

**October 6, 2014**



An interview with:

**COACH KLIFF KINGSBURY  
DAVIS WEBB  
BRANDEN JACKSON**

THE MODERATOR: Questions for Coach Kingsbury.

**Q. What specifically between practice and the game are you seeing that isn't connected?**

COACH KINGSBURY: I would say the minimal mistakes that show up in the games aren't made in practice. I guess there is nervous energy, fundamental techniques aren't transferring from the practice field to the game field.

**Q. Do you see that specifically between Davis and the receivers?**

COACH KINGSBURY: I think as a group, that entire group does things that you watch 'em out here in practice play with confidence and swag, and then they get to the games and you don't see that.

**Q. Any idea why?**

COACH KINGSBURY: Youth, I would say, you gotta grow up. Haven't had a lot of confidence-building moments in this season, and we need to build on positive. There haven't been a ton, to be honest.

**Q. Is this a "here we go again deal" when that happens?**

COACH KINGSBURY: Felt that way. After that interception, I felt the air come out of the sidelines, which as a coach, you try to keep from happening. You want to be resilient, but it did feel that way.

**Q. Coach, when you look at Davis' interceptions from this past week and maybe some of the others, are those on him or the receivers, or is there times when it's on him and times when it's on receivers?**

COACH KINGSBURY: It's a combination of everything, bad play calls, tough reads and not being in the right spot. It's a combination of things. It's not on one person.

**Q. Seems like at times the offense can score pretty effortlessly and other times it's tough. They can't get out of their own way. What have you seen that's the difference between the two?**

COACH KINGSBURY: I haven't figured that out, but that's how it looks to me as well. There is moments of greatness and then it looks like the Bad News Bears some of the times.

We have to be more consistent as a group and we haven't been at all. It's puzzling to me because in practice, I see positive things and we're just not doing it in the games.

**Q. Is there a way you can turn that around and connect things that have been disconnected:**

COACH KINGSBURY: I hope so. We'll just keep working hard. Like I said, as a play caller, I have to call obviously better plays that they feel more comfortable with and connect to them on a higher level.

So that's on me to put them in right situations.

**Q. Have you considered opening up quarterback competition this week for the West Virginia game?**

COACH KINGSBURY: No, I'm not.

**Q. When you say it's on you, it's them that's out there playing the game. What part of it do you take on, the play calling?**

COACH KINGSBURY: Right, I just think if I have to simplify things and they're thinking too much, things like that, that's the things that fall upon me, as the offensive coordinator, the "play caller" if you will, to get that right.

I need to give them stuff they can handle and execute at a high level, and so far I haven't done that.

**Q. There was a lot of stuff in the preseason updates about Davis. Do you know how much has he been changing the plays?**

COACH KINGSBURY: I'm not sure of the percentage, but he's been doing that since day one. I don't have a percentage for you, though.

**Q. To go back on the quarterback question, it seemed like Webb thrived in the quarterback competition-type atmosphere. I know it sounds crazy, but do you think about creating that atmosphere once again to light a fire under both?**

COACH KINGSBURY: Good question. No, Davis is still learning and growing and Pat is the same way. Pat is getting better each and every week and he gets a lot of reps. So it isn't like Davis is getting all the reps and Pat isn't getting any. We give an equal amount of reps during the practice and we will continue to rep them both. Davis is our starter.

**Q. What's the status of Alfredo?**

COACH KINGSBURY: It appears he will be out. I'm not sure exactly how long, but he will be out for this week's game.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

COACH KINGSBURY: Sounds like it's a sprain, a knee sprain.

**Q. Coach, would you talk about the defense from Saturday? Looked like they were giving you some opportunities and they went in and did their job a number of times. I realize they scored 45 points, but you had a number of stops.**

COACH KINGSBURY: They did, they got some stops, a lot of energy came out, flew around. When they raised up and got a stop, offense wouldn't handle their business.

And as a defense, when we would make plays, the other side of the ball wouldn't.

**Q. Looking at West Virginia offense, what concerns you?**

COACH KINGSBURY: Everything, really. They're running the ball very well, the quarterback looks like a new guy, he's playing at a tremendous level, 70% completion. Then they have one of the best receivers in the country.

Pick your poison on that deal. They're playing at a very high level right now.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

COACH KINGSBURY: I don't know exactly, but you just watch how much quicker he's betting rid of the ball, he knows where he's going and making stronger throws.

Those receivers have stepped up and grown a lot. Protection seems to be very good in most of the film I've watched.

