

November 11, 2013



An interview with:

COACH KINGSBURY

Q. What is the energy like in your locker room right now with most of the players?

COACH KINGSBURY: It's good. Disappointed with the way we played, I think, but luckily we have two more opportunities, and I think it's against two teams we know very well and both fan bases get excited for these games, so I think that's helped move past the last couple weeks and on to what we have ahead of us.

Q. What is your plan to try and rectify the difficulties in stopping the rush? Can you talk about that?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, we're looking at all angles. Personnel is one thing we've hit on, and schematically just have to get better. There is no easy answer. We've tried to rectify the last three weeks and haven't had an answer. So we'll try to figure it out this week.

Q. Some of the technique, have they sort of lost or moved away from the fundamentals that they were doing so well?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, it may be. In some instances there were some new guys in there playing. But you've got to give the teams we played credit. They're good teams with good schemes and good players. Especially last week I thought they just moved us around.

Q. After watching the film, are there going to be any changes made to the starting lineup?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, yeah. But we'll figure it out this week and go from there.

Q. Have you settled on who is going to start at quarterback?

COACH KINGSBURY: No. That's an interesting position to be in week 11 and still have that going on. We'll get them both reps and see how it goes this week and then trot one of them out there.

Q. Michael Brewer?

COACH KINGSBURY: We'll see. We're going to try to get him some more. He hasn't got a ton, so at times, I didn't know if it would be fair to throw him in there and just let him go. So we'll see how he looks this week and take it from there.

Q. What percentage of the snaps here in practice do you give to the guy that is going to start that week?

COACH KINGSBURY: It varies. It varies. We try to get a bunch to both quarterbacks. But it just varies week to week depending on game plan.

Q. What are Baylor's weaknesses?

COACH KINGSBURY: That's a good question. Still trying to find them. You turn on the tape and every time it flashes the scoreboard it's always 63-7 or 70-14. So it's really hard to find film that you see as useable game film because a lot of the times their back-ups are in and the game is out of hands. They're solid in every phase and playing with a ton of confidence right now.

Q. On the subject of the Lone Survivor Foundation, what was your idea of picking that foundation to support?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, they picked us, which was neat. Marcus Luttrell had some friends or family that went to Texas Tech so was very familiar with the university and picked us to do that Under Armour game, and our players got to hear him speak and watch the movie. So it was a great deal for our players to be part of that.

Q. With just this one event, what can we expect in the future for great events like this happening at Texas Tech?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, hopefully there are more. Usually they tell me I'm doing it, and I roll with it. I don't have a ton of say. That's from the higher ups. But that was very unique for our players to be around Marcus and hear his story.

Q. Have you sat down with Matt and gone through film and talked about how you'd like to see things change? How has he responded?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, he's been great. We got what we've got, so I think all those coaches are doing a tremendous job working and trying to put people in position to be successful and that's all can you do is put them there. If they can't make the play, we've got to find somebody who can so that's kind of the point where we're at.

Q. That's probably the frustrating part is knowing what your problem is and trying to figure out how to fix it?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, yeah, that's part of football. This time of year, everybody has issues. We're just trying to sort through them.

Q. What is (No microphone) situation?

COACH KINGSBURY: We'll see. Hopefully, he responds. He responded really well to treatment last week, and hopefully he does even better this week and can get out there for a few snaps. But as of right now, we're not sure how he's going to feel once we get out to the practice field.

Q. Did he do anything on the field last week?

COACH KINGSBURY: He did not. He did not. He did some running and rehab, so we'll see if he can do it this week.

Q. Are you going to talk with the quarterbacks about let's stem this tide of turnovers because it's played you all season long?

COACH KINGSBURY: It has. Once you play the better teams and you lose the turnover battle, it's going to be a tough time winning the games. They're young. That's part of the process and our system. You have to grow with it. But at

this point in the season you'd think some of those could be eliminated.

If we can protect the ball it will give us a much better chance of winning these games.

Q. Looking on film, was Baker doing something that you noticed on film that kind of got the team going in particular?

COACH KINGSBURY: No, I think he just came in and tried to execute the offense and moved it around and made some plays. He was under duress. They had a good front and he did a good job keeping some things alive, took some sacks he can't take. But I didn't notice any certain spark or anything like that.

