**UNT**

Interim Head Coach – Bill Bennet

“I  would like to  congratulate boise on winning the game.  I think they’re a fine team. Well coached, everything we thought they were. It was a heck of a football game. I thought it was going to be a finish that we would all look back on and reflect and say that it was two teams that really wanted to win. I was proud  of us. We had a third quarter that you’d like to forget. We didn’t fall apart, we  kept competing. At the end  there on a couple  of plays we were close and there were a couple of catches that it could have been an exciting finish. I’m happy for these kids and the effort that they gave. I know we’re not here for effort but what they gave, the situation  being what it was, I was very proud of them. But, congratulations to Boise.”

“I thought they played with a purpose. I always tell them, ‘practice with a purpose, play with a purpose.’ I think that on both sides we had some missed opportunities to get off of the field. We had a couple of zone blitzes where we lost our leverage – our quarterback, as you can see, is a very agile, athletic kid. Offensively we had the chance a couple of times on a couple of picks that turned 10 points and that could have really made the difference in the game. It wasn’t just one side, it was both of them. But, I thought the guys really did  play  hard. I think they were in tune with  what we were trying to do.”

QB Austin Aune

“[We] absolutely [had confidence that we could win the game]. The defense gave us a chance. We were only down three. The two point conversion earlier in the quarter was big. We knew that if the defense could just get a stop that we’d get the ball back. We had been moving the ball well  in the second half.  Like Coach said, we just had a couple of turnovers but we felt good about what we were going to do. But it’s just things here and there and it just doesn’t go your way. We fought until the end and I’m proud of this team. We were trading blows but we never game up. These guys, with what we’ve been through the past few weeks, it would be easy for us to disband and start turning on each other, not be bought in. But we play North Texas football. I love this team and it sucks when you come that close but I’m leaving this field knowing I gave it all I had and I’m sure the rest of the team feels that way too.”

“I feel like we played a good game but the second half felt like it was going our way. I feel like we had the motivation. We have all fought for each other. These are my brothers. So, we went out there and fought for each other, fought for our coaches. That’s all you can ask for. Mean Green has a big future ahead”

**BOISE STATE**

Head Coach Andy Avalos

Opening Statement

“We would like to start by saying that we are extremely grateful. Like we’ve said all along, we’re excited to be here. This experience was really cool, not only from the standpoint that we have a couple of guys that grew up right around here,  but the  experience that the Frisco Bowl put on. This area right here  [Frisco]  is unbelievable and we are just very grateful to be able to be invited to come here.”

On what this win means for the players “That’s the most important thing, just for our players especially. This is all about our players. When you get into this profession there are a lot of hours that go into  it, there is a lot of sacrifice.  If you aren’t doing it for the young men  that are involved then you are going to burn out  because you aren’t doing  it for the right reasons. It’s so gratifying to be able to see these guys celebrate. It’s hard to leave the locker room right now and being around the guys just because they deserve this. Like we just told them, there’s so many great young men in there and it’s about how cool this is, how big of an achievement this is. They are such great young men and they are going to do even better things in their lives, for the ones that are moving on. “

On in-game adjustments

“There were things we knew we could do better at half time. Late in the first half we won the two minute drill which is always big momentum for us. So, we were able to flip around and work off of that momentum -  what are we going to do offensively?  We were able to identify some formations, our offensive staff, where we could keep leverage on the fronts we were getting. And then obviously we’d be able to put them into positions to take advantage of the space on the perimeter whether it was with his [QB Taylor ] arm or his legs. Defensively we were resilient. We came into the game with not a ton of depth due to injury but it was awesome to see how certain guys stepped up. Zeke [Ezekiel Noah] is a big part of that. He leads that defense and is right in the middle of it. I didn’t get to see the final stat sheet but I think they ran the ball a lot tonight and he was in the middle of all of the fits. He had a big time play with that interception early on in the game.”

QB Taylen Green

On the second half adjustments

“The message at half time was to keep doing what we were doing but not stress, just to be comfortable. We’ve been in this position before and we trust the game plan and trust the coaches. We were just beating ourselves up with the holdings and the false starts and pressing too much. We just told ourselves to stay calm and do what we do.”

LB Ezekiel Noah

On how the defense stepped up at the end of the game

“We talked about it all year,  staying  in the fight on the defensive side. No matter what situations go on, good or  bad, we always have to stay neutral and just keep playing our game on the defensive side. We knew that when we do that, we could be unstoppable.”