

September 22, 2014



An interview with:

COACH KLIFF KINGSBURY

THE MODERATOR: Questions for coach.

Q. (No microphone.)

COACH KINGSBURY: We kind of covered this last week. He turned in his resignation. He said what he had to say. Really just leave it at that.

Q. What is the atmosphere like right now after this bye week? Talk about the atmosphere right now.

COACH KINGSBURY: It's exciting. A chance to start over really. Once you get to conference, nine games in front of us. Everything they want to accomplish and be a part of is in front of them. You're playing for first place Thursday night, you can't beat that.

Q. What have you seen from Mike taking over an expanded role in the defense so far?

COACH KINGSBURY: Relative to that, I'd say he's still himself, hasn't changed. Brings a lot of energy. Very positive. Good with the players.

Things won't change a lot schematically, or personnel. But every guy is going to have their different way of doing things. I think he's handled himself well. They've had good energy over there, had some good practices.

Q. (No microphone.)

COACH KINGSBURY: It will be a group effort. I'd say his voice will be stepped up some, but it will definitely be a group effort.

Q. With Mike, is this an interim basis deal or is he your guy this season moving forward?

COACH KINGSBURY: It's an interim basis, yes, sir.

Q. (No microphone.)

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, I don't think it does. I mean, it's not like we were playing very well on any side of the ball at that point anyway.

I don't think it hurt at all. I think our guys did a good job of refocusing. Like I said, we've had really good practices.

Q. Can you talk offensively what you worked on the most this past week to get ready for Oklahoma State?

COACH KINGSBURY: The biggest deal is protecting the football. If we won't turn it over. Last game, gave them the ball two times on the 10 yard line. We know they didn't need any help scoring points. Can't do that.

Got to continue to protect the football, continue to take advantage of opportunities, not squander drives like we have been doing.

Q. What are you expecting from Mike?

COACH KINGSBURY: Just to do the best we can. He didn't ask to be put in this situation. It's a situation that occurred. We all have to rally with the situation we have, what's going on.

He knows that. Just be positive, give the players a chance to be successful.

Q. Talk about the response from the players to Mike right now? Is it a good response right now?

COACH KINGSBURY: Players are resilient. They're a lot more resilient than the coaches are. Excited about this opportunity to play Thursday night on national TV.

Q. What are the biggest issues that this team presents for you?

COACH KINGSBURY: They're really good. I think people thought they would drop off. They lost a bunch of good players last year. But

these young players have stepped up, they haven't skipped a beat.

Watching them the first couple games, they all fly around. You saw that against Florida State. It will be a big challenge.

Up front, those guys gave us trouble last year. That whole group is back. We'll have to find a way to protect well and find a way to run the football.

Q. (No microphone.)

COACH KINGSBURY: I would say Saturday.

Q. (No microphone.)

COACH KINGSBURY: I don't remember. I think Thursday and Saturday. I think we took Friday off, so...

Q. (Question regarding Matt Brock.)

COACH KINGSBURY: He'll start coaching the inside linebackers. He's been helping with that side of the ball for the last two years. Now he'll be able to step into that position group and coach them.

Q. 2001, what do you remember about that game?

COACH KINGSBURY: It's a great place to play. I coached there twice, 2009, 2011, when I was at the University of Houston. 2008, 2009. It's loud, rowdy. Great facilities up there. It's an incredible place to play a football game.

Q. Can you talk about what you worked on with Davis this past week.

COACH KINGSBURY: He's got to do it, you know. He's had a good look about him. The big deal is just making sure how we're practicing translates over to the playing field.

Then, like I mentioned earlier, we have to protect the football. We can't put our defense in those situations. No more three-and-outs and squandering possessions because teams are going to hold onto the ball.

Q. (No microphone.)

COACH KINGSBURY: Just like his demeanor. He's obviously talented, but really watching him in person you can see the way he handles himself and his demeanor.

Q. To see a team from West Texas do what they did, what was your impression of that?

COACH KINGSBURY: A lot of fun to watch, the spirit they had, being a big underdog, the way they competed. They fought the entire game. Just watching their reaction. Fun to be out at high school games. Very pure atmosphere.

Q. (No microphone.)

COACH KINGSBURY: I think more than anything he throws it as well as anybody you'll see as far as mechanics, the way it comes out of his hand. Off-the-field stuff is through the roof, the type of leader he is, the type of kid he is. The way he handles himself off the field takes him to that next level.

