



ARKANSAS



FOOTBALL

TULSA GOLDEN HURRICANE vs ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018

## POSTGAME QUOTES: ARKANSAS HEAD COACH CHAD MORRIS

### ***Opening Statement ...***

"What a great day, homecoming. I want to thank the fans that showed up and made today a special homecoming day. The environment, you continue to impress. You continue to inspire. It's very much felt everyday that we walk in this building. We love that. So thank you to all those that showed up and showed out today. I want to thank and commend our player. Our players, as we know, have battled all year long. The outcomes have not gone our way, but these guys continue to fight. It says a lot about who we are, it says a lot about our program, and it says a lot about our state and it says a lot about what we're trying to build here. We're going to continue to fight, and we're going to continue to put one foot in front of the other. I'm proud of our staff. Our staff has been there the entire way. They continue to inspire and motivate and coach these young men knowing that we're all in this together. We knew that something was going to happen our way if we continue to get back up. These guys did. I'm very, very proud of them. I want to commend Tulsa. I knew that we were going to get their absolute best. I knew that there was no quit in them. Coach Montgomery has done a phenomenal job there. They challenge you, and they challenge you in all aspects. They challenge you from a run game, passing game, creating one-on-ones and there was no quit in those guys. You saw it all the way to the final play. We had a lot of great recruits here today. I can't wait to show off Fayetteville tonight to our recruits. When you start talking offensively, what a special moments for Connor (Noland), a young man from right down the road. He's probably dreamed of this moment his entire life. To be able to come out and lead the Hogs to a win, I'm very proud of him. I'm very proud of his fight, considering after the first drive he had an interception. He came right back over to the sidelines. It did not phase him one bit. That says a lot about a young man that's a competitor. He's been in these situations before, you can definitely tell that. First freshman starter in 12 years, to come in in an environment where we are in our program of needing a win. He didn't do it alone. I'm very proud of Cole Kelley and the role that he continues to have for this football team. He's a great teammate and a great leader in helping these young guys out. I'm proud of how we ran the football. I thought we did some really good things up front. We challenged our offensive line that we needed to take it off and put it on our veteran players. Defensively, eight TFL's, six sacks and a shutout. I said it last week that they were our rock and they did not disappoint today. We continue to build and have done that all year long. That's a credit to our staff as well. Special teams, we continue to grow. We continue to make positive impacts. You've seen all units working together there and we'll continue to improve in this. We have a lot to play for. We've got two games right here. Right here in Fayetteville in our home stadium. Same time next week. We've got two home games, one of those will be senior night and we've got an opportunity. A lot of great things still ahead for this program. We're going to enjoy tonight. Can't wait to get back in here tomorrow and start game planning and get ready to go for next Saturday."

### ***On planning to play with or without Ty Storey ...***

"Ty practiced for the most part all week long, he was out there. We knew it was day-to-day. When you get into that protocol you take day-to-day steps. We felt like, especially in the quarterback position, we're no contact anyways; but we knew there was a possibility that he may not play. Cole (Kelley) and Connor (Noland) have been getting significant reps off and on for the last several weeks. We really didn't have a final decision until Wednesday night. We probably had an idea, and we were preparing for it."

### ***On the run game performance ...***

"We were going to put the pressure on our offensive line and on our running backs. Rakeem Boyd being first, with the player he's become the last several weeks. We knew Connor (Noland) was going to have a good day, but we did not want to put the pressure strictly on Connor. We challenged out guys up front. We needed to run the football, they're a little bit different team than what we've seen all year long. Odd stack and they're fits are a little bit different, but we felt like we could run the football. We put the pressure on our O-line. We get news right before we head from the hotel that Colton (Jackson) had some back spasms. So he was out. We did not know that until the bus ride over here. We felt like maybe during warmups we could get him back, but he couldn't go. Losing Johnny (Gibson), but he should be back. I thought Dalton Wagner played well. The way you cross train those guys you have to play them in different positions, and they responded."

### ***On Rakeem Boyd's status ...***

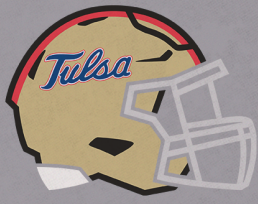
"Dehydrated."

### ***On Armon Watts' performance ...***

"You know Armon is such an inspiration to young players. Young players that stick with it. This is a young man that came in here and is just now seeing a lot of success. He could've quit, he could've transferred, he could've moved on; but nope, he loves the Razorbacks and he's going to stick it out. A young man like that, you want the best with him. He's shared his story with a lot of our young players. I'm proud of him and proud of where he is."

