

Nebraska Postgame Quotes vs. Ohio State (Oct. 8, 2011)

Head Coach Bo Pelini

On how this game ranks for him

"I've been a part of some pretty great ones. That's up there. I'm proud of our football team, I'm proud of the character on our team. They just kept fighting. We've got a lot to fix. We've got a lot of areas we can get better at. I think our kids showed a lot of character. I'm proud of that group of guys in the locker room."

On the mood in the locker room at halftime

"Our mood was we're going to go win this football game. I think a lot of guys were disappointed. We were our own worst enemies time after time after time in the first half. Especially defensively, but even offensively I thought we left some drives out there. We stayed the course. That's kind of the motto of our program. It's about the culture, it's about the process, about staying the course. There was no panic. I'm proud of how they came out and played the second half. I give Ohio State a lot of credit. I thought they played one heck of a football game."

On the importance of the Lavonte David-forced fumble

"That was a game-changing play. That was a huge play in the football game. He's been doing it since he got here. He's a heck of a football player."

On the play of quarterback Taylor Martinez

"Taylor played his butt off. He's one of the leaders on the team, and I'm proud of him. Everyone wants to doubt him. Whatever. You guys can choose to write whatever you want and attack him like the fans will, and now they'll praise him. But I told him, you're not as bad as you think you are. There was a lot of things he can do better out there tonight, but he kept fighting, he led the team, he played a heck of a second half. I'm proud of how he responded, how he played. That's why he's the starting quarterback right now."

On the play of running back Rex Burkhead and the offense

"Rex plays like he always does. He's a heck of a football player. Great football player. I thought our offense played phenomenal. I thought Coach (Tim) Beck and the offensive staff made some great adjustments in the second half. I thought Tim called a phenomenal game in the second half. Like I said, it was a team effort."

On what cornerback Stanley Jean-Baptiste brought to the defense

"He came in and we were struggling there. Stanley came in and made plays. He went in there and made the interception, he played really well. He did some really good things for a guy who hasn't played much corner."

On what Ohio State quarterback Braxton Miller was doing to hurt NU early

"Making our guys miss. We didn't tackle very well in the first half. Like I said, it was one guy after another in the first half missing a tackle here, a tackle there, a missed assignment here. We had a lot of breakdowns, but we shored them up, we got better as the game went on. I thought it helped us obviously that Miller went out, because I think their game plan was built around him. That kid was playing a heck of a game. I give him a lot of credit. I hope he's OK."

On if it's a good time for a bye week

"Yeah, I think our football team, it's about halfway. Our football team is ready for a bye and I think they need a break, mentally and physically."

On what the key is to seizing momentum

"We played better football. We executed. That's what the game comes down to: execution. It was the same group of guys that played the second half that played the first half. We executed better in the second half. We didn't execute very well in the first half."

On how it feels to beat his alma mater

"It's not about me. It's about our football team."