth quarter

"The first three quarters we saw some things we had not seen on film yet. It was probably due to the bye week or whatnot, but we just saw some new things that we had to adjust to and make adjustments at halftime. The first couple quarters we could not tackle very well, giving up some weak yardage. Coming on toward the fourth quarter, we started making plays."

On his thoughts on the team's ability to make halftime adjustments

"This was probably one of the first games where we made more adjustments than normal. Like I said, they came out with some new stuff that we had not seen before. We had it toward the end of the third quarter. We tried doing different defenses, different calls on them, just to switch up things. Toward the end of the game, I think that probably helped us make plays and kind of throw them off guard a little bit."

On how it felt being on the sideline for an offensive drive that took nearly 30 minutes of real time

"It was tough. You want to stay in the game but it is hard staying out there for so long. That is how it felt for us the whole game, I feel like this is just one of the weirder games for us. We were not on the field as much. We saw a lot of things we have never seen before. It was just a different game. It was not the prettiest game, but we just have to move forward in this bye week and progress, and we have to come out swinging for the end of this Big Ten [schedule]."

On how he thought I-back Terrell Newby played

"I am always proud of T. Terrell, he is always one of those guys that always works hard. He reminds me of Kevin Maurice on the defensive side. He does not say much, but he is a leader. A lot of people look up to him like he is a hard worker and that is one thing that a lot of people admire about Terrell is that he keeps his mouth quiet, and he keeps his head down and keeps calm."

On what the defense did to stop Illinois in the fourth quarter

"Toward the end of the game I think we started to see things a little bit better. I think our coaches kind of understood what they were trying to throw at us. Just the adjustments we made from halftime, I think that allowed us to maybe line up a little better. I think we just covered things toward the end a little better and made plays."

On if there is a certain mentality that the team locks in at the end of the game

"It was one of the things that we focused on all offseason was finishing. Last year we lost six games or whatever it was to fourth-quarter games, and it was just one of the things we have been focusing on in practice and throughout the offseason was just finishing. I think so far we have done a great job in the fourth quarter, but we have got to put together a full game if we want to be an elite defensive group."

On how the team worked on improving its ability to finish games

"Just effort. Just one thing we always talk about, being a defensive guy, you do not have to know anything as long as you hustle to the ball and do your best effort, that is all you can ask for."

On how emotional it was being a captain for the special coin toss honoring Sam Foltz and Mike Sadler

"It was pretty sweet. It was a pretty cool moment, and I am glad they did that."

Sophomore Linebacker Dedrick Young

On the key adjustment in the second half

"I would just say being more sound in our scheme. Just doing what we need to do here and have a little missed reps on our part, we had to fix that."

On being 5-0

"It feels good, you know what I mean? we just have to keep doing what we are doing and get better and better."

On the more than 10-minute drive by the Nebraska offense

"Its huge when the offense is down there taking all of the time up and getting us rest. It plays a big part for us to stay fresh out there."

On his key pass break-up

"I saw my guy going a wheel route. And the ball was in the air and I just made a play on the ball."

On things to focus on during the bye week

"Probably our tackles. Tackling, scheme and just flying to the ball."

On the opposing teams running backs

"Just wrapping up and making our tackles for the most part. We missed a lot of our tackles in the first half. So just wrapping up and getting tackling."

On the more than 10-minute drive by the Nebraska offense (part 2)

"I think its huge for us and it keeps us fresh and offense is doing their thing going down and scoring touchdowns. I think it helps us knowing our offense is taking up a lot of clock, and we can go out there and do our thing on defense."

On the success in the fourth quarter

"I mean its good to be a fourth quarter team, but we need to play like that through all the quarters and not just go up and down and go up in the fourth quarter. I mean its good to be dominante in the fourth quarter, but I think we need it to be consistant through the quarters though."

On his performance

"I'm doing all right. I think I did a lot more things better this year than I did last year. Going to get after the ball, having better overall knowledge of the scheme of what I'm supposed to be doing."

On the defense

"I think we improved dramatically from last year. Just knowing the concept and everyone doing their part and doing their job and being sound."

On scoring in the fourth

"I think offense goes down and scores. We just have some mentality that we don't want anyone scoring on us in the fourth quarter. We want that to be our quarter."

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Senior I-back Terrell Newby

On 4th-and-1 play in 4th quarter

"It's a game of inches. They called it, and I just did everything I can to try to stretch the ball out. It's a game of inches, and we had one right there."

On Nebraska's 10-plus minute drive

"We just kept each other motivated. It's one of the things we work on throughout the week. We want to be able to drive down the field no matter how long it takes, whether a few big plays or a long methodical drive. We want to be able to keep it all together. And the end result: get in the end zone."

On his role after Devine Ozigbo's injury

"I knew I'd kind of have to carry the load from then on when I saw Devine [Ozigbo] with an ankle injury, but I accepted it and do everything in my power to get the victory."

On gratification from his 63-yard touchdown run

"I mean, it was wide open. It was a great push up front. It starts with the o-line. I think they did a great job, especially with a lot of guys going down. Real proud of them being able to go out there and show out. It started with them, and I was able to finish the run."

On the push of the offensive line in final quarter

"I think they started getting a lot of push. They started to wear those guys down. That's one of the things we take pride in. To see the defense getting tired, that's what we thrive on."

On the long run after many shorter runs

"That's one of the things we always say, 'Those short runs will start turning into long runs later on in the game.' So we keep at it, keep at it. It was good that it paid off."

On not being frustrated with shorter runs

"We'll never get frustrated with four, five yards a pop ever. We'll always take that. As long as we're moving the chains. Like I said, those four or five yards turn into big plays later on in the game."

On pride within Nebraska's senior class

"We all have a role. When our number is called we have to be able to be ready to play. So as a senior class, we want to be able to obviously win games, just do it big."

On hearing from former Husker and current NFL running back Ameer Abdullah

"Yeah I did. He texted me. He's really proud of me, so I'll probably call him later today."

On how Newby thinks he is playing this year

"I'm just trying to take it one play at a time, never get too high, never get too down on myself on anything. Take it one play at a time and let things happen."

On the performances of offensive linemen Corey Whitaker and Cole Conrad

"I think they did a great job stepping up. Like I said, I'm very proud of our offensive line. It starts with them up front. We get the running game going with them, so it's our jobs as backs to be able to make a guy miss or finish a run. I'm very proud of our offensive line in general how they stepped up."

On what to work on during bye week

"Obviously get healthy, a lot of guys are banged up. I think this is a great time for a bye week. I think there are a lot of different things we can work on: penalties obviously, ball security is a big issue."

On his favorite play in game

"My favorite play is probably getting that touchdown towards the goal line and getting that 4th-and-1. That was a big play, we definitely needed that. We had a good push up front. Like I said, I'm really proud of our offensive line, and how they stepped up with a lot of guys going down, veteran guys and those young guys stepped up."