Q. Oklahoma State likes to put up a lot of points. The perception is they throw it all around the yard. Is that a misperception? Do they take up more of the clock than people think?

COACH KINGSBURY: Definitely. They've done a great job incorporating the run. I think when Weeden was there, they had Blackmon, were really slinging it around. They've done a great job of bringing it back in, playing to their strengths. That's what they want to do.

Q. Does that almost make you want to take up some of that time of possession, run it a little bit more than you have?

COACH KINGSBURY: No. Just score more, I'd say. That's what we've got to do. We're not scoring enough. And we've got to protect the football.

Q. Is this a case for if the defense and offense plays a clean quarter, it gets the engine running? Maybe you haven't done that, but if you do that, things would change for everybody?

COACH KINGSBURY: You would hope so. We haven't risen up at the same time. Defense will get a stop. Offense will turn it over. Defense will give up a long drive, then the offense will score. But we can't put it together yet.

But there's some good stuff happening. We just got to do it at the same time.

Q. Is there any one thing that's been

the most disappointing through three games so far for you? Is it something different each game?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, I mean, every game to me, we haven't played as well as we can play. As a coach, that's what you're looking for. You want to see your team play well. It's not a lack of effort, we just haven't put it together yet.

Q. Is there sort of wisdom or advice you give Davis? You being a quarterback, being in those shoes, to help things slow down for him?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, it's all part of the process. I remember being a sophomore, getting booed off the field here. I remember Graham getting booed off the field here. It takes time to grow up. You got a lot on your shoulders. You just have to keep plugging away. We'll get it.

Q. (No microphone.)

COACH KINGSBURY: I'm not sure how they're handling that, to be honest. That's a compliance deal. We've talked through that. He has been cleared, but I don't know what you would call him at this point.

Q. Probably won't face a team quite like Arkansas in the Big 12. What can you do to stir up the run short of putting eight or nine guys in the box?

COACH KINGSBURY: I think just get better. We had eight, nine guys in there last week, and it wasn't working. We just got to get better, technique, fundamentals. If that's not working, we have to improve personnel. That's where we are at.

Like I said, I don't think it's lack of effort. We need to shore everything up.

Q. What do you feel is the biggest asset to have Mike down on the sidelines with you instead of up in the box?

COACH KINGSBURY: I'm not sure to be honest until we get him down there and see how it goes.

He brings a lot of energy, always positive. It will be a good vibe.

Q. (No microphone.)

COACH KINGSBURY: Great thrower of the football. I knew when he was coming out, you watch him throw it, he can really spin it. That's the

biggest thing. I thought he handled himself well having not played for a while, stepping n leading them to a win against a big team. You could tell the moment wasn't too big for him.

Q. (No microphone.)

COACH KINGSBURY: Just some text messages. I wish he could play. Other than that, I don't know what tips would help us. I wish he could play.

Q. No. 24 for Oklahoma State, putting him in a lot of different spots. Talk about his versatility.

COACH KINGSBURY: He is as dynamic a player as you'll see in college football. Explosive. They move him around, get the ball in his hands as many times as they can. He's a great player, difference maker.

Q. Is that a point of emphasis, that you don't get caught in a mismatch?

COACH KINGSBURY: You always got to know where he's at, always got to have a plan where he's going to be definitely going into this game.

Appreciate it.

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An interview with:

**JARED KASTER
SAM EGUAVOEN**

THE MODERATOR: Questions for Jared Kaster.

Q. What has this week been like for you guys, all the changes in the bye week?

JARED KASTER: An opportunity for us to get better. Put in the game a week earlier, trying to get your head right. Past the hard couple weeks we've had. Try to get everybody's mind right and get ready for Oklahoma State.

Q. What have you seen different in Davis from the end of last year to the first couple games?

JARED KASTER: His demeanor. Yeah, you could say he had a rough game, but he comes out wanting to be the best quarterback in the Big 12, in the nation. Nothing affects him. Just keep going.

As a quarterback, you want that in the huddle. You want a guy we can count on, step up, somebody we can believe in.

He's a totally different person. He's a quarterback that I see can be playing at the next level, and that's what you want.

