



NOTRE DAME QUOTES

Brian Kelly - Head Coach - Notre Dame

Obviously a tough loss, guys battled real hard. You know, got too far behind and certainly when you get yourself in that kind of hole it's hard to dig out against a really good team. Michigan State, give them great credit they came up with more plays today than we did, and obviously from the start of the game we have a kickoff return called back, and then we muffed a punting situation. Two big plays there.

Go to the half and obviously put ourselves in a position to do some things in the second half and then give up too many big plays defensively, and offensively never got anything going until a little later in the third quarter and obviously got into a pretty good rhythm and just came up a little short.

Obviously from our perspective we've got to do a better job coaching. That's on me, starts with me, and obviously offense, defense, and special teams has got to be better to win games against good competition.

Q. (No microphone.)

BRIAN KELLY: I mean, we threw the ball virtually every down. We obviously tried to run the football, we had some success early and then got behind the chains. We missed some pressures, missed some protections. It just wasn't clean. Never got into a good flow. Got into a better flow when we started to throw the ball on first down.

Q. (No microphone.)

BRIAN KELLY: Well, you know, we still had two timeouts. We had gotten a couple of stops defensively and felt like they certainly were going to run the football. We got them into a good third down situation, and we don't do a very good job on two vertical and give them an easy completion. We put ourselves bang in a position even after that situation with another timeout. We make a stop there, and looks like a pretty good decision.

Q. Brian, you've seen your fair share of quarterbacks over the years?

BRIAN KELLY: Yes.

Q. After seeing Tyler O'Connor on tape and watching him tonight what's your take?

BRIAN KELLY: I think he will do fine. I think he manages what he's asked to do. He threw the ball down the field. I think he'll do fine. He's a smart kid, got a couple of games under his belt, obviously the competition was ratcheted up a lot for him. He had some big games for them, so I think he's going to be fine.

Q. (No microphone.)

BRIAN KELLY: I mean, we had a lot of missed fits, safety fits were poor, we missed some fits with our fronts.

Again, we gotta coach better. This means communicating what we want to our players and then our players have to execute them.

Q. (No microphone.)

BRIAN KELLY: Yeah, I mean, obviously, you know, we had great situation there late to make a couple tackles, and we just simply didn't make it. Those are the guys we have. We can't trade em, they're not getting cut. We recruited them, so I don't want to hear anybody-- I told our staff: Those are our guys, so we've gotta get 'em



better. We've got to put them in better position to make plays. Those are our guys. Give Michigan State credit, they broke through some tackles, and they deserved to win today.

We missed the tackles, and those are our guys that are going to be out there next week against Duke, and they're going to have to make some tackles the following week against the next opposition. So we can cry all we want about what we didn't do, but we gotta start doing it.

Q. (No microphone.)

BRIAN KELLY: It would take too long. We would have to have a clinic. We're in a position we gotta make that play, obviously. They got two verticals, pretty standard deal, corner's trying to midpoint two vertical, we buzz it with the underneath coverage guy, and we're not in good position. That's poor coaching. We're not coaching it well enough. Obviously if our players can't execute a simple two vertical corner sitting over the top and the safety coming underneath, that's on me. That falls on my shoulders, and we're not getting that done. So we're either not capable of running that coverage or we're not coaching it well enough, one or the other, so I gotta do a better job.

Q. The way your defense has performed this season, do you sort of look at your offense now as DeShone is going to have to carry the load?

BRIAN KELLY: No. Those are the typical questions that you get when, you know, after three games, we give up some points.

Look at college football. Defenses give up points all over. What we have to do is clean up some things and we're going to continue to work on it, but, no, DeShone Kizer is not going to be asked to carry us. The entire football team, and my coaching staff in particular, is in a position where they have to coach better. I've got to coach better. We've got kids that fight and have resolve.

We've been down twice big against two really good football teams, and we put ourselves back in a position to win both games, and we couldn't because we made too many mistakes. We're sloppy as a football team. There is not a referendum on who's got to carry who, the defense can't do that, we're too sloppy overall as a football team. If you were listening I just told you about two huge mistakes on special teams and the difference in the game was 8 points. So we gotta clean up the whole deal!

