

# Nebraska vs. Minnesota (Nov. 12, 2016)

## Nebraska Head Coach Mike Riley Quotes

### Opening Statement

"Well I suppose by this time of the year we can describe this as a typical Husker win. That probably would be appropriate with that game. Really proud of our team for finishing like that, proud that there were many times in the game that it appeared that it was going to be very tough to win. I think Minnesota is a tough-minded team who has gotten better and better all year long and made plays to win, had a balance with a good running game. I think the quarterback is a good player, hard to play against, made a lot of plays tonight. I think we just kept fighting until we won. Defensively, we just had a terrific second half. Offensively, we had those two touchdown drives that won the game for us in the second half. That was kind of how we've won games all year long and I think it has a lot to do with the mental toughness of our football team."

### On Tommy Armstrong Jr.'s start

"We always knew that if he kept moving through the protocol he was going to be okay. We were given, as it would happen in the protocol, the final okay today. Because, what they continue to do is see if he has any symptoms of any kind, so everyday that's what they do. Probably, before and after practice each day. It was before the game sometime this morning, I don't remember for sure."

### On Tommy's second injury

"That's a little scary, I don't really know anything about it but I heard it was a hamstring."

Follow-up: Was his injury earlier in the game an ankle?

"Yes."

### On Tommy Armstrong Jr.'s toughness

"You all know Tommy, you've seen him for years and he is very, very competitive and doesn't ever like to come out of the game and always thinks he's going to make the next play, which I really admire about him."

### On the seniors

"I really have a lot of respect for those senior, you could just name them. I think Alonzo Moore made some plays, Terrell Newby and Kevin Maurice, Josh Banderas have just been terrific. There's a really good core of those seniors, I'm really glad I've gotten to coach them. We're going to try to finish this year off as best we can for everybody, but especially for those seniors."

### On Jerald Foster

"I think he was unbelievably comfortable having been gone for so long and I'm excited for him. I'm looking forward to seeing the film and seeing how it went and seeing how we can help him and the rest of the line just continue to grow for the next ball game. It's great to have him back, it's great to have a little depth there. Sam Hahn shouldn't be forgotten, he was a tackle and he has played guard for us all year and did a nice job. It might be that he's called up again, but it's good to have Jerald back."

### On Jerald Foster keeping up with the game

"Didn't really know, we were just going to let it ride and see how he did and we were going to give him a break if he needed it."

### On moving on from Ohio State loss

"Well I think that the biggest hurdle that we had to overcome was the mental part of absolutely getting beat like we did a week ago. I think it's very important to state that. That is absolutely the biggest hurdle. I was worried that this team, who had won four in a row. We came off of two losses, one a real-bad loss. It should be pointed out that that combination doesn't feel really comfortable except with this team. I really had faith that this team would come back and play, and they did."

### On seeing the weight of losing two straight

"I did see this during the week. What I did see was that nothing changed from the past. They were consistent. This team likes the fact that, I think every day when I go out there with them, that I notice that. I think they appreciate the work and like to get better. That's what I noticed, that they were the same, and that's good news."

### On halftime message to running backs

"What the guys did was they came up with what we had to go out there and make happen. Just a couple of runs for the tailback, basically. We had to go out there and make a statement like 'we got to do this,' otherwise the combination of just only running or just throwing probably wasn't going to do that. We had to add that other part and it was good that we did. Boy, I thought Newby made some great runs."

### On 12 men on the field

"Oh, I was so disappointed in that. I absolutely hate that. It was so stupid. And we got the defense on and not enough people came on. Junior high. Junior high teams can do better than that."

### On second half defense

"I thought that was major league football in the second half. I like that team, Minnesota. I like what they do offensively and I think they hold the running game, the running backs down, like we did, the quarterback run has hurt people badly. I thought we did a nice job there and I think the hardest part was covering that #82 (Drew Wolitarsky). He was a good player but I thought we played real good defense in the second half."

### On going for a first down on 4th-and-1 in second half

"I just was confident we were going to make it. A lot of it was we needed a touchdown there."