

2017 QUICK LANE BOWL PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTE SHEET

December 6, 2017

Mark Bardusch - General Manager, Quick Lane Tire and Auto Center

Opening statement: “Well good morning everyone. On behalf of our 1,100 Quick Lanes globally, that’s 800 in the U.S. and 300 where football is often a different shape, we are really excited to welcome both Duke and Northern Illinois to Detroit for the Quick Lane Bowl December 26th. We have two class programs lead by these two gentlemen and we are looking forward to a very exciting game as we’ve had in past years. I know Coach (Rod) Carey and the NIU Huskies are no stranger to Detroit. They’ve been in the MAC Championship here at Ford Field on six different occasions. Coach (David) Cutcliffe was complaining a little bit about the advantage he may have, but we’re pleased to welcome you. And Coach Cutcliffe of course, he comes to us with a Duke team who had to pull out a couple of late season wins against both Wake Forest and Georgia Tech to qualify for bowls and join us here in Detroit. So, again on behalf of Quick Lane and our 1,100 locations around the world, we want to thank the two coaches and we’ll turn the press conference over to them.”

Northern Illinois University Head Coach Rod Carey Quote Sheet

Opening statement: “Thanks Mark. I guess I’ll lead it out and then—I feel a little odd leading it out with Coach Cutcliffe here, but a lot of respect for coach, and the Duke program and the longevity that he’s had there. Just a ton of respect for it overall and really excited about the opportunity to play him and his program. I know our team’s excited about it and to be here in Detroit where we do have quite a bit of history, and now with Quick Lane and the Bowl Game. It’s good to be back, certainly is that. So, we’re just overall excited about the opportunity of the game, of the situation, couldn’t be happier with everything that’s going on.”

On how his players feel about being back in a Bowl Game: “Excited. I mean, that’s the number one thing when we got the news on Sunday, grateful and excited. And then when we learned who we were playing obviously we knew we had our work cut out for us and like I said earlier, a ton of respect. But that was the overall feeling. When you miss out on going to a bowl, and kind of probably we took it for granted a little bit going all those years in a row, when you miss out it kind of puts things back in perspective really quick, so that was the overall feeling.”

On if his players are excited to play against a school from the ACC: “Well yeah, just Duke in general and the job that coach has done there for the last decade. And knowing about, and being able to watch it and yeah, we’re extremely excited about the opportunity. Now don’t mistake that excited-ness for complacency, because we know that this is going to be one heck of a football game.”

On if it is special for his players from the Detroit Metro Area to be playing in this game: “Yeah, Mycial Allen, our starting safety, he was extremely excited. I mean, this will be potentially his last football game that he will ever play. I know he’s going to train for the NFL and do those things, but there was some tears coming out of him when he realized, ‘You know, I get to play in front of all of my family. Last time I may ever play football.’ And then we have a few other guys too that are underclassmen, but really, that was a special moment. To be able to share with my Mycial was, you know, it’s one of those moments as a coach you always put in the memory bank and will cherish forever.”

On if former NIU Huskie and current Lions WR Kenny Golladay leading all rookies in the NFL with 40+ yard catches surprises him: “No, not given his ability, that doesn’t surprise me. I’m happy for him at the same time and I know it took a lot of work. He’s one of those kids that’s just a blue-collar Chicago kid and it fits really well in with Detroit and the blue-collar attitude that is up here I know with Coach (Jim) Caldwell and the team, so he’s a worker. And so, surprised? No. Happy for him? Yes.”

On how much he’s kept in contact with Golladay: “A lot. We text, and I know when he had that hamstring we were texting back and forth and I was probably you know, encouragement, and also coaching encouragement if you get my drift right there- get back on the field, let’s go. But his mother and Kenny, just such good people that I look forward to watching him and I hope he gets to get around. I don’t want to ever get in the way of his preparation for games, but I hope he gets around us because he’s still got a lot of friends on the team.”

On if there are some players on his team that viewers may not know their names watching but are top-players for the team: “Well on our side of it, I hate to leave anybody out, especially when it comes to my senior class because they’ve worked so hard. So, you’re going to see we’re a younger team and you’re going to see guys like Shane Wimann our tight end, has had an outstanding year for us. Certainly Bobby Jones (IV) on the defensive side. I’m talking about seniors now. Mycial, we already talked about and then Jordan Huff, he’s still banged up here from the year. He’s a senior running back for us and then Christian Blake out there. But when you look at maybe the underclassmen, I certainly that Sutton Smith our defensive end right now is getting some accolades, so may not of heard of him yet, but you will be and justifiably so after the year that he had and what he’s done. So, it’s always a loaded question, because now I’m going to get a text from one of my guys, ‘Hey coach, why didn’t you talk about me?’. So, I’ll say sorry right now.

On the long-term impact of Golladay having success in the NFL: “Yeah, we’ll take advantage of it, I can tell you that, yet to be determined what the impact will be, but we’re certainly proud of him and we’ll tote that, just like we were with Jimmie Ward, who was a first-rounder a few years back. That’s nothing but positives for your program when that happens. And certainly with Kenny being close, and the proximity to us, that’s a huge advantage as well.”