So this is everywhere, and this is on me. We gotta clean up everything. We are a sloppy football team.

Q. The time out before the punt were you weighing whether you wanted to go for it?

BRIAN KELLY: No, we left our offense -- it was pretty clear that we were going to punt the football, but no sense of showing punt there. I kept the offense right there and sent the punt team out after.

DeShone Kizer - Jr. - Quarterback - Notre Dame

Q. (No microphone.)



DeSHONE KIZER: We focus on winning each week and didn't come out successful. It hurts as much as any other loss we've had, and in a rivalry game against a team like Michigan State, we like to protect our house, and obviously that's not what we did.

Q. Do you feel like you guys had things rolling there in the third quarter, late, into the fourth quarter?

DeSHONE KIZER: We were executing what we were supposed to do, and I was executing what I was supposed to do. It's not like we weren't running good plays before that. We were running great plays, but as a commander of the offense, I failed to execute my job. In the third quarter when we hit that low, that's 100% on me, from communication errors to balls in the dirt to not making the plays on my feet like I'm supposed to.

I take this 100% on my back. We didn't score as many points as we should have to win the game and as the commander of the offense that's 100% on me.

Q. You're down 36-7. How tough is it to stay mentally into it and make the come-back?

DeSHONE KIZER: Not tough at all. When you know you are executing what you're supposed to do, and you simply do your job, you're going to score points. It's not tough at all. You just go out and do your job. Only reason we hit the low is because I wasn't doing mine, that simple.

Obviously going into the second half you like to be up but we were definitely in a position to win the game coming out of the tunnel, to start the second half, and that first couple of drives was unacceptable from the quarterback position.

Q. (No microphone.)

DeSHONE KIZER: They're exactly what we expected. They pressured just as we expected them to pressure. They did a really good job of holding their shelves, but we had outs. That's my biggest thing is every situation there was an out for me to get to, whether it be checking a play or simply throwing the ball out or getting us to the right run play, there was always an out for whatever look they gave us, and I didn't necessarily execute those outs. It's that simple.

We knew what we were getting, and they gave it to us and we didn't execute -- I didn't execute the way I was supposed to, which led to the offense not executing the way they were supposed to.

Q. (No microphone.)

DeSHONE KIZER: Yeah, they rolled down, played us press, Michigan State plays everyone press, ran a quick game concept, went to the boundary and decided to reverse fields all the way to the field, something that you don't do in a quick game, and at that point in time my time ran out and took us back. If I read out that play the way I'm supposed to, we got Equanimeous one-on-one down the sideline, and we know we can make a play, or I can simply give it to the back who is running down the seam, wide open.

Q. Did you want to go for it on 4th and 7?

DeSHONE KIZER: You know, in that situation they're talking a lot more than I am on the field, so they understand it a little bit than I do. I just assumed that it was going to be the last drive, so I figured we were going to go for it on fourth, but the way that the time situation was set up if we do go out there and get a stop on the first drive of Michigan State's drive, we probably get an opportunity to go down and score again.



My opinion doesn't matter, they're the ones who have the sheets on the back of their call sheet that says what they're supposed to do, and they went on a good instinct, I 100% trusted in that. They wanted the ball back to go down and score and unfortunately we put ourselves in a position to lose.

Q. Was it frustrating when your defense wasn't able to get you that stop and give you the chance to get one more drive?

DeSHONE KIZER: No, what's frustrating is when you go out there and you don't execute your job. I was asked to do a couple things, and they weren't done right today. That's the frustrating part. We can go out there and score every drive and put up 70 points, and I truly believe in that, and we fell short of that, and that has a lot to do with me.

Q. How do you refocus on the two losses this early?

DeSHONE KIZER: I have no idea how to refocus. We just got done losing. I have to reevaluate the situation and figure out what we have in front of us. We were focused right now on beating Michigan State. We didn't do it, and we will game plan tomorrow and figure out how to go about it. We have a 24-hour rule, so we will figure out what we did wrong against Michigan State and go from there.