Q. Can you talk about the offensive line in general. That's been a positive for the team so far this year.

JARED KASTER: Yeah, it has. We were put as we were probably going to be the weakest point as an offense. We took that personal and said, Hey, we want to come out and show everybody we put in this hard work during the off-season, that we really wanted to step up, take that as a, Look, guys, this team needs us, we got to give Davis some time.

We've taken it day to day trying to get better. Our goal is trying to be the hardest working O-line in the country. That's what we want to be.

Q. (No microphone.)

JARED KASTER: We try not to think about it too much because we kind of go out there and do our job every play. If that's what we do, good things will happen.

Kind of give Davis some credit, too. He kind of helps us out a little bit. But, yeah, you put in the hard work, you want to see good results with it, and we have.

Q. Seems like there is a lot of pressure on your shoulders.

JARED KASTER: We go out there, I mean, it's our job to give him time, to make his job a lot easier. That's what our job is.

But, yeah, no big deal. We go out there and we try our best to do what we can every day to make him a good quarterback.

Q. Defensive line seemed to give Florida State some troubles. What have you seen from the defensive line?

JARED KASTER: They're the same defensive line we saw last year. They lost one of their D tackles. They're probably going to be the best D-line we're going to see so far. They haven't changed things up since last year. They come out and play us hard. They're a very good defensive line, probably one of the best in the Big 12.

We'll come out there and play them hard and they're going to play us hard, so it's going to be fun.

Q. This rivalry, is that overplayed? Do you pay attention to that?

JARED KASTER: I don't know. You go out there. Once that first hit goes in, now you're starting to play again.

There's a little bit. You can kind of tell from going into that game last year. We're trying to

go in here. We haven't won in their stadium for quite a while. That's been one of the big emphasis. You can kind of see the rivalry a little bit.

Q. What do you remember about the stadium, what makes it a tough place to play?

JARED KASTER: I had a bad snap my freshman year. That's pretty much all I remember about that stadium (smiling).

The paddles, right there on you on the sideline. It's fun, a good atmosphere to play in. I'm pretty pumped to go there. My second year to play there.

Yeah, we want to go in there and win, but it's a great environment, that's for sure.

Q. (No microphone.)

JARED KASTER: You kind of think about it. But we're going in here, we want to play our best game that we can play.

Streak, no streak, you don't really think about that. It motivates you a little bit. You're not going in there to break a streak, you're going in there to play a game.

That's not the main goal here. The main goal is win, go 1-0 in the conference.

Q. How much pride have you taken in your ability to run the ball?

JARED KASTER: It's good. We take pride in that. As an offensive line, you want to go out there and be able to hit somebody, run the ball. We have a great handful of runningbacks this year.

That's always a point of emphasis with our kind of offense. You want to run the ball because it opens up so many things in the pass game. Obviously we throw the ball a lot. You want to get the run game going because it brings the linebackers down sometimes to bite on it.

It's good. Get that run game going, we just got to keep going from here and not stop.

Q. Talk about the challenge of what you have to do atmosphere-wise, all that.

JARED KASTER: You always want to do your best, obviously, in the game. For us, I think it's really trying to prove to everybody these first couple games we haven't played up to par. I'm speaking from than a offensive standpoint.

But yeah, you know, we haven't really played our best game since the season started. That's kind of a big thing. We want to go in there,

play, all 11 of us, play as one, not go out and play individual-wise, but play as one offense.

We play as good as we can, we'll be unstoppable. That's just how this offense is.

Yeah, I mean, that's a big thing, to go in here and to finally get a good game going so we can play good.

Q. Do you feel like you guys really need that game to kind of get you kick started? You've been close the last couple games. Do you feel you need a good stretch of offense to get this thing going?

JARED KASTER: Yeah, this will be a great opportunity to do that. Like coach said, this is an opportunity for us to go 1-0 in the Big 12 and get first place. That would be good. Oklahoma State is a really good defense. It will be a good standing point to see where we are offensive-wise.

It will be really good just to get the ball rolling.

THE MODERATOR: Thanks, Jared. Questions for Sam Eguavoen.

Q. Sam, what has this last week been like for you as defensive players?

SAM EGUAVOEN: Change. We've been trying to just keep our head up. The season is going to be a marathon. A lot of us, like me, we're used to change. We're just trying to rally.

