

West Virginia vs. LSU
September 24, 2011
Postgame Quotes

LSU Coach Les Miles

Opening Comments

I started my night with Coach Nehlen and Bob Simmonds. They live around this area and told me how wonderful this place was. I think what is being done here at West Virginia is very strong. They have a good quality team, and they played hard for four quarters.

We showed up tonight in a very hostile environment, and you have to play. West Virginia did a very good job, but our defense showed up to play and we got off to a nice start. They threw the ball well in the second half, and they have good players. It took our full team to win. Morris Claiborne's return was right on time, and we were able to finish it off. We made some mistakes, but we overcame that adversity. We have a real strong road personality, but no matter the environment we are capable of playing.

In regards to West Virginia's offense...

That No. 1 (Tavon Austin) is a real special player. They did a great job. Geno (Smith) is a much improved passer than he was. We expected a competitive game.

In regards to Claiborne...

He self characterize himself in the first half as terrible, but knew he would come back.

In regards to the second half...

There is some routine to that. Spencer Ware is a powerful guy. When Michael Ford comes in and has fresh legs, he looks pretty fast. Spencer Ware has a lot to with that.

In regards to the environment...

We understand how we play, and it is going to be a hostile environment. When the crowd got jacked an we came back on the field, I knew we were going to play.

WVU Coach Dana Holgorsen

Opening Statement

First things first, we got beat by a good football team. If I was to have scripted it, I probably wouldn't have scripted it this way. They are going to find ways to win. They were a smarter football team than we are. We had four turnovers and they had none. We had twice as many penalties and the special teams were completely one sided, so those three things pretty much got them the victory.

On Andrew Buie's health

We should get Buie back next week, and that should give us more depth at running back. (Pat) Eger could have gone back in the game, he might be sore tomorrow.

On the field position throughout the game

It came down to two things. (There were) turnovers, which once we turned the ball over a couple times it got down to where they were flipping the field over, and we had a hard time flipping the field. They were a lot better than we are at special teams. If you factor those two things in, good field position is going to be a struggle.

Kickoff returns

We just didn't block anybody, it's plain and simple. We didn't tackle. We knew their two return guys are good. They can really run fast, and they take pride in their special teams. I'd like to think we've made that an emphasis, with the things that we talked about and preached; we just didn't get it done. We weren't good and solid on special teams and we didn't play smart. When you have 10 penalties to their five and four turnovers to their zero, that pretty much says that they're a smarter football team than we are.

On the momentum

There were a couple of times I thought we had momentum. We did some good things offensively and defensively, but you can't beat a good team by doing that. You can talk about 500 yards if you want to, but the only thing I'm going to talk about tomorrow is four turnovers. Three out of four games we had zero turnovers.

On the play of the quarterbacks

There were two pretty good quarterbacks. Geno (Smith) made some plays. The one thing about Jarrett (Lee) is that he's not making any mistakes. Leading into this was a guy who put the ball where they wanted him to put it. It's not always about what your numbers are, it's about running the offense and not turning the ball over.

I thought the pass protection was fantastic and Geno had time, and we had some guys get open and make some plays. The offensive game plan was not a problem. Turning the ball over four times is a problem, and they have something to do with that too. They have a pretty good defense.

On his first loss as head coach:

I'm not very happy, but hats off to coach (Les) Miles. It's again, like I said Tuesday, a very established program, No. 2 in the country. They have very good athletes, and they outplayed us and outcoached us.