Q. Is there something in practice that you do to fix these -- try to fix these mistakes?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, we coach hard. Yeah, that's about it. I don't know any other way to do it.

Q. (No microphone)?

COACH KINGSBURY: I wish I had it. If I had that, we wouldn't be here now answering these questions.

Q. We've heard the word undisciplined thrown around. How do you handle that word?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, people can say what they want. When you start losing, that word gets thrown around, but we're doing the best we can. I think our kids are playing really hard. A lot of those penalties are effort penalties, so you're going to live with some of those.

Q. On a personal level, it had to feel great starting 7-0. How are you feeling about these three games?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, I'm good. It's part of football. We knew the type of team we had going in and the area that's we had to improve upon, and we still know those. We just have to keep working and have two really big games left. I'm excited to see how our team reacts.

Q. So you're not looking at it as a book end as the end of the season. You're looking beyond this season to the future?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, I think coming into it, it's always a process. We just wanted to get better with each week. We feel like

we've done that to an extent. We've got to eliminate those mistakes, those turnovers, and we'll be right there.

Q. This could mark the last game with the Baylor series in Dallas. Would you rather be home at home or do you have an opinion on that one way or the other?

COACH KINGSBURY: I think it's a neat experience for our players to go to Cowboy Stadium and play there. I haven't been a part of it, but from their accounts they really enjoy it. I'd like to see it stay there.

Q. Coach Briles was a running backs coach here when you were playing quarterback. What is your relationship with him?

COACH KINGSBURY: Really good. He's a guy I've always looked up to, and admired. The way he handles his programs, coaches his players and has been successful at every level. So he's as good as it gets in this profession.

Q. With the talent at receiver, do you think you have some unique match-ups to challenge Baylor?

COACH KINGSBURY: I hope so. They're playing really good as a unit. They feel like they have two corners now that can walk down and man people up which allows those safeties to roam around. On tape people haven't been able to do much in the passing game. So that's kind of our specialty. Hopefully we'll be able to attack in some areas.

Q. What was the issue with Davis on Saturday after the four series and after watching it on film, what were the minor things that you pointed snout?

COACH KINGSBURY: Just a couple mistakes that were uncharacteristic of the way he plays the game and some of the things he did. I thought he moved the ball well at times. They were just freshmen mistakes. But doing things in the game he didn't do in practice. So I wanted to sit back, take a look at it from the sideline and get that view for a little bit and see if that corrects it.

Q. (No microphone)?

COACH KINGSBURY: Just misreads, things of that nature, yeah.

Q. As a coach, what is your thought process like when you decide to put in another quarterback, particularly when you're working with a couple freshmen?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, it's tough because I think they're both playing at an astounding level for being true freshmen, as much as we put on them. So you don't want to discourage them, and they know that. We tell them we're going to do what's best for the team. But I couldn't be more impressed by the way they've played this year. We've got a bunch on them, and they've been in adverse situations and conditions and hung in there and made a bunch of big plays. So really encouraged by both of their progress this year.

Q. You don't have reps for Michael Brewer for game time? What is leading to the lack of reps and keeps him out of that in practice?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, just point where we're at in the season. We feel like watching Baker and Davis progress and where they're at. It's just not fair at this point to put Mike in until he gets caught up and gets to that level. He's a very talented kid and just has to get more reps whenever we can find time.

Q. Have you contemplated paperwork for a medical red-shirt for Michael Brewer?

COACH KINGSBURY: I'm not sure what that entails at this point. That would be something after the year I'm sure we can look into, but I'm not sure how that works. I know we already red-shirted once, so I'm not sure how it works in his situation.

Q. What stands out about Seastrunk's running game that makes him better than most of the nation?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, just explosive. They do a good job of springing him outside. He likes to bounce a bunch of stuff outside, and when he gets on the perimeter, he's gone. Not many people in the country can run with him, so that is the biggest thing. Anytime he touches it, it's a home run threat.

Q. You guys have fended off people doubting you. When you saw that point spread this morning, is that something you remind the

kids about all week?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, I didn't see it.