Q. New coordinator. Nothing for you. What has the adjustment been like moving to Mike?

SAM EGUAVOEN: I mean, he's been making a few changes just by the way we line up. I mean, it's really just us as players, we got to tackle, we got to fake gap.

I mean, with a new defensive coordinator, I hope the players don't feel like, you know, it wasn't our fault for any of these losses. It was 100% our fault. But we're going to change that.

Q. (No microphone.)

SAM EGUAVOEN: Did it surprise me? It surprised all of us.

Q. How did you find out?

SAM EGUAVOEN: Twitter. Seeing all those tweets.

Q. (No microphone.)

SAM EGUAVOEN: You know, we just had a team meeting, right before our special teams meeting. He just broke the news to us. I guess it was like a team violation or something. I don't really know.

Q. (No microphone.)

SAM EGUAVOEN: Coach Kingsbury addressed the whole team.

Q. What has been the biggest change you noticed with Mike being in charge?

SAM EGUAVOEN: He's just more laid back. I don't want to say friendly environment, but it's less stress, less screaming. I mean, he comes to you like a man, not as a child or something.

Q. (No microphone.)

SAM EGUAVOEN: Are you talking about when coach was still here?

Q. Yes.

SAM EGUAVOEN: Coach didn't say much, but when he said something, we felt it.

Him stepping in, being the only defensive coordinator, wasn't just a huge change. I mean, we always listened to him on the side just as much as we did Coach Wally.

I trust Coach Smith, I trust my teammates. We're going to get it done this week.

Q. (Question about communication issues after the Arkansas game.)

SAM EGUAVOEN: Yeah, I feel like we did. I feel like we're more hungry. Watching the film, we all felt sick to our stomachs. I hope that shows, the linebackers and the D-line, we got to come with it, fill our gaps properly.

Q. Folks that will be watching the game, what do you think the casual fan will notice, will be the most different on the defense?

SAM EGUAVOEN: We'll be faster. I think it's a little less in the game plan now, so we're going to be looking less to the sideline to know what we got to do next. It's going to be more on-the-fly stuff. We're going to be ready for each play.

Q. (No microphone.)

SAM EGUAVOEN: I guess you could say that.

I mean, this one really don't count. This is his second year being here, whatever. I don't really consider this one a change. This is just a minor change really. I mean, it's still a 3-4 defense. We're still doing what we do. We're just making a few like position changes and personnel changes.

Q. You mentioned a little bit earlier about playing with less of a game plan. As a player, do you like being more free?

SAM EGUAVOEN: Yeah, I like that better. It's less thinking. You have a base plan in your head. You can just read the offense, man. It's hard to explain. Y'all don't know nothing about defense, man (laughter).

Q. What do you remember about playing in that stadium, in that atmosphere?

SAM EGUAVOEN: It's loud. I mean, the stands, they're just breathing right down your neck at the sideline. You miss a tackle, they going to remember.

It's nasty out there. I like it. You make a play, you shut 'em all up. You miss a play, it's going to be loud.

I mean, I like away games.

Q. Talk about the challenge that you will have to face this coming week.

SAM EGUAVOEN: It's a big challenge. My whole time being here, I haven't been close to beating OSU. This is my senior year. I'm trying to leave that mark. I think we haven't beat them over there in 13 years, something like that. We just got to leave our mark.

I hate to come to Tech and lose four years in a row. That's all that's going on in my head.

Q. I'm sure you know they're going to try to exploit that front seven, seeing the game film from Arkansas. Is that something you talk about, that you're pumped up to show you can handle that?

SAM EGUAVOEN: We talk about that all the time. That's the beauty part about it. It's no secret to the game plan. It's man versus man. You either step back or you can fall back.

Q. Will it help you guys having that energy of Coach Smith down on the sidelines with you guys?

SAM EGUAVOEN: Yeah. I think Coach Smith is still going to be in the box. I don't know. I don't know if he's going to be down on the sidelines. If he is, that will help. He's never been on the sidelines since we've been here. He's always been in the box.

If he's down there, it's going to help us a lot.

Q. Have you seen No. 24? He lines up in a lot of different positions.

SAM EGUAVOEN: Yeah, we've been noticing that. But, I mean, we got some different fronts and secondaries to adjust. Not just off him, but off of formations and everything.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Sam.

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