



THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Athletic Communications

Utah State

Head Coach Blake Andersen

On the Utah State's performance:

"As you can imagine, I am frustrated with the outcome. Clearly, we felt that we had a plan in place that, if we executed it well, it would give us a chance to win. I'm not much for moral victories, so keeping it close and beating the spread doesn't fire me up a lot. But, what does is how hard the guys played. The fact that we showed at times that we could compete with that group. That's a really, really well built football team. When we calmed down and did what we were supposed to do, at times we looked really effective, efficient and talented. We played hard, the effort was great all day. It just comes down to self-inflicted mistakes. Too many unforced errors. You are going to struggle to beat a bad team with the errors that we had today, much less a team of this caliber. Five personal fouls was unacceptable. Can't have them. We have been coaching that non-stop, and it's something that we have to fix. We had two missed opportunities for fumbles, two missed opportunities for interceptions, and if you can create turnovers in this game it swings everything differently. When you look at it, this game could be completely different if we didn't have those mistakes."

On the Utah State defense rallying:

"The key is that the kids just settled down and played the defense that was expected to be played. You could tell that we were nervous early, real jittery, and there was miscommunication. You could see it, but there was a reset point when they realized that they're just playing football, and it's not some new game all of the sudden. I think when we got to that point, we played really well the rest of the day. It wasn't perfect, by any means, but to be able to do some key things and force them to punt the ball, with this defense and this new staff, I was really pleased."

On what lesson you want the guys to take from this game moving forward:

"I just talked to them about this in the locker room, and I'll tell you the same thing I told them. If we went out there and started this game over, in the first quarter, if you eliminate five personal fouls, four missed turnover opportunities, a turnover on our part, two missed third-and-ones, and really just us not doing what we're supposed to be doing, it's a completely different football game. Those are called self-inflicted wounds, unforced errors. Things that require no talent. Those are the things that we have to find a way to master, and right now we haven't done a good job of that. Whether it's the experience, or lack of discipline, or lack of attention, or maybe the guys just don't understand how important it is. I am proud of how hard they played, but we have to play better. The missed opportunities that could change the outcome of the game are the things that we have to capitalize on and avoid, and today we didn't. We played a really good team, and you are going to see an outcome like that basically every time when you make those kinds of mistakes."



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