On how important the extra bowl practices are for the young players: “Yeah, well I’m sure Coach (Cutcliffe) will say the same thing, unbelievably important, and especially when you come off a year where you didn’t have them, and now you get them back. You can see the improvement. We’ve already had three practices, three bowl practices. And it’s really all been developmental, fundamental, going back to basics, because most of your young guys right now have been running scout team all year. They haven’t been running your scheme, so you get them in the huddle again for the first time, some of them remember it, some of them don’t. So, it’s invaluable to set the stage for the offseason.”

On how Ford Field and downtown Detroit looks differently since the last time he was in the city: “Yeah, from the first time we came in ’11 (2011), until now, just driving around the city. Let’s just start there, unbelievable difference. And it feels like it’s growing at a rate that is not normal for cities to be able to grow at and the improvements that are going on. We went out to eat at to the Townhouse last night, I think it was. And just downtown was alive. People were there and that’s a Tuesday night. It’s been remarkable in the time to see that, to answer your question.”

Duke University Head Coach David Cutcliffe Quote Sheet

Opening statement: “Well, first I want to say thank you to the Ford family, the Detroit Lions and certainly the people at Quick Lane, Mark. When you are involved in a Bowl Game that is run by exceptionally gifted people, you know that you are going to be in for a treat. I want to congratulate Coach Carey and the Northern Illinois Huskies, and it’s not that just the fact that they have a great team, we’re playing a program. What this man’s done, and they’ve done at Northern Illinois, it’s one of the better football programs, one of the more consistent football programs in the country. Needless to say, we are thrilled. Mark mentioned trying to battle our way in, we had a grave digger above us with one last shovel load of dirt and somehow, we knocked that shovel out of his hand to get this opportunity to come to one of America’s great cities. A lot of history, a lot of things that I know our players are going to learn by being a part of this city, and a part of this program for a week and we could not be more excited. And we know we’ve got a tough assignment on the field, but we certainly are looking forward to all the activities off the field, so thank you very much for the invitation.”

On if his team is excited to be back in a bowl game after missing last year: “Yeah, there was a lot of dancing, I’m telling you. We may not be the best dancers around, but we were pretty darn excited. It was interesting because we thought we had a great shot at maybe coming to Detroit, but we had no idea who we might play. And in playing a program that really, I mean, is known all over the country, you just mentioned over the last decade one of the better programs in the country. So, I think that, as Coach said, you know it’s a challenge, but it does excite you to play a name program. And I think it’s good for both of us. It’s a part of Bowl Week. It’s going to be very visible where I think we’re the only slot at that point in time on the (December) 26th, and it’s the midday slot or mid-afternoon slot. So, it couldn’t get any better than what it’s turned out.”

On what the challenge is losing six straight games and keeping his team up to finishing strong: “I think the biggest challenge is to maintain an edge at practice. To maintain a belief system, in all seriousness. We were 4-0, we’re playing Miami on a Friday night on national television. We really played pretty well for a part of that game, and then it just slipped. From there, we lost four games by a touchdown or less. And resilient people are going to find a way to be successful. And I don’t care what business you’re in, if we just constantly reminded our young people, keep working. Not to be biblical, but I just kept telling them, ‘You don’t know the day, and you don’t know the hour, but if you will work, we’ll find a way out of this thing.’ And thank goodness they did believe, and we’ve got an excellent staff, and outstanding group of young people. So, it was difficult, but obviously not impossible to keep them focused on what we were trying to accomplish.”

On if having a game in Detroit opens up visibility for recruiting players from Michigan for the program: “Yeah, and Duke is a national brand, and we do go all over the country. We just hadn’t been fortunate enough to land one. I’ve coached a number of guys from Detroit at different institutions. You got a good football coach here that I coached actually, Jim Bob Cooter, at Tennessee as one of the brightest players I’ve ever had the opportunity to coach, and so really proud of Jim Bob and what he’s getting accomplished.”

On Jim Bob Cooter getting his coaching profession started when he was a quarterback at Tennessee:

“Yeah, and then he was a graduate assistant for us. And then from there, I called Peyton (Manning), Jim Bob wanted a shot to work his way into the National Football League. I thought Peyton might be a pretty good guy to get that going. So, he did a lot of work for him as kind of an understudy and a young offensive assistant. And it hasn’t surprised me because he has an incredible knack for understanding the game. Although he wasn’t playing a lot of snaps or doing anything that when you asked questions or we’re in a film review meeting as a player, I mean, he’s answering the questions quicker than a starter. So, he’s a special young man, and I will say this one kind of comically, I got requests every week from CBS people, that was who was covering the SEC at the time, ‘Please David, put Jim Bob Cooter in the game where we can just say that name Jim Bob Cooter in at quarterback.’ So, that was the most requested item I got every week I think.”

On his top players on both sides of the ball: “I think you’re going to see defensively Joe Giles-Harris who’s No. 44. A sophomore linebacker, the All-Conference player, we got to mention him. We’ve had a good year defensively. Pretty aggressive defensive football team. We’ve got some young defensive linemen that a lot of people hadn’t heard about. They’re getting better, and they’re going to be real special football players. Mark Gilbert, a corner on defense No. 28, that was another All-Conference player. People will talk a lot about our quarterback, Daniel Jones, who is an outstanding, young, talented sophomore. He’s a big guy that’s got a really, really strong arm. And you’ll see No. 3, T.J. Rahming, our leading receiver, will show up in a lot of our tape. And then Shaun Wilson, our senior running back, who’s got a lot of ability will also show up in making a lot of plays. So, that’s kind of a general rundown for what the people in Detroit will see from us.”