



ARMY WEST POINT ATHLETICS

BLACK KNIGHTS

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Postgame Quotes

Army 21, Duke 16 | Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017

Army Head Coach Jeff Monken

(Ref.: Opening statement)

"First, I just want to say thank you to all those who serve, all those who have served and will serve on Veteran's Day here. I am extremely grateful as an American citizen to have people who are willing to volunteer, to put themselves in sometimes the most difficult situations, so myself and my family can enjoy the freedoms that we have here in this great country. Thankful to our players and students here, our faculty and staff. It is an amazing place and what an opportunity to be a coach here and in a leadership position. We train leaders to go lead soldiers that will go into those situations. It was a fantastic day to represent the Army in the way we did. The best thing we can do on this day is to play like we did, with a lot of toughness and grit. It wasn't perfect, but in the end, it was good enough. We represent the United States Army and we are proud to do that.

"I am really proud of our team. It was a hard-fought game against a very talented team coming out of a power-five conference. If you look at the people they have played, they lost very close games to several ACC teams that we have a lot of respect for, so being able to win that game today was a big feat for our team.

"Our kids are excited about the victory for sure. It is nice to know we still have a lot of things to play for out there after this game."

(Ref.: On the defense's sacks)

"I think those type of plays against the other team are big positives, and it certainly makes it easier to get them off of the field, which we were able to do a couple of times. We had anticipated that [Daniel] Jones was going to run the ball, and we thought they would try to push their run game a little bit. They probably gained 100 yards but lost a couple from the sacks. He was getting a lot of yards, particularly in the first half on the power play, where they ran that wide receiver across and he read it. They had a couple of quarterback draws and he did a nice job running the ball, but so did we, to stop him and to force the run game. The sacks are big plays, but when you put them into a situation where they have to punt it and give it back, those are even bigger. That's what we're really trying to do, give them as few possessions as we can. That was the team plan, both the offense and the defense."

(Ref.: On the offensive line's performance throughout the season and senior leadership)

"Those guys are a great group of guys. They're the difference in our offense for sure due to their maturity, determination and leadership. Bryce Holland is a great leader for that group and you can see Josh Boylan was fired up and fighting through some aches and pains out there. He just got himself out of the ground and back in the huddle. Brett Toth, Mike Houghton and Rick Kurz and the guys that have been coming in like Jaxon Deaton and Austin Schuffert, along with the tight ends like Quinten Parker. I think all those guys are doing a really good job."

(Ref.: On defense handling Duke's quarterback)

"We don't want anyone to get behind us. Often times when they get behind us it's trouble and we can't run them down. It is frustrating sometimes to see those intermediate routes caught in front of you with the curls and crossing patterns. You want the guys to play closer and tighter. We made a couple of good plays on the sideline, like the one James Gibson made on the corner by our sideline. He did a nice job getting his hand in there. We got called for pass interference on their sideline on a player we denied a pass. Perhaps it was, but I thought beyond that play we had really nice coverage.

We were there, denied the inside hand, secured the tackle and those are the things you like to see more often on those pass plays so he doesn't complete 19. That is a bit more than we'd like for him to get. I thought the guys did a great job trying to execute the plan and we found ourselves having success putting the pressure on him."

PLAYER QUOTES

Senior QB Ahmad Bradshaw

(Ref.: On the team's performance today)

"I think the offensive line did great. They don't get enough credit with how well they perform and block the other guys. Duke is a really good team, and our defense played a really outstanding game as well. We're pretty satisfied with the outcome today."

(Ref.: On feeling after grinding out a win)

"I think after every win you get excited, and it's always good to win at home. Today was big because we accomplished one of our goals. All of them are still out there for us to get besides being undefeated at home because we already accomplished that one. I think that's why it was more important to us; being able to go undefeated at home and win on Veteran's Day."

Senior DL John Voit

(Ref.: On the defensive effort)

"We knew they had a lot of weapons on the offensive side of the ball with No. 29 and their quarterback, who is also a good player. We had a game plan going in, and I feel like we executed that pretty well. You've got to give it to Duke. They fought hard, and it was a good win for us."

(Ref.: On how the team has progressed through the last four years)

"When our class got here, the culture wasn't what it is now. Being able to win our eighth game and go undefeated at home this year is very special for us to be part of. Helping build that culture has been amazing. We couldn't have done it without the guys who graduated last year, the year before that and the guys who are with us right now. It's been surreal."

Senior DB Rhyon England

(Ref.: on getting back into rhythm on the field)

"It feels good to be back with the brotherhood and to get back on the field. I think the defense played a really good game. Obviously, we would like them (Duke) to put up 16 less points than they did, but at the same time I think we had a good game plan. They are a good and talented team. It really came down discipline and playing fundamentals."