### ***On Grayson Gunter's progression ...***

"Grayson has come on this year. He creates a mismatch problem. How do you play him? Do you play him as a tight end, he's got good speed, or do you play him as a big receiver. It's kind of a chess match there. He's gotten better on his blocking, which is something we've challenged him at. Coach Lunney has done a really good job of getting him prepared. It was good to see him get some catches today and get in the endzone."



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## POSTGAME QUOTES: ARKANSAS PLAYERS

### **DL Armon Watts**

#### ***On forcing a shutout...***

"I challenged some of the guys on the defensive line. I knew we had to be physical in the trenches, stop the run. They rely on their heavy and it would force them to pass. We handled the pass well. I'm just proud of how the guys stepped up and played today."

#### ***On winning the Crip Hall award...***

"I feel honored. I know a lot of greats in the past have gotten it. To have my name mentioned is an honor. I come in every week and push myself and the other guys. It paid off this week and I don't think there's a better group that could've won today."

#### ***On what his season has meant to him so far...***

"I don't think words can really describe it. In my opinion you have to believe in yourself before anybody else believes in you. You have to put in the work. I put my head down and continued to work. It's starting to pay off. It's like a dream every day I wake up."

### **DL McTelvin Agim**

#### ***On Connor Noland starting...***

"It was just something we knew would be happening. We knew there was a chance Ty (Storey) would be out and we had a feeling Connor Noland would be starting. We just knew we had to step up our play and amp up everybody, not just on the D-line, but everybody behind us."

#### ***On getting the sack on the final play and preserving the shutout...***

"Coach told me he needed me inside to pass rush, so I knew I needed to get some type of pressure on the quarterback. There were a couple backups on the field, but we needed to get the shutout. It was at a time we needed it."

#### ***On John Chavis postgame...***

"He was smiling. He didn't do any of the crazy antics he did before. He just came up to us and told us he appreciated us. He kept it simple, but you could tell he was joyful."

### **QB Connor Noland**

#### ***On when he knew he was starting and his interception...***

"I found out around Wednesday and had been trying to build my confidence and watching a lot of film. I had a little notice so I had been kind of preparing myself to be ready. It's a game so there's gonna be mistakes, like on that first drive. I've had a lot of experience with just moving on and going to the next play. That was kind of my mindset after it happened, then coach came up to me and patted me on the back and told me to focus on the next play."

#### ***On the impact of the defense...***

"They did a great job. When you get the ball on the 40-yard line a couple times that definitely helps. They did a great job keeping the ball in a good position for us and the other team scoring zero points that kinda helps. They did a great job, I'm really proud of them and the fight they gave."

#### ***On how it felt to start...***

"I tried not to think about it, but when you grow up watching the Hogs play then get the opportunity be out there on the field with my first start meant a lot to me; so it was a big moment. But I just tried to downplay that a little bit and focus on the game."

### **LG Hjalte Foholdt**

#### ***On the offensive mindset with Connor Noland as the starting quarterback...***

"Well we had a heavy run game plan going in, just, making sure Connor is comfortable back there by not putting him in any bad situations and trying to stay ahead of the chains and not get in any third and long situations. But we had all the confidence in Connor, he can run the ball really well as well so we just put him in situations to do that. I think he did a tremendous job making sure we're all on the same page whenever we had checks and making sure we check from run to pass or pass to run. We definitely relied on our run game and I'm happy my guys stepped up and played well."

#### ***On how Connor Noland responded to throwing an interception....***

"For a young guy to be that fresh and enthusiastic about getting back out on the field, it's extremely impressive. He never froze up or gave you the deer in headlights look and didn't say anything. He was comfortable with himself and said, 'Well, I threw a pick, but now to the next play.' His mood was still up, he was enthusiastic about the game and it was really good to feel that. He made a mistake, but he understands that and you can't let it rollover and that was awesome to see from a freshman."

#### ***On how it felt to win again....***

"I think we played fundamentally great. Our defense was lights out the whole game even though we gave up a couple of big plays, but we shut out the fire. I think as a team we played a really well-rounded game and it's good for guys to be able to see that. Our starting quarterback got up and then a freshman came in and everyone rallied around him. We can see that even if the leader of our offense is down, everyone can still rally around him and we can still win games. For the defense to shut them out like that, it was tremendous. It was a sack party for the defense and it was great to see. It was good to get a break and right now I'm happy for our guys. We have a feeling that we can still win games; we don't have to blow up a lead and I'm happy for it."