

Nebraska vs. Iowa (Nov. 25, 2011)

Nebraska Player Quotes

Sophomore Quarterback Taylor Martinez

On Rex Burkhead's performance

"He's a great back and obviously he came out and played for us today. He did a really good job and I'm proud of him."

On if he saw this kind of performance coming from Rex throughout the week

"He didn't practice very much this week so I didn't really know if he was going to play or not. I'm glad he came out and played, and our offensive line did an amazing job of blocking for him too."

On the long offensive drives

"I think we really needed to keep the ball in our hands to keep their offense off the field, and I think we did a good job at that today."

On if the defenses are stronger in the Big Ten than other conferences

"I would say a little bit, but there's not much difference."

On the senior class

"I'm glad we sent them out with a win. I love all the seniors and I'm really going to miss them."

Senior Safety Austin Cassidy

On how bad the seniors wanted this game today

"It was a big deal today. Not only was it the first of this rivalry game, we had to start it off on the right foot, but for people in my senior class it really meant a lot. Especially playing a team like Iowa. A team that is obviously very good and a team that a lot of these guys rooted against growing up. It was fun to go out there and win. Obviously we wanted to win bad. We wanted to end up with a goose egg on the board, but it didn't end that way. It went pretty well for us today."

On if he has reflected on the changes that he has gone through while at Nebraska

"I can't really say that I've sat down and really reflected on it. I think it will probably all hit me after the bowl game. It's been a wild ride. There's been some good times. There's been some bad times, but through it all I had those guys in the locker room. They had my back and I had theirs. That's something that I'll never forget."

On if he notices when the offense has the ball for double the time the defense is on the field

"Yeah, I think you do. I know when we're sitting on the bench a while Coach (James) Dobson, our strength coach, always says, 'You guys have been sitting around for a while, make sure to you are loose, make sure you're warm.' At least he's reminding us, but it's nice to get off the field and get our legs underneath us. A lot of that is on us. We have to get three-and-outs and put our offense in position as far as field position is concerned to do the things that they want to do."

Junior Running Back Rex Burkhead

On how his body feels after the game

"A little sore. Definitely a little sore, but it feels good. It was a great win to have the seniors go out that way and in that fashion. That's the thing that feels the best about the game."

On if he thought he could carry the ball 38 times today earlier this week

"Yeah, absolutely. Whatever Coach (Tim) Beck wanted to do and the team needed me to do I was ready for. That happened to be the game plan today, kind of pound the rock and get off play action passes when we needed to. The offensive line did a tremendous job up front, Tyler Legate at fullback, tight ends and the wide outs out wide did a tremendous job opening up holes."

On the conversation with Coach Brown about not wanting to go in for the 38th carry

"Yeah, I heard there was one more carry to get the record. I didn't want to have to do it in that fashion really. I thought it was not a good way to get it, just taking a knee, but after the first play Marcel (Jones) and the rest of the lineman came up to me and told me they wanted me to do it for them because they would be a part of it and they were seniors. So I said, 'alright I'll do it for you guys.'"

On how much the senior class motivated him this week

"Oh, a ton. Especially late in the year, a little banged up. They put so much time and effort into this program since they've been here. All those guys. It's a great senior class and I was very motivated to go out and play for them."

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Nebraska Player Quotes - Postgame

Senior Cornerback Alfonzo Dennard

On how much he looked forward to the challenge of Marvin McNutt this week

"I'm a competitive guy so I wanted to go against the best every single time. When they told me I was going to go against McNutt the whole game I just said I'm up for the challenge."

On if he told him he was going to be on him all game

"No, I didn't tell him that. I'm not a big junk talker. I just go out there and play."

On if that was the plan to go with Marvin McNutt every play

"Yeah, everywhere he goes the coaches just told me to follow him."

On if he looked at today as an audition for pro scouts

"I'm in college right now, so I'm just trying to go out there and play my college life. I'm not looking forward to the NFL. I'm just trying to go out there and play my game and shut him down."

Senior Linebacker Lavonte David

On what it means to go out a winner at home

"It's big. You see a lot of guys playing with passion and things like that. The crowd just cheering you on from the first snap to the last snap was big. I'm really going to miss this place."

On his forced fumble

"I felt the guy push off and I kind of got angry as I was going down and I was like I have to do something to make up for this. I didn't know they threw the flag for pass interference. I just saw the ball hanging out and I took a shot at it. Fortunately it turned out great for us."

On what he said to Rex Burkhead after the game

"I just told Rex I'm proud of him. I'm proud of him. He's been working hard here since day one, working hard. I know I'm an older guy, but I kind of look up to Rex because of the things he does day in and day out. He's a great football player."

On Burkhead calling him the best he's ever played with

"It means a lot because I feel the same way about Rex. I've never seen a guy work as hard as he does. I have to go against him every day in practice and he's a challenge. He's a great guy. He's a great football player, and I think he's going to have a long career."

On his career

"I think my career has been great. It isn't over yet. We have a bowl game left. I think the coaches here are great coaches. Even though I've been with Coach (Ross) Els for one year, (former linebackers coach) Coach (Mike) Ekler was a great guy. I think Coach Els was a perfect coach for me."