Q. (No microphone.)

DeSHONE KIZER: You know, once again that's on me. There's plays to get to, there is always an out, and in the system that we have the quarterback has the complete reign to go out there and get us to the right play, and there was a couple of situations in which I didn't get us to the right play and that hurts. But at the same time when their defense comes out physical and we come out lackadaisical in the second half, that's what going to happen.

Q. Where do you feel like the game got away from you guys?

DeSHONE KIZER: I don't know if there is an exact time. We had a couple of turnovers that second quarter with the punting situation, and a fumble and then a move on a pick. All those things add up. In a game like this you can't do that.

Along those lines, I'm a true believer that every drive is its own independent drive. So to say that it got away from us at a single point would be wrong. We went out and had a great first drive and a decent second drive, and a bad third, and then sporadic from there, so to define a point where it went wrong, you can't. We've just gotta execute what we do. Thanks.

Mark Dantonio - Head Coach - Michigan State

MARK DANTONIO: Great football game tonight, great win for us down here at Notre Dame and a great environment. Basically excited about our football team and what we were able to accomplish. Came down here and thought we needed to win on toughness. I thought we did that. We had to be able to run the football, we were able to do that.

Come up with some explosive plays. I think the three turnovers to one probably makes a big difference in the football game, as well. I thought we played pretty solid on special teams other than that one kickoff return at the beginning of the game which was negated with the penalty.



Big win. We take it from here, start to develop an identity. Tyler O'Connor plays well, shows some moxie, made some huge plays. Donnie Corley huge catch in the end zone. Two-point conversion after it sorta sends us going. Big third quarter, great rally by Notre Dame, DeShone Kizer has a great third and fourth quarter, very poised. You don't count the teams out. You play a team the quality of Notre Dame you don't count 'em out.

Q. Mark, on the reception that kinda clinched it, the 28-yarder, was that called for that coverage or did he just read that right to get into that space?

MARK DANTONIO: I think they rolled up on cover two there, and he slipped it in there in the seam there, probably underthrown, but Corley makes a nice adjustment on the football, makes the catch, big catch, huge play, especially the way the momentum had turned.

Q. (No microphone.)

MARK DANTONIO: R.J. Shelton right after that, I think it's third and 4, I believe, breaks a tackle and scoots. He's done a nice job with that his entire career here, and, you know, I keep saying if we have a great to believe team, seniors gotta have their best years, and you saw an example of that right there. I thought that was sort of a game-winning-type play. Again we would have had to punt it down there, they would have had about 30 seconds left, but things happen, so we were able to seal it up.

Q. (No microphone.)

MARK DANTONIO: Well, both those guys, we felt like we needed to have some help in the defensive front a little bit. Jamal has played -- both those guys have played for us on the defensive line, so they know the system and we felt like, they would give us a little boost, so we got 'em in there and allowed their plays to take shape on offense a little bit and be able to make the move. I'm not sure how they played. I think Jamal played very well, I'm not sure on Brandon but it gave us added depth, which I think was a positive.

Q. That 16-minute stretch, end of the first half, the first 11 minutes of the third quarter, very dominating. Have you had a stretch like that since 2013 -- can you think of another stretch that you can compare it to and was that what you were waiting to see if this offense could do?

MARK DANTONIO: I can't think of that right now but a lot of points off turnovers, big run, very dominant performance in that area. Gotta close it out. Got tougher and tougher in the fourth quarter running the football but, again, you gotta give credit to Notre Dame and their coaching staff and the way they played, and they kept playing, and they fought their way back into the football game and were right there at the end, real.

Q. Mark, take me into a coach's head when they start making a little bit of a run and your offense comes out and stalls --

MARK DANTONIO: You really want to know that?