Q. It was 28.

COACH KINGSBURY: 28, yeah, that's probably about right with what they're doing. They've beaten everybody by 70 so far. So that's probably about right. Yeah, we'll see. Like I said earlier, both fan bases get up with this game. They're very familiar with each other, and I expect our kids to play hard.

Q. Is there anything different that you do in the routine this week to change things up, make things fun, make things tougher?

COACH KINGSBURY: No.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports

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An interview with:

**JACE AMARO
KERRY HYDER**

Q. Can you take us through the sequence where you were taken off the field and you come back, kind of what the injury was and what was going on?

JACE AMARO: I landed awkwardly on my shoulder, and I felt like I broke something in there. I continued to play through it, and I just kind of -- it was one of those things where I just started hurting more and more throughout the game. It was tough for me to breathe, so I had to go up here and get X-rayed and they said I was fine. So I just came back and played.

Q. What did they say it was?

JACE AMARO: Just a deep bone bruise.

Q. What's the mood in the locker room?

JACE AMARO: Yeah, I think it's really good. We're having a tough time executing plays and going out there and just having fun. I think we're just stressing too much to try to win a game. I think we just need to go out there and do what we were doing the first seven games. Just playing relaxed and having fun out there.

Q. So instead of looking at the bowl game and winning the bowl game, just take it one game at a time?

JACE AMARO: Yeah, just going up to the games that we're telling ourselves we have to win, we have to win. When things go bad, everyone gets down on ourselves. That's just one thing we're -- we just are young and need to learn that losing is going to happen. We just need to make sure to have fun out there.

Q. After you came back you caught three passes pretty quickly. How did it feel after being back?

JACE AMARO: It hurt pretty bad. I just continued to play regardless what the score was. I just felt like I had to be out there and do it for my teammates and for my coaches. That's just the mindset I had.

Q. How do you relate that pressure of feeling like you have to win this game?

JACE AMARO: I don't know. We were 7-0, and we just haven't been able to win since then. I just feel like we've just put a lot of pressure on ourselves right now. I think that's what people are trying to do too much, and sometimes it just comes and hurts us.

I feel like we're a great team. These three games really haven't dictated how well we've played this season. It's just one of those things that we can get back on the road this game and pull off an upset. So I think that's where our mindset's going to be.

Q. Couple years ago Baylor kept you from going to a bowl game. What would it mean to keep them from going undefeated this season?

JACE AMARO: I don't think two years ago matters anymore. But I think that knocking them off from being undefeated will be a great accomplishment this season.

Q. The last couple years you guys have struggled the second half of the season. Do you see why that may be and do you think this team is maybe better equipped to break out something like that?

JACE AMARO: Yeah. I couldn't tell you. I just think that we have some bad luck with injuries. We're missing almost four guys and four starters on defense. We're throwing true freshmen out there that have never played a college game in

their life. I know if I was out there I wouldn't be doing much either if I was a true freshman. It's hard. It's hard to translate from high school to being out there and trying to make plays on defense.

I just think that offensively we're not giving the defense great positions to start out with. You can't be just going three-and-out on any drive we have in the game. That kind of kills the mood of our whole team. When we get down there, it's hard to come back. I know it's only the second quarter, but when we're down 28-10, it's just tough.

Q. It seemed like early on, the three-and-outs were in large measure as a result of passing that didn't look very accurate. They were high. They weren't run on target. Do you attribute that to the pressure Kansas State was bringing or inexperience?

JACE AMARO: I just think that Davis or Baker were just out there trying to make the perfect throw, when they could just make a routine practice throw. That just goes back to what I was saying. We're just putting a lot of pressure on ourselves right now, and it's making us make simple mistakes.

Q. That Lone Survivor Game was a great event for Texas Tech. How did you feel being able to participate in something like that?

JACE AMARO: I think it shows who the real heroes are and who gets the recognition out there. You have to think about how thankful you have to be for those guys out there. They do a great job. They don't get the recognition like some people may see it as. I'm sure grateful for what they do. So I think it's a great thing that we've done.

Q. Knowing that there is extra pressure on Baker or Mayfield or whoever plays quarterback, this coming week, is that something you or somebody else on the team might talk to him about?