**Q. With all the switching that you guys are doing with the receivers, can you talk a little bit about that in terms of what's propagating that? Is that good for the guys, moving them from one spot to another?**

COACH KINGSBURY: No, I don't think so. We're creating competition, and if those guys had created plays at those positions, they wouldn't be moving. That's what it comes down to.

We are trying to find the right combination of four or five guys that step up and take over. For the time being, not many of those guys are doing it, so we have to continue to push them. They have to grow up and continue to play more and get better.

**Q. Is that something you expect to happen, given that you have all those sophomores on the outside?**

COACH KINGSBURY: No, I thought we would have come along quicker as a group, just because I watched them in the spring and what they did and fall camp.

I just think when we get to the games, like I said, it's got to translate from the practice field and it hasn't to the extent we need it to.

**Q. Of those positions, where do you feel like you're lacking the most?**

COACH KINGSBURY: I don't think we're lacking. We moved around a little bit last week, but just the outside guys just gotta come on and just gotta be more consistent.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

COACH KINGSBURY: It was a check from Coach Chiaverini.

**Q. Can you talk about your run game? Early on it looked like you were getting some things and got away from that maybe because of the score. Looked like there were opportunities. Is that something you want to expand on?**

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, yeah, we want to, and I thought we did a good job early running it. When you touch the ball in the second half and you're down 31-7, it's tough to run it when you're playing to win.

I thought DeAndre has done a great job all year of carrying the ball and we got to find him a way to get him more touches.

**Q. Are you having a hard time sleeping at night, I know you're hard on yourself?**

COACH KINGSBURY: Win or lose, during the season I don't sleep much. It's part of the profession.

**Q. Davis' shoulder injury, did it impact his play at all?**

COACH KINGSBURY: I don't think so. He seemed good. I just think we got to clean some things up.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

COACH KINGSBURY: Not that I knew of. If he did, he didn't speak of it.

**Q. Have you thought about replaying the Holiday Bowl for the team to try and remind them how they played?**

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah. It's a good thought. They saw it all off season, pretty much anything they went to. It's in there, we just gotta get it out and find a way to get that type of composure, that confidence back.

**Q. You play two tough road games, you come back home. How good is it to be back home this week?**

COACH KINGSBURY: It's great. I know our players are fired up, and anytime you get to play at Jones Stadium, it's great. We have the best fans in the country, so we want to get out there.

**Q. What's the game plan against West Virginia?**

COACH KINGSBURY: Protect the football and get stops on defense.

**Q. (Question about seeking counsel in older coaches.)**

COACH KINGSBURY: I've been around football for a long time, so it's part of the game. But I have people who reach out to me and we'll talk.

**Q. Do you mind sharing who?**

COACH KINGSBURY: I would rather not.

**Q. Coach, you mentioned confidence several times. Do you feel like right now that's one of the biggest issues with your team? What do you do to try to get it back?**

COACH KINGSBURY: You gotta have success to get it back and those first couple of games where you would like to build confidence, we really didn't. We sputtered along.

So now we are at the midway point and we've got to breed success. That's the only way to find confidence.

**Q. Was Davis practicing all last week?**

COACH KINGSBURY: He was.

**Q. I realize that when you're losing, you're not having fun, but do you see a team that's not having any fun? How do you put that back into the game where you can have success?**

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, it comes with winning and being successful. I do think, like I said all along, the effort has been great, but if you're losing a Game 31-7, you're not going to have a lot of fun out there.

We gotta keep working and stay positive and find a way to get it done. A lot of the season is left.

**Q. Sounds like the message overall is keep plugging away and working. How hard is it to get 18, 19, 20 years old to buy into the message and see the long-term vision?**

COACH KINGSBURY: I think it's harder on coaches than anything. Kids are resilient and they know that there is another game coming up. They've been great.

They fought the entire time and, you know, Texas Tech hadn't beaten those two teams we lost to in conference for a few years now. We got to clean things up and play the best games, seven games we can ahead.

**Q. (N microphone.)**

COACH KINGSBURY: With their offense, you've got to be able to score. I know Dana is a great offensive mind and I know they're playing a lot better, so we will need to be able to keep up.

**Q. It's a different team year to year, but your teams have had success against West Virginia. Does that help at all, giving you some confidence going into the game with?**

COACH KINGSBURY: I'm not sure. Different year, different coaches, so we will see how we show up Saturday.

**Q. What would you say has been the most disappointing thing so far this season?**

COACH KINGSBURY: The penalties, I think, just how that continues to either move the other team forward or move us back in key situations.

That number is pretty astounding when you look at a season total. It's hard to win any games doing that every week.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

COACH KINGSBURY: He will be out this week and we'll reevaluate him next week.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

COACH KINGSBURY: He does. I'm not sure exactly what it is. I know it's in the shoulder area.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

COACH KINGSBURY: He should be back this week.

