December 16, 2022 Press Conference Quotes – University of North Texas

Interim Head Coach - Bill Bennet

On how the  players have handled the coaching changes the past few days

“I’ve always said this - and once again, I’ve done this forever - kids are resilient. We’ve stayed on schedule with the hiring of [Head Coach] Eric [Morris]. I recruited him, I watched him play basketball. He was coming to SMU until [Mike] Leach offered him at the last minute. He told me he wasn’t going to walk on at Texas Tech but then they offered him. He went and I told the guy recruiting him that Leach was going to watch him play basketball and I said ‘oh, they’ll offer him” because he was a heck of a basketball player. But, Eric’s been great. I’ve wanted him around the guys. This is going to be his program now. But our coaches, I’m very proud of this staff. They’ve kept it together. We haven’t had anyone go into the portal. Everyone has stayed here. As I told them, I said “the cause is simple.” We’re going to try to finish this season as a team. [The players] are the ones that got us here, it’s a players game and coaches are just fortunate enough to  be involved in it. I think they have adhered to that. They’ve practiced hard, we had a hard practice on Wednesday here. Yesterday was good. So, I think they’ve handled it well. I’m hoping that about midnight tomorrow, I can say that.”

DB Ridge Texada

On defensive game plan

“We want to stop the run. We feel like if we stop the run we can try to make the offense predictable. We just want to play as solidly as we can and prevent them  from doing what they want to do.”

On what he’s seen from Boise State

“I’ve been watching Boise since I was a little kid, watched them in the Fiesta Bowl. So it’s cool to get to play against them finally. As far as their team, they have a good run game, a good rushing quarterback and some nice receivers. So it’s our job to contain them, to stop them. But it’s a good match up.”

On having Coach Bennet  to lean on

“Coach Bennet has been great. He’s been great to our defense, our offense, everything. For me, he put me in the game after our starting corner got injured and he’s just trusted me ever since. The energy he’s brought to this team, the confidence, we haven’t missed a beat I feel like. He’s been a great asset to our team ever since he’s been here.”

QB Austin Aune

On offensive game plan

“Good mixture of pass and run, an established run game and playing off of our play action pass. We’ll take our deep shots and we’ll try to run it as well. We’ll try to be fast paced and score as many touchdowns as we can.”

On his journey this season

“When I came back, I thought we had a lot of talent and that’s one of the reasons I wanted to come back. To have a year like this has been great. Being back in this stadium is bittersweet. Obviously we played here last year and we lost. So, to come back here and play in the Frisco Bowl has been great so far. We want to finish it off with a win and that would be a great way to end the season for the guys and what we’ve been through this year. So, that’s our end goal.”

On the adversity team dealt with the past two weeks

“It's been tough but our team has been great. Obviously we love [former head coach] Seth [Littrell] and we understand that it’s a business so things  like this happen. But we’ve stuck together. Like Coach said, no one has entered the transfer portal. We’re here to play. We’ve been through a lot this season so we want to play and we want to finish it the right way.”