JACE AMARO: I don't think it's just Baker or Davis. We're out there, playing hard, we're just getting too many penalties. I think just putting too much pressure on it. It's hard when we had such big expectations at the beginning of the season. Then you lose a couple games and it's like, man, everyone's down. We felt like we should have won the game in OU. We felt like we had a good chance of coming back against Oklahoma State.

I think it was more of a heartbreaking thing where we kind of just didn't know how to come back to it, and react to it. It's just one thing where we have to make sure we do a better job and making a good point that we're playing hard and we're a great team, and we're doing things well this season. Just keep on playing and don't put so much pressure on ourselves.

Q. Is there some self-doubt on how good the team really is after starting 7-0, and then you go up against tougher teams. Do you doubt that you're as good as you were?

JACE AMARO: No. Like I said, we had a great chance of winning both those games. Oklahoma State put it to a four-point game in the third quarter. We had a great chance of taking the lead in the third quarter. OU, we were just one stop away from making it into maybe even winning that game.

I think Kansas State was one of those things where the two games just kind of put it on us. We just didn't have the energy anymore. It's just been kind of rough these last few weeks.

Q. They got out pretty quick.

JACE AMARO: Yeah, they did a great job of really executing on their offensive side and stopping us and Keying on the key players on our offense and not letting us get going.

Q. Going up against a team like Baylor that can score easily and quickly, does that put more pressure on you guys to try to score and try to get the ball?

JACE AMARO: Yeah, I think we need to take every drive as a precious drive. It's not necessarily getting points every single drive, but getting the ball moving and making sure that we have positive yardage on every single drive. I think that's just one thing that we really haven't execute as well. When we go three and out, it's a bad mood swing for the defense.

We have put them in bad positions this whole year. They've really bailed us out a lot this season, and the offense hasn't done their job lately. In the past three games we've started so slow, and I feel like when we get behind, we really try to make a comeback and use everything we've got. I think it's just too little too late right there.

Q. Last week you alluded to Saturday

maybe being your last game at the Jones. Do you know in your head right now if it was or if it wasn't?

JACE AMARO: Yeah, I do.

Q. Can you talk about after the game and yesterday? Surely there were some deflated spirits?

KERRY HYDER: We understand that the last game we didn't play well on defense. I feel like we did a better job in the second half, but the first half we let them get too many points on us. We definitely didn't do a great job stopping the run. So we understood that. We understood that we have to play better on defense, and we have to be able to stop the run. The teams being able to throw the ball and run the ball, it's not going to equal the win. We understand if we play better, we can get off this losing streak.

Q. Why do you think it is that three weeks in a row you guys have teams coming at you, pounding the ball, running the ball? Why do you think it is that you guys can't stop it?

KERRY HYDER: I know it probably sounds repetitive, but we're making the same mistakes. We're not tackling well. We're having too many missed assignments. So as a defense, if we can clean up those things and tackle better, we can definitely cut down on this large rushing number we've been giving up the past three weeks.

Q. Do you attribute that to the pressure that Jace was just talking about or is that just not being focused?

KERRY HYDER: I'd say not being focused. We have guys that are fully capable of making the plays. But we're not making plays when it's time to make them. We're in the right positions, but we're not tackling well. Or we're not in the right position and they're going to break a long one on us. We're giving up too many yards after contact, and we have to tackle better in the next couple of games.

Q. What do you tell your teammates if they miss an assignment or miss a tackle?

KERRY HYDER: I don't try to get down on them too much. I let them know we have to play the next play. But we can't let these mistakes pile up. Somebody has to step up. After while it's getting repetitive. We're giving up too many yards and too many plays. I have to let them know that

it's not acceptable. Too many mistakes is not acceptable. You have to let them know to make the next play and play harder the next snap.

Q. How have the coaches been balancing it? You've been beat up and banged up. How have they balanced working on tackling, and hitting, and letting you get your legs back?

KERRY HYDER: They've done a great job with it. We're supposed to put ourselves in position to make the great tackle. Plus being in college, we definitely don't need to be banging every day like that. But guys know how to tackle.

It's about the will. We've got to be more willing to throw our bodies in there and make the tackles and wrap up. It's really fundamental things. Things that go back to playing in the school yard. We've just got to get back to the fundamentals of football, and that is tackling better.