THE MODERATOR: Thanks, Coach.

We're now joined by Davis Webb.

**Q. Davis, at times on offense, seems like you can breeze down the field with ease and other times it's hard to get out of your own way. What is the biggest difference?**

DAVIS WEBB: When we're on, we're on. And when we're off, we're off. That's the best way to look at it. The first drive we go three-and-out, get a one-yard on that third-and-short, which is not good.

With a 5-man box, when we're on, we're on, and when we're off, we're off. We got to be more consistent and keep getting better.

**Q. The first drive, the first pick, did Bradley fall down or did you throw it in front of him?**

DAVIS WEBB: Yeah, guy in my face, I rushed it a little bit. I haven't taken a lot of sacks this year, but I think I forced it because of that.

So noticing that, and it was a bad play. A good play by him. He had a one-handed catch, which is pretty good.

**Q. Any idea why the diversity affects you guys so much? Seems like one bad thing and it's hard to regain the momentum you had.**

DAVIS WEBB: We're going to hold a player-only meeting and discuss that. We kind of went dead, and this week when we were down just by 17 points, this program has come back by a lot more than that in recent years, throughout our history, and "here we go again" kind of feeling.

We're going to have a player-only meeting and we're going to discuss that.

**Q. What did you want to say in that meeting?**

DAVIS WEBB: That's a player-only meeting.

**Q. How do you explain the disconnect from practice to the field, Davis?**

DAVIS WEBB: I think our practices have been really, really good. We've gotten after it. We got the scripts, our game plan has been fine. It's just going out there and executing it.

We play a lot of young guys, the first time playing. That's not an excuse anymore. It's the fifth, sixth game of the year. That starts with me, the offensive line, the running backs, the receivers.

We know how good we can be. We can see it when we score on big drives and we hit little plays. We got to get better at the little things, routine plays, routine drives, routine plays and see what happens at the end.

So, yeah, it's been very indidn't.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

DAVIS WEBB: Very, but we all know how good this offense can be, and it's exciting because we got another chance to prove it. Seven-game

season left and we have to try to do our best this Saturday.

**Q. Have you and your teammates tired of hearing the coach saying, "It's on me" when you guys are the ones out there on the field?**

DAVIS WEBB: Yeah, if anything it's on me. I tell the team every day, it's not Coach Kingsbury. He's the best offensive coordinator and best head coach in the nation. It's on our players.

He calls great plays and we just need to execute them better, and it starts with the quarterback and goes all the way down.

No one puts in the amount of work he does and we all know that. We all know how hard we works. We just got to execute better on Saturdays.

**Q. Did your shoulder injury impact your play last week?**

DAVIS WEBB: No, bothered me, not much. I have to play better. I'm not the first person to play with a shoulder injury. I won't be the last. Not an excuse. Got to play better.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

DAVIS WEBB: Yeah, that's another thing I noticed is I put too much pressure on myself when things aren't going right and guys aren't getting open as much as they usually do or we aren't running the ball as we usually do.

I put the pressure on myself and say, We've got to make a better play and force this, instead of just calming down and let our guys make the plays. They're Division I athletes, too.

I know how good our receivers are. Instead of just letting them play and do the routines and go, I have to, because they're a good defense.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

DAVIS WEBB: You have to find that mesh. Jordan had a good week last week before he got hurt. Brad did a good job outside. Dylan is doing a good job, and Jakeem has had a good couple of games. We have to find that connection.

We have had young guys struggle and it all starts with me and try to find guys open. Some of them are, I just got to find them. They're doing a good job, though.

**Q. Teams differ from year to year. You guys, and you in particular, have had success against West Virginia. Is it good from a confidence standpoint going up against them**

**versus the teams you have had the last couple of weeks?**

DAVIS WEBB: Watching yourself on film and seeing what kind of reads you could have done that day, prep after that, that's the only thing I could say.

They competed against Alabama and Oklahoma. They're an improved team and they're probably thinking we're not as improved as we were last year.

We will see what happens on Saturday because we're really motivated and they're really good, so it should be a good game.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

DAVIS WEBB: I mean, I'm pretty prepared every week. I wouldn't say it's coverages or anything like that. They're dropping eight guys and expecting me to make the wrong decisions, which I have so far. Couple plays a game, not been my best. It's ended up in the other team's hands.

So dropping guys and forcing me to make mistakes and I've got to do what I've been coached to do because I've got to get a lot better.

**Q. When I look at you and see complacency, how do you respond to that word?**

DAVIS WEBB: Define, me or the team?