Q. I do.

MARK DANTONIO: Yeah, it's tough. That wave starts to roll on you, just like it started to roll on them in the third quarter, and it's tough to stop, stop 'em. They get their momentum going, and they're making some plays and made some nice catches, had good coverage on guys a couple times, made great catches, great throws, but we found a way. We got 'em down on -- I thought a big play in the game was third and 4 we sacked them and made it 4th and 7, 4th and 8, so there was a puppet and we were able to keep the football.



Q. The rhythm of your offensive line (No microphone.) Can you take us through what you did?

MARK DANTONIO: That was their first game and we've had one game in six weeks so been making all along practice makes perfect. We've been workin'. We had a little extra time to work, and when you don't play well and people sort of write you off a little bit, you have a tendency to rise up a little bit. I think that's what we did. I think we came into this football game with something to prove, talked all along that we needed to measure up and I thought we did that.

Q. Coach, Gerald Holmes lost his grandmother recently, and he said it meant a lot when you gave him the ball in the fourth quarter to run out the clock. What went into that decision?

MARK DANTONIO: "G" lost his grandmother Friday, so that was difficult for him, so our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family. As far as giving him the ball, you know, really he's a hot back, we're going to give the hot back the ball. I don't care who runs it, but he got hot, so we're going to give him touches. Not sure how many he got but both of them ran for over 100 yards.

Q. (No microphone.)

MARK DANTONIO: Yeah, I expect Donnie to have those type of games. He's a great football player. He's worked himself into basically a starting role, I would say, starting role, semi-starting role. Big catch in the end zone, pulled it away from a guy, and big catch at the end of the game where he's got to adjust to an underthrown ball. Two big plays, and I think he had one other. He's that type of player. He is that type of player. We've got a lot of other good players that are going to make plays as well, but this was his time at this point in time.

Q. Mark, early in the game you go for it on a fourth down in your own territory, you go for two, very aggressive. Can you talk about those two decisions and also the -- trying to think in terms of taking your foot off a little bit as you look at the clock in terms of how -- when to stay aggressive, how much to let up?

MARK DANTONIO: Oh, yeah, it's 39-6, you're saying let's just play good defense not give 'em big ones, and let's milk the clock a little bit, and that's pretty much what we did until, you know, it got within 15, and then we had to play the game a little bit. We still ran the ball, took some time off the clock, but I thought we had to play the game so went up top on Dancer, on that last third down and, hey, thought we played pretty well, going up top, we played pretty well.

Q. (No microphone.)

MARK DANTONIO: You know, it's early in the game, we came here to win. Our MO was we came here to win. I kept saying it the whole time, we came here to win, just win. You have to take a calculated risk.

Q. You said in your opening comments you're still looking to develop an identity. What do you think it is right now and what do you hope it will be?

MARK DANTONIO: We were able to run the ball, we've had big plays. I thought we played well defensively. We certainly took a step from our first game, and we came down and we played a good football team away from home in a great environment, and on a national TV, national stage, and you gotta be able to measure up in those times. Lights come on, you gotta be able to make big plays when the lights come on, big time. And I think most of our players, whether it's this game or other games in our schedule, they sit here and they dream about these opportunities.

These are life moments for our players, so they will remember this when we came to Notre Dame and we did this, and we won. This is a life moment for them, and this will be a great experience that they will draw on I think



for the rest of their lives. That's the way these big games are. Whether they're at our place or whether they're away or a Big Ten Championship game or a bowl game. So we can build on those things.

Q. What was the conversation on the sideline (No microphone.)

MARK DANTONIO: On my sideline?

Q. Yeah, the offense --

MARK DANTONIO: We just needed to get a first down. We knew we needed to get a first down. You could play it either way. Hindsight is 20/20. The way they were playing defense, if they would with punted it right back to us, we would have punted right back to them. They would have got the ball with two minutes to go. So you can't fault that decision. These are tough decisions you have to make, split-second decisions, but if it's the opposite way -- the game is over if they don't win on fourth and 7, so that's what they decided to do. It was working for them.

Q. (No microphone.)

MARK DANTONIO: Tyson played in there, and I'm not sure how he did but he probably played a lot of plays, and we had to roll people with their no-huddle offense a little bit, and I thought he played hard and pretty well.