Q. No easy task coming Saturday with some of the other runners that Baylor has. What will you do in practice this week to try to improve on those missed assignments?

KERRY HYDER: Just practice with more urgency and getting to the ball. As a group, we've got to surround the ball carrier especially with the talented runners they have on their side of the ball. So the key this week is to be gang tackling and definitely getting a lot of hats to the ball. If we can do that, hopefully we can slow down this offense.

Q. What does Seastrunk do? Does he do something differently from other running backs that makes him stand out?

KERRY HYDER: He's a good back. He's fast. He gets the hole and he breaks tackles. Any running back that's able to do that, they're a good back. So we try to get as many hits as we can on him and try to gang tackle him.

Q. What have you seen from Baylor offensive line?

KERRY HYDER: They're a good group. They protect their quarterback well. Seastrunk I think is averaging around 8 yards a carry or something like that. They're doing a good job in the run game also. It's not just pass blocking. I know it will be a big task for us and everyone on defense is up for it.

Q. From the players standpoint, you won't be here after this year, but from a player standpoint, did you enjoy what you've done in Dallas?

KERRY HYDER: I definitely liked playing in Cowboy Stadium. It was exciting. But I felt like with how intense the games are, I feel like we'll be more playing games at each other's stadium would definitely be something amazing for fans and mazing for college football if we can get that done.

I understand they have a new stadium they're building out there. It will be nice to get a chance to play in Waco for once since I've been here.

Q. (No microphone)?

KERRY HYDER: Yeah, definitely. Definitely get the fans involved. The fans definitely make the trip, but there is just something about playing on each other's campus. The atmosphere is definitely different.

Q. When it comes to all the event that's took place in this past game for the Lone Survivor, what is something special you took away from all those events?

KERRY HYDER: Just having them be with Marcus. He's really an American hero. You see these superheroes and stuff on TV growing up, and that guy is a real hero. Just being in his presence is definitely a blessing this past weekend.

Q. How much time did you spend around him?

KERRY HYDER: I know we watched a movie with him and he spoke to us after the movie. I got a chance to see him on the sideline and stuff like that. He definitely -- a lot of guys, it just is amazing. Everything he's been through, it's really amazing.

Q. What was his message to you all?

KERRY HYDER: Just fight for the person next to you. When you're out there on the field, when you start worrying about yourself and you're feeling down or you're hurting, just look at the man next to you and know you're out there fighting for him next to you.

Q. Is that something that you guys as a defense can take into the next couple games, what you heard from him Marcus and his

stories to keep on pushing through these next two?

KERRY HYDER: Yeah, definitely. We're going through some hard times right now losing three in a row. But we understand that we have another chance to play a big-time college football game, and that we have a chance to play again with our brothers, play another game out there on the field. Our players are ready for the game, and we're going to fight for one another on the field.

Q. Jace said he felt like there were times that the quarterback and maybe others on offense were trying to do too much and pressing. Do you get that sense that it's the same way for the defensive unit?

KERRY HYDER: Yeah, we're not letting the plays come to us. Guys are popping gaps and trying to do too much. It's hurting when they're popping gaps and able to gash us for a run. If everybody can focus their job and play their technique, everything will come together. We're doing too much right now. We're trying to make things happen that's not happening. So hopefully everybody just needs to do their job and everything will work out for the best.

Q. That's different from what's going on earlier in the year. Can you figure out what might have changed?

KERRY HYDER: It just goes back to guys just losing focus a little bit. Just trying to help out another guy. We're fighting for our brothers out there and we're trying to help him out a little bit and stuff like that. We end up giving up something. It goes back to focus. If we can really focus what we need to do, play in and play out, things will work for us. You see in the second half we played much better on defense. What is the difference between the second half and the first half? We've got to carry that same focus we had in the second half over to the first half of the game.

Q. Who is in charge of focus on the field?

KERRY HYDER: It's a group thing. We're telling each other focus on this. Make sure you do your job, even the coaches. We're constantly preaching that. It's going to get through. We've got some younger guys out there right now and they're getting used to the game right now. They're playing well. I feel like they definitely can

play better. I feel like this game, they'll be ready for.