**Q. You as a quarterback. Getting comfortable in your role, not having somebody to force you to --**

DAVIS WEBB: No, I would disagree with that. You can ask these guys. I'm the hardest worker inside the building and I pride myself on that. I'm not being cocky. It's who I am.

I am up here every single day, hours and hours, watching film at home. My preparation is bar none.

I don't think it's complacency. I think it's frustrating because I know the off-season I had and the work and preparation I've put in hasn't shown up on Saturday yet.

I got a seven-game season left and I'm going to make them the best of my life.

**Q. After losing Ward and Mark last year, do you feel like you have guys in your receiving core that they're going to be where you need them to be at certain times? Because at times last year seemed like those guys were**

**a security blanket.**

DAVIS WEBB: Yeah, being 18 years old, a true freshman and having guys like that there that made those plays and having experience and understanding coverages, getting open, stuff like that.

Right now we only have a couple of those guys, like Brad and Jakeem, and those guys are learning as they can. And I think they're figuring it out little by little.

But having those security blankets last year was huge for us. But this receiving core is very close to becoming one of those guys.

Dylan Cantrell's doing good and Regie has done great in practice and I feel like West Virginia, he's going to have a big game and catch a lot of balls this week.

**Q. How frustrating has it been knowing how good your running game has been that you guys are behind on the scoreboard?**

DAVIS WEBB: Yeah, it comes from me not starting as fast as we need to. Against Oklahoma State, we controlled the pace, couldn't get the ball in the end zone and that comes off of penalties and turnovers.

But this game, we had a big turnover. Second drive, they held the ball and that's part of their deal. We knew that going in we had to score fast. If we didn't do that, they did what they needed to do.

They're well coached and well disciplined, and they did what they wanted to do. We didn't get off to a fast enough start to do what we wanted to do.

**Q. Does everybody in the building know this is going to be a shoot-out type of game playing West Virginia?**

DAVIS WEBB: I wouldn't say that, it's only Monday, the guys are just starting to watch film and seeing how good Clint is as a quarterback, and seeing how the team is coached and how different this team is from last year.

I think we all are excited to play a team like this. They played Alabama and Oklahoma and it's a good test for us, and we are all excited for it.

**Q. On the first interception that you threw, Jakeem said after the game, Coach always says, Don't take a sack. You got hit pretty at the good on that one. When you look back at that play on film, what would you have done differently?**

DAVIS WEBB: The fourth quarter to Jakeem?

**Q. The first series.**

DAVIS WEBB: That was the second, because we had a fake punt, yeah, the one to Brad. All week we decided there was going to be two-high coverage, and I felt like in a split second, breaking after that guy, Brad having that window for me, that corner jumped inside and they knew what was coming and made a good play on it.

Those interceptions, you know, got to get better from it, because we get behind and that one to Jakeem on fourth down, you can't take a sack on fourth down. You got to give someone a chance, and it ended up in their hands on a tip pick.

That last pick was me being frustrated trying to make a play.

**Q. How difficult will it be for you guys to rise together this week when your defense did a great job of stopping plays, but the offense didn't make it happen? How important is it going to be for you guys?**

DAVIS WEBB: Our defense has gotten better every week and our offense has been set in stone. We're not the first offense in the country to do this and we're not going to be the last.

We got to battle with adversity and persevere more. We have a chance to do it on Saturday. It's going to be a great game, exciting offenses, throwing around a lot, should be a lot of fun.

THE MODERATOR: Thanks, Davis. Questions for Branden Jackson.

**Q. Defensive line seemed to be stepping up the game. Talk about the improvement from week-to-week and how important it's going to be this week?**

BRANDEN JACKSON: We knew coming in that we had the potential to be the dominant group on the defensive side of the ball. We knew to be successful, every great defense has to have a defensive line that's just great, you know. That's all we've been trying to chase.

We knew at first we got off to a shaky start, so we've been chasing excellence day in and day out, week in and week out.

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

**these days? Frustration?**

BRANDEN JACKSON: There is definitely a lot of frustration and frustration with each other, because we know a lot of times, we're killing ourselves. We played some good teams and teams that I give all the credit. I would never take away from a team in this game, coaches and things like that.

But we kill ourselves with penalties and not playing sound ball. We kind of try to take a note out of Coach Snyder's playbook, and we look up to Kansas State and appreciate the game of football and how they do it well and consistent and don't make mistakes. That's the level we're trying to get to.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

BRANDEN JACKSON: The players, we would include the entire team and all I want to hear is that -- I don't want to hear anybody getting down and pointing fingers at each other and blaming each other, doubting ourselves. I want to hear a group that collectively knows we have the talent, that believes in ourselves like our coaches believe in us.

