

University of Texas Football Media Conference

Saturday, September 7, 2019

Tom Herman

LSU - 45, Texas - 38

>> TOM HERMAN: Heck of a college football game. Hell of an atmosphere. Thank you to our fans, our students, everybody that showed up that was loud. That really made an impact in the game. It was as good of an atmosphere as we have seen here at DKR, and I expect more of the same when we get back home here in a couple of weeks.

Injury update: B.J. Foster on the last defensive play tweaked his hamstring, so he would not have been able to go back in, so we will have that evaluated tomorrow. And on the onside kick, Josh Thompson got his ribs dinged, so we will have that evaluated tomorrow as well. Questions.

Q. Tom, how would you describe kind of the emotional letdown, getting two chances at the 2-yard line and not punching either of those in?

TOM HERMAN: We scored 38 points and had 538 yards of offense, so I don't think there was any emotional letdown from our offense.

Q. With all the speed that you have in the secondary why do you think the middle of the field was open all night?

TOM HERMAN: I would have to watch the video. I'm not sure. It's hard for me to see from the sidelines on every call.

Q. How would you rate LSU's ball-handling ability?

TOM HERMAN: Really, really good. I thought Joe Burrow was the difference in the ball game. Just really accurate, really aggressive. I thought he fit some balls into some really tight windows, was really accurate down the field, and, yeah, he's going to have a heck of a year if he stays healthy.

Q. (No microphone.)

TOM HERMAN: I think they can take that we've got to get better. We're going to play some good offenses in our conference, and that's on us as coaches, too. We've got to put 'em in position to be successful. Not that they weren't tonight, but moving forward that's got to be

a huge emphasis for us as coaches, to figure out what our weaknesses are, continue to develop those weaknesses, but also, then, provide them some kind of assistance through calls that can help the secondary at times.

Obviously you can't drop eight every snap or the quarterback is going to have all day to throw. You've got to pick your spots. We've gotta get better there, but we've also gotta be able to put them in position to be successful.

Q. (No microphone.) He settled in in the third quarter. Is there something he did schematically to give himself a couple of extra seconds?

TOM HERMAN: No. I think they settled in a little bit on some of our pressure, and we tried to then counter with different pressures. They did a good job picking them up.

We had some guys free at times that, you know, he got it out a split second before the guy could get there. That's a major credit to him, to have the poise to stand in there under duress and deliver the throws that he delivered.

Q. On that last LSU touchdown, third and 17, why did you not go with cowboy in that situation and why did you bring pressure in that situation?

TOM HERMAN: We wanted to pressure him to obviously get a sack or incompleteness to keep the -- had they had to punt, to give our offense a pretty good or reasonable chance to go down and score.

Listen, we came in this game to play to win. That's why we went for it early on the goal line, and we didn't -- we weren't successful, obviously, and then we brought pressure and they did a good job getting open, picking them up. We had some guys free at times, and then we brought pressure, and they did a good job getting open and getting the ball off before the pressure could get there.

Our whole mantra in this game was to empty the chamber, play to win, and we weren't going to back away from that.

Q. (No microphone.)

TOM HERMAN: I don't know. He will bounce back. I haven't talked to him personally yet, but I'm sure Coach Drayton will and has already, but he's our guy, and I don't think he should lose any confidence in that.

Q. For Roschon going up against LSU, what do you think of his game?

TOM HERMAN: I thought he played great. Thought he played great.

Q. Coach, what did you think of your team's fight back?

TOM HERMAN: Yeah, really proud of our guys. It was, what, 20-7 at halftime. We knew that the first half was not indicative of how well we could play. I thought our guys responded to the occasion. Sam certainly did. I thought he was much more aggressive in the second half.

Q. (No microphone.)

TOM HERMAN: Yeah, that was the biggest thing. This is game two of a marathon. We wanted to win this game, certainly, very badly. We prepared to win. I loved our plans. We've got to do a better job coaching our guys to execute those plans at an elite level.

Obviously, it hurts. It hurts a lot, but I think they all realize that all of our long-term goals are still out there.

Q. One thing you do not tolerate is ball security or lack thereof. Early on was Keaontay nervous? The fumble (no microphone.)

TOM HERMAN: That we trust him. Our captain, Collin Johnson fumbled last week. We won the turnover battle, right? 1-0. We won the rushing battle, too. We trust him, and he does not need to have anything like that take away from his confidence.

THE MODERATOR: Thanks, guys.

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