(Ref.: on closing out his career with a win at home on Veteran's Day)

"It feels great to play in front of this fan base, to play in front of the Corps, and to accomplish one of our goals, especially on Veteran's Day weekend. It's a moment that I will never forget about and it's a moment that I will cherish for the rest of my life."

Junior RB Andy Davidson

(Ref.: on blocking the punt)

"With a shield team like Duke, you have to have four guys that are in there ready to engage the blockers. If it was just me, they would have blocked me. It's credit to the guys with me. They were coming after it and I was just the lucky one to get the block."

Duke Head Coach David Cutcliffe

(Ref.: Opening Statement)

"Just in general, the most disappointing thing is that we slipped. We let multiple opportunities to win the game slip through our fingers. Go back to the first half, it certainly wasn't perfect when you get a punt blocked for a touchdown and have a turnover. But that last drive I felt confident that we would go down and score a touchdown, and at that point get it to within 21-17. But, unfortunately, we turned the ball over again. So, a little bit of the same theme whether it was giving up a big penalty or maybe not being as consistent at stopping the interior run, trap and dive, on defense. With the

kicking game failures, getting the punt blocked, we just were not being as crisp as what we are used to. It's concerning. So, it does sound like the same old song, but it's not. You don't just go back to work. You take the things that we've got to do better. Every detail of being a Duke football player needs to be tested right now. And at the most difficult of times, it should require your best work. And that's where we are headed."

(Ref.: On the offense and Daniel Jones getting sacked)

"Part of that is Daniel. He is responsible for a blitz. When the secondary hits you and you have no idea they're coming, you've got to be accountable for that. That's just part of playing quarterback. It's always a combination of things. When you put yourself behind the chains, you're rarely going to be very successful. When we stayed ahead of the chains, they couldn't stop us. Two turnovers stopped us."

(Ref.: On playing a triple option team to prep for Georgia Tech next week)

"Georgia Tech is more talented than Army, no doubt about that. It helps in a lot of ways. Our scout team is already used to running that offense. They'll do a good job of giving the picture that Georgia Tech is a little different, everybody's going to be. Our defense is going to feel a little beat up when you play like this. I mean, they threw one pass. They didn't run that many plays, thank goodness. But we will have to assess where we are tomorrow. Then, we have Sunday and Monday to start feel better, but Tuesday we've got to get back to work."

(Ref.: On special teams blocking the field goal)

"Well, we've come close all year in our field goal block, and we work very hard at it. I just kept telling them over there, 'Scoop and score, scoop and score.' We hadn't had a lot of luck offensively as of late. The 'scoop and score' was something that was on my mind, we just didn't get that part of it. But we were close on two other kicks. I was convinced that we had a real shot to win the game right there with that field goal block."

Duke Redshirt-Senior DT Mike Ramsay

(Ref.: On defense performance especially playing against the triple option team)

"I feel like we did a pretty good job. We made a couple crucial mistakes that resulted in some touchdowns, but we have a heavily disciplined offense at the end of the day, so we just had to try and let them do their job. So, I think it was minor mistakes here and there that cost us, but I think, overall, we did a pretty good job."

(Ref.: On playing back-to-back triple option teams)

"It's honestly nice to be playing back-to-back so we are still in that mode where we don't have to switch back and forth with going back to our regular defense. The experience will definitely help as a warm up going into Georgia Tech, but we need to improve. The first half has to be better."

Duke Sophomore LB Koby Quansah

(Ref.: On the fourth quarter drive and Army's 10-minute hold on the ball before the blocked FG)

"It felt good knowing that we could hold this team out, despite the triple-option. They dominate a lot of other teams, so being able to shut them down and get that field goal blocked was a big momentum swing for the team and defense, as well as offense. That felt good holding them up, but you kind of just don't notice the time with a triple-option team like this as they go along drives."

(Ref.: On the energy of the team after this loss)

"They are a great team, but we also felt like we could have won this game. It could have gone both ways. Right now, the mood is just we have to bounce back, and use this energy towards Georgia Tech, as they kind of run the same style of offense. Right now, it's just you get on each other, make sure we are working hard for each other as well as the team so we can get back to our winning ways."

Duke Redshirt-Sophomore QB Daniel Jones

(Ref.: On running the ball and playing a triple-option team)

"It definitely limits your possessions playing against a team that runs the ball like Army does. You have to give credit to their game and strategy; they executed that. It's different. You know each possession is valuable. You need points and touchdowns."

(Ref.: On Army bringing a lot of pressure on the offense)

“They do bring a lot of pressure, and that’s part of their defense. A lot of that is on me to manage our protection and get it picked up. I have to do a better job in that area and help put the linemen in the right position and the tight ends in protection so that they can be successful.”