We're willing to play the rest of these seven games with the 100% and the best that we can to see what happens.

**Q. Does this mean that you will be speaking in that meeting?**

BRANDEN JACKSON: I will definitely make my voice heard.

**Q. Is that going to be after practice?**

BRANDEN JACKSON: Before practice. Nip that in the bud. Don't want to go out to practice and have lingering thoughts, so we will get it all out here in a couple of hours.

**Q. What do you attribute the penalties to?**

BRANDEN JACKSON: Right now I've attributed the penalties to frustration and guys trying to make a play. A lot of times you look at the pass interference calls we get, we have players in play and it's kind of just making a knucklehead decision instead of playing technique and things like that.

Some guys just try to be overaggressive and things, but it's penalty and something we have harped on since the very beginning before the season started. That's a frustrating thing, having

to see that pop up and happen so many times throughout a game.

But it's not something we're doing intentionally. I feel like it's guys playing hard and trying to make plays and doing sometimes something they shouldn't have to do.

**Q. After a couple of tough weeks, how nice is it to come back home and play in front of the fans?**

BRANDEN JACKSON: It's a relief to have the fans there because we know at the end of the day, all we have is the people that's in our room day in and day out, at our practices and things like that.

We always have the support of the fans. We have some of the best fans around and it's a blessing to have someone cheering for you, not booing for you.

**Q. After the couple of weeks you have had, does it help coming back home after you have played two teams that you haven't beat in a while, to play a team that you have had success against in the past?**

BRANDEN JACKSON: Honestly, I don't think anyone has thought about that. We went to the away games, and we matched up well with those teams, but we took the losses.

We didn't think the outcome would be what it was, and now that it's happened and the losses have occurred, it is a relief we're coming back home and playing a team that we have had success against.

But it's a completely different team. They don't look like the West Virginia team they have in the past two years.

**Q. What's the difference this year?**

BRANDEN JACKSON: They are playing with confidence. They didn't gain too many people, but they're gelling at the right time. Everybody is playing for each other and trusting each other and that goes a long way.

**Q. What are the challenges a team like this presents? Potent offense. What are you guys looking to do to stop it?**

BRANDEN JACKSON: Looking to stop them. There is nothing specific to get into with that. West Virginia is a great team who does everything well. They spread the ball out a lot, try

to keep you honest, things like that.

But this game is just a man's game. It's going to come down to their will versus our will. And we will never bow down to any opponent. We don't think they're too much to handle and things like that.

West Virginia is a very good team, off to a good start. Us, we believe, is a very good team starting off shaky.

**Q. Branden, do you think the defense is doing better with the changes to Coach Smith and the things he's done and you guys are feeling more confident than you were a few weeks ago?**

BRANDEN JACKSON: Honestly confidence has never been an issue with us. I think with the defense, it was trusting each other and getting people to know this isn't the team they played for last year, speaking of JUCO guys who are used to being a man and learn how to play for another person and learning personnel and things like that.

Coach Smith taking over wasn't too much up or down because he's been in our offense.

Coach Walsh will always be missed. We loved that guy. But the defense is coming together and we're trying to get it together and be like a Raven's-type defense, a team that can hold the opponent to under 14, 17 points. Then we don't have to worry about offense having to light up the scoreboards.

**Q. Last week, Coach Smith talked about getting better at defense. Do you feel like your base defense has made headway there? Feeling more comfortable in your base sets?**

BRANDEN JACKSON: Definitely, I feel like our base defense, they're speaking numbers right now. I feel like we're getting more negative plays on first downs and then we're able to get more exotic and doing the fun things, like blitzing, confusing the offensive line, and getting after the quarterback.

I attribute that to Rika and the nose tackles working endlessly, and the defensive ends working their butts off to get better, knowing that the first down has to be a negative play if you want to be successful, if you want to get 'em behind the chains.

**Q. How important is it to just try to completely cancel out the big plays?**



visit our archives at [asapsports.com](http://asapsports.com)

BRANDEN JACKSON: We have been in position. When you talk about that, it reminds me of the Oklahoma State game. A lot of plays they caught over the top. We didn't have men in position to make plays we just did.

That's our focus now. We're getting little things done and focusing on the big things and doing extra, more to make sure he doesn't catch the ball. It's not good enough to tackle him and make sure he doesn't score, you have to prevent him from catching the ball.

Popping them, that's an emphasis this week, stopping the big plays, because that's how teams have had success on us this far.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

**FastScripts by ASAP Sports**