Q. (No microphone.)

MARK DANTONIO: Well, you know, I think when you are a coach you always look for things that you can take advantage of. They had some people down, they're playing with young players in the secondary, we thought maybe we could throw the ball effectively. But we also -- we have pretty good tail backs, so we also needed to continue to have our identity and be not just be a "pass-first" team.

We gotta be a 50/50-type team, and I think we tried to stay balanced for most of the game. We were probably pretty balanced until we were up 39-6, and I think it weighed heavily toward the run, then.

Q. Not everybody rises to the occasion on big moments. What was it about these younger guys not to be phased by the big stage tonight?

MARK DANTONIO: We got good players, they dream of these opportunities. They're not afraid to step out into the light a little bit, that's where they're playing early. We got good seniors, our seniors have always carried us, Tyler O'Connor, big game from him. He's a senior.

So you look at other different things that went on out there. It's stuff to see -- say these things without seeing the film, but I thought our guys played very confidently, even -- at the end I'm not sure if their coach was confident, totally, okay, but that big wave was rolling. We found a way and our guys kept playing, and we said we gotta play the game, play the game. Can't go into our pockets. We gotta continue to play the game, and I thought we played plays at the end of the game which allow loud us to win.

Q. Did you see indicators over the last two weeks, and were you surprised at all by the way some of them performed?

MARK DANTONIO: No, we have good football players and we have a good team, so we've got to form an identity as we move forward.





Torii Hunter Jr. - Sr. - Wide Receiver

On the flow of the game

We didn't execute well. We just have to make plays when they are called. We just have to execute at a higher level.

On the different looks by the Michigan State defense...

They showed us a couple of different looks. They were playing a lot more off of me. They weren't pressing as much as we thought that they would. They showed a lot of different things that we didn't really expect, but we have to adjust.

On Coach Kelly's message after the game...

There are no moral victories. A loss is a loss no matter how you put it. He said we showed a lot of character and there is a lot of fight in this young team. I just feel that I could do better as a leader.

On staying motivated this season...

We have to continue to push guys because we have another nine games ahead of us on the season. It is important that we let these guys understand that we still have to go out and play. We still have games to play. We have games to win. We can still come out of here with a 10-win season.

On the costly mistakes in the game...

We were beating ourselves. I don't think that there was anything that they were doing that could have hindered us, but we beat ourselves. We had a fumble. We had a turnover on special teams. We were beating ourselves. I think those turnovers hindered us on the sidelines mentally. I think if we eliminate those we will be okay.

Mike McGlinchey - Sr. - Offensive Lineman

On looking to improve from this week's mistakes for next week...

There are some things that happen throughout the course of a football game. We had some struggles during the game that shouldn't have happened. We just have to go back to our jobs and just execute what we're doing.

On his responsibilities as a senior on the offensive line...

I think it's just a matter of going back to work. Watching the film, just doing what we need to do to get better. We shouldn't focus as much on the outcome on the game as we should



focus on just getting better each and every day with each and every play that we run. That's what's important to us, and that's what we have to keep doing as long as the season goes on.

Isaac Rochell - Sr. - Defensive Lineman

On Michigan State's third quarter push...

Obviously, it's the little things, guys just doing what they're supposed to. It's been a big thing for our defense for the last few years that individuals need to do what they have to do.

On how the defense improved as they started to make more stops

It was a mentality. We came to the sideline and we had a blowout, and ultimately, we knew the defense was going to win the game if we were going to win the game.

... On the defense failing to work as a comprehensive unit

I don't know. It's a variety of things. I can't speak for individual guys, but it's the fact that everyone has to do their job. It doesn't matter who it is, or what position, you just gotta do your job.

... On rallying Notre Dame as a captain when the team is 1-2

Keep fighting. We can't just roll over and give up. We have a good team. You look at this game, you look at Texas, you know our guys are doing well but not quite enough. So, just get better, and keep what doing what we're doing as far as effort and enthusiasm.

