

Nebraska vs. Maryland (Nov. 19, 2016)

Nebraska Player Quotes

Senior Wide Receiver Jordan Westerkamp

On quarterback Ryker Fyfe's performance

"Ryker played out of his mind. It was awesome having him back there. We were real successful in all areas of the game today. It was just a great team win for us."

On making sure Ryker Fyfe is as stress free as possible

"It's extremely important, especially a guy [Ryker Fyfe] who doesn't have a lot of experience so to speak. To get in there and to make some plays right away and to just get after it was a huge confident booster to Ryker and to all of us."

On senior day emotions

"It was emotional. I was trying to hold back the tears when they were doing the senior walk outs there. It was tough. So many memories here in Memorial Stadium, it's been such a great experience for me because of everybody here involved, the fans, you guys, everybody. It's been an unbelievable journey. It was great to kind of go out with a bang today and to have a good home game."

On being last in line for senior ceremony

"It was tough, I was trying to hold back the tears, as each person was getting announced it just kept getting worse and worse and harder and harder. Then finally going out there and seeing Coach Riley smile, I was like 'aw this is tough'. It was great. It was a great ceremony. This class is going to be remembered."

On playing at Memorial Stadium

"Just the experience, just the overall experience and everything involved. The captains kind of held back today. We wanted to do the tunnel walk with the team. That's something I'll never forget. Every single time I do that tunnel walk, it's unbelievable and you're walking up to 90,000 fans who are there every single home game. It's the support we have is second to none and it's been an honor playing here."

On his performance today

"It was great to have some catches, make some big plays. There's so much more that went into it, obviously Ryker's [Fyfe] playing out of his mind, this line was holding up well, the other guys were obviously making plays left and right. It was just a great team win to put us at nine and two."

On his touchdown

"It's a play we put in earlier. Normally, you'd hit the other guy, Stanley [Morgan Jr.], I believe was who was there, how'd they played it where they switched off, worked out well because I was running sort of an inside slant and Ryker [Fyfe] put it out to where only I can get it. Next thing you know it's a touchdown. It was a great read by Ryker."

On Tommy Armstrong not playing

"I'm sure it was extremely hard for him because obviously he didn't know last week's game was going to be his last home game. He's had a great positive attitude, total support for everybody and that's just who he is. We are all looking forward to getting him back."

On beating Iowa

"It would mean the world. It would keep us in contention if something happens with Wisconsin, obviously losing. It would mean the world to us to go out to Iowa and to get another win. Such a huge turnaround from last year. We're so proud of everybody involved. We just want to keep winning and to keep this thing going."

On the senior class

"There's been a lot of adversity we've had to go through. Top to bottom, everybody in this class, to come out and to have the season that we are having, it's awesome. It's awesome that guys are able to get through tough times and come out here and we're having a great season so far. We just want to keep that thing going."

On Sam Foltz' commemoration

"A couple days ago they kind of went over protocol and what we were going to do out there on the field. Obviously, we were thrilled that we were going to be able to have Mr. and Mrs. Foltz on the field and be able to see them and hug them. It was emotional. It still hurts this day. Obviously, we miss Sam [Foltz] like crazy, and we love him so much. He's still out there with us."

On the cutout of him

"Family. I was probably 12. This was the first. I saw it coming out after halftime. I saw them screaming and I was like oh my goodness."

On being Tommy's security blanket

"I take a ton of pride. When it's third down you have to raise the level up a 1,000 notches and make a play, first down, or whatever it might be. But I take great pride in that."

Senior I-back Terrell Newby

On starting strong with Ryker Fyfe:

"We had a lot of confidence in Ryker this week, pumping him up, having him go out there nerves free, just be able to play his game. I think he did a good job at that today."

On Fyfe overcoming Purdue loss last year:

"He's a player. He makes a lot of plays throughout practice. Like you said, a lot of people don't get to see. He just goes unnoticed. That's why on the offensive end we weren't worried to have Ryker back there behind center this week."

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On his own performance:

"It feels great. Definitely wanted to go out the right way, send the seniors out the right way. I think as an offense we did a great job up front. Like I always say, it starts with them. Definitely a great senior day for me."

On great run in third quarter:

"It always feels great. That's one of the things we always talk about. Keep knees going up. Keep fighting. I never want to go down easy."

On finishing undefeated at home:

"It means a lot. We have great support with our fan base. I think it means a lot to us to go undefeated at home. Whenever we come out here we feel very confident."

On what to expect in a game against Iowa next week:

"Just physical. It's going to be a really physical game like it always is. It'll probably be cold. Just go in there expecting that, come out and play our ball."