... On keeping the defense consistent throughout the game

If you have 11 great players who have been recruited and these guys are doing their job, teams won't be able to do many things against us. So that's one emphasis, and then another thing is the mentality, where our defense gets momentum and sort of gets going a little bit, so we have to keep that up.

James Onwualu - Sr. - Linebacker

... On frustration from playing a game with missed opportunities

It's frustrating, especially when you get a game there that's so close in the end and a couple of plays could've changed things.

On how to move forward as a captain



We take the 24 hours and then we get back to work like we always do. We have high character guys in our locker room.

On responsibility between the team and the coaches

We're all a team, and that's what it shows. He knows that he's got to do better, but obviously, as players, we know that we're the ones out there performing. No matter what, it's making plays at the end of the day.

On Coach Kelly's reaction

He understands and we understand that we're in this together. We all have stuff that we want to get better at, and that includes the coaches.



L.J. Scott - So. - Running Back

On the running game being a key towards the end of the game

From what we watched previously on Notre Dame, versus Texas, we saw that they had some pretty good run gains with pretty good chunks of yards. Running was something we emphasized during the week. We knew coming into the game that we would run the ball, and we did that tonight.

On the offensive line

They were really good tonight. We had to get in a rhythm and we surely did. I give all my credit to those guys up front.

R.J. Shelton - Sr. - Wide Receiver

On playing as a senior and his late game play

As a senior, it lies on you. With this being my last year, I'm making sure I've got to get this team where it needs to be. Obviously, for me to get the ball and close the game, that was what I needed to do. It was a great team win. The defense came to play.

On closing out Notre Dame

We just finished. You go through a lot of things like adversity, but it's how you respond at the end. It lies on a lot of people; it lies on guys to make things happen. That's what happened with me, making that catch to seal the game.

Donnie Corley - Fr. - Wide Receiver

On his play where he took the ball out of the defensive back's hands for the TD

Coach is always telling me to stay on top of the route and slide under. That is what I did. Tyler threw a great ball and I just wanted it more.

On whether his TD reminded him of his state-championship winning catch in high school

Yeah, it did. A couple people were telling me, 'it's like the state championship'. I didn't think of it at first, but running it through my mind, I thought that it did look like that.



Riley Bullough - Sr. - Linebacker

On the win and takeaways...

The biggest thing from this game is that it gives guys confidence. We played against a great team in Notre Dame. We could have put the throttle down a little bit more, but it's a win. This is a tough place to win, so to come down here and do that is awesome.

... *On going down early and holding on late*

Notre Dame is a tough team. They've got great players....We were playing hard, but they were making plays. You know a team like Notre Dame is going to do that so you have to keep playing hard and finish up.

Tyler O'Connor - Sr. - Quarterback

On the key to building the 36-7 lead

The biggest thing we did was feed of our own energy. Defense also played a major role in building the lead with turnovers and getting good field position.

... *On his throw to Donnie Corley for his first touchdown*

We knew that Donnie was going to be a big time player here; we just did not know when it was going to happen. He made a big time play when he almost ripped the ball out of the defender's hands. I knew he was going to go up and get the jump-ball; it's what he likes to do.

Gerald Holmes - Jr. - Running Back

.Gerald Holmes on this game compared to the start of his season

It was tough. Coming into the season not really playing was difficult, but this week I was ready.

Gerald Holmes on his 73 yard run

It is the longest run of my career so far. It felt like high school all over again. I was looking back and forth the whole time, but for the most part it was like Christmas.

Benny McGowan - Sr. - Offensive Guard

... *Benny McGowan on how the bye week affected their strategy*

One thing that we always preach coming off of a bye week is toughness. I think that we were able to establish a run game early and that this helped our momentum.



On past game history with Notre Dame

I think it definitely resonates. We haven't been as successful in the past few years against them and we really took that to heart. It was our only loss last season and we knew we could've won, but we didn't. We have always been good with away games. We have the mindset where we are going on the road, it doesn't matter. We are still going to play tough and we are still going to win.