On pregame senior tributes:

"Emotions were real high, especially after Sam's tribute. Obviously he meant a lot to us. We'd do anything to have him be out there and just participate in Senior Day. Like we have all this year, we dedicated this season to him. He's with us every down, every play, and every game."

On what changed for him throughout game:

"I think just establishing rhythm, getting it going. Started seeing things better. We started getting a real good push up front, and things started opening up."

Senior Linebacker Josh Banderas

On his last home game

"It's pretty emotional in the beginning. Getting called out with all the seniors. (It) kind of was the last time running out of the tunnel walk for good. It was a pretty emotional day but you got to move on and I was able to take it all in with no regrets here at the stadium. It was a good career and I'm appreciative of everyone that's been around me."

On the senior class

"Group of seniors who were able to stick together through everything we went through and come out the way we wanted to. It shows a lot about the character and really the heart that this group has. I'm proud to be a part of it."

On Ryker Fyfe as the starting quarterback.

"100 percent confident. You don't want to see Tommy get hurt and you want him to be out there because he has been your guy for so long but everyone has confidence in Ryker [Fyfe]. No one even really batted an eye, we knew he was capable of doing things and he proved it out there today with how well he can run an offense."

On Maryland's rushing yards.

"That was the whole thing. If we could stop the run and make them one dimensional and have to beat us through the air, then we would ultimately come out on top. So we did what we needed to do, except for that one screen. It was a pretty flawless day"

On the defensive effort

"It was a great day and they barely had any rushing yards but at the same time they still had rushing yards. So there are spots that we can clean up in the rushing game obviously against the screen and a little bit of the passing game. There are a ton of areas for improvement. We can do it, we have the guys to do it. We're guaranteed one game left to do it. We'll go get it done against Iowa."

On beating Iowa

"It means everything. Iowa hasn't been an easy team. I've only personally beat them once. It would be nice to end on a tie. To finish off a season like this after all we've been through, to beat them at their home would just mean an unreal amount to this team. Send the senior out right, the work that my teammates have put in that's the deserving way to go out."

On his emotions in the pregame ceremony

"I think it's one in the same. I think Sam [Foltz] was a brother to us, one of our best friends. To celebrate all of us moving on to the next phase of our life and knowing that Foltzy is up there watching us. It's a very emotional time. But there is no way better than to spend it that with your brothers and go out there and fight on the field."

On his legacy

"I don't know, I guess I'll have to come back in a couple years to see if anybody even remembers my name. But we'll see, we can't say for sure."

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Senior Quarterback Ryker Fyfe

On his emotions about the game and when he found out he'd be starting

"I found out last Sunday, they really told me and they just said, prepare all week and get yourself going, and I started leading us on offense. It was a nice week just being certain, knowing I was going to play, and get in rhythm with receivers and just with the whole offense as a group, so it was a good week of practice and it showed in the game."

On how bad he wanted to prove he could lead Nebraska after the loss against Purdue last year

"I wanted to for sure get a win today and it was my last home game, first start, so I put a lot of pressure on myself to go out there and just play as hard as I could and make sure we got a win no matter what. So I thought we did a good job with it."

On whether this game was a redemption game

"I mean, a little bit. Obviously, you want to come out and play well and get a win, and not lose to teams like Purdue, I mean, that was a tough one last year, but yeah, for sure, I came out playing hard this game and made sure we got the win."

On his emotions honoring Sam Foltz for the seniors' last home game

"I knew it was going to be a tough day, a lot of emotions and obviously, this should be a game that I should be walking out with Sam at my last game, but I knew he was with us, with me, in spirit. It was nice seeing Jill and Gerald (Foltz), his parents, before the game, they talked to me, gave me a hug and said, 'He'll be with you out there, just go out and play hard,' so it was fun."

On how much easier it is for Ryker because he has a wide receiver like Jordan Westerkamp to rely on

"I thought he did a good job catching the ball and when they went man, I would just get him the ball and he'd go up and get it, so he did a good job, made his own great catches out there."

On if there was a point he started to settle in or if it was like that from the start

"After we got that first touchdown, I started settling in. Moving the ball pretty well and had some easy throws, got some quick completions, got the confidence up, so thought from the start we, you know, after that first touchdown, I was like, we're ready to go."

On the running ability he showed in the game

"I'm no Tommy [Armstrong Jr.], but I can fork out a run sometimes if I have to. Play breaks out, guy comes up the middle, you've just got to run, so I guess I can do that a little bit."