



Brian Kelly - Head Coach - Notre Dame

BRIAN KELLY: Congratulations to Duke. They deserved to win today. They had a grittier more determined approach to finding a way to win. In college football it's find a way to win. And my hat goes off to them and Coach Cutcliffe finding a way to win today. So congratulations to them.

As for our group, there's not a lot of things to really point out, other than the obvious, three turnovers. All of them impact the game, sloppy turnovers, kick off return for a touchdown and the inability to mount anything consistently throughout the game.

Once you feel like you've got something going pretty good, we tend to make a mistake and let teams back into the game. So, I told our guys essentially that we're going in the wrong direction. We're not going to continue to go in this direction, we'll have to re-evaluate what we're doing, who we're doing it with, and how we're doing it, all of those things.

So, again, I think that they competed, they want to win, but we're not doing the things necessary to win games. It's hard to point them all out to you in a press conference right now, but we'll have to do some, we'll have to do a lot more work to get this group to start winning. So, questions?

Q. You mentioned that you're going to evaluate who you're going to do it with. Do you mean like personnel changes?

BRIAN KELLY: Oh, yeah, there will be personnel changes, absolutely.

Q. And what about the defensive coaching leadership? Are you still --

BRIAN KELLY: Actually, that's probably the one area that I feel better about today. We did what I wanted today in terms of coaching. And coaching had nothing to do with the outcome today. I was pleased from that perspective. Obviously, we put our defense in a bad situation today and they gave our offense a chance to win, quite frankly. Those turnovers were deadly and obviously the kick off return for a touchdown just put us in a tough situation.

There are things that I want to get better at defensively, there's no question. But that's the least of my concerns after today.

Q. Does the fact that you're 1-3 coax you to maybe say, go with Donte Vaughn maybe at this point even though he's not absolutely cooked all the way?

BRIAN KELLY: Absolutely. And not just Donte Vaughn. Every position, every position, all 22 of them, will be evaluated. Each and every position. There is no position that is untouchable



on this football team. And that's the quarterback, all the way down to, maybe, the long snapper's okay. We're not going to touch him. But everybody else is vulnerable.

Q. Just a comment about, please, the last time that you last actually couple times you had the ball, what you were hoping for and what you saw those last couple of possessions.

BRIAN KELLY: Poor execution. Poor, poor execution. I like what we called. I liked the looks that we had, and we did a poor job executing.

And now we, listen this is not all on our players, we still have to coach better as well. There's a lot that we have to do. Because we have got some young players that require really good communication and really good coaching, too. So, I'm a 1-3 coach, we're all 1-3 coaches, so we're in the same boat as all of our players. So let's be clear on that.

Q. In addition to Vaughn, who has to be on the field?

BRIAN KELLY: Guys that have fire and grit and, we had one guy in the entire football team that had emotion and fire. That is Dexter Williams. He's the only one. He's the only one that I saw. One guy.

So, if you want to play for me moving forward, you better, I don't care what your resume says, I don't care if you were a five star, if you had a hundred tackles or 80 receptions or 30 touchdown passes, you better have some damn fire and energy in you. We lack it. We lack it. Severely.

Q. You talked about a sense of urgency. You came out with a sense of urgency. So what, the next step is to continue from that sense of urgency?

BRIAN KELLY: There's just not a continuation, there's no consistency in it. There -- they can't burn for a long time. There's no passion. There's no passion for it. It looks like it's hard to play. Like we're pulling teeth. You're playing football for Notre Dame. It looks like it's work. Last I checked they were getting a scholarship to play this game. There's no fun, there's no enjoyment, there's no energy. We got to look for the guys that want to have fun and play this game with passion and energy and that's where we got to go.

Q. Is there any reason you can put your finger on as to why they would lack that passion?

BRIAN KELLY: I must be doing a poor job. I've got to do a better job of finding out what those things are that are putting our football team in that position. But we got to have more of it.

Q. I think you had too many men on the field in that one sequence. You had 12 men



on the field. You had to call the timeout, which is a timeout, obviously, you would like to have had at the end of the game. Was that just a matter of at that point you're starting to shuffle a lot of defensive players on the field?

BRIAN KELLY: Yeah, we're moving too many guys in and out. And what happens when you run in and out of the game, you're calling it from the sideline, but it is a responsibility -- and this goes hand in hand with what we're talking about -- there's only so much you can do. You then have to echo that going into the game. It's a speed package. You're a part of the speed package, you have to echo that going into the game. Poor communication going into the game results in having 12 guys on the field.

Q. What went into putting Malik Zaire out there in a non-quarterback role and how long have you been planning for that?

BRIAN KELLY: We have got some plays, but that's short lived now, too. After him taking the ball and not throwing it away after we sprint out and moved the pocket for the specific reason that if there's any kind of pressure, you can throw the ball away. So, you won't see that again.

Q. How would you evaluate DeShone just as a whole today?

BRIAN KELLY: Below standard. It's not acceptable, his play.

Q. Are you saying Wimbush could play this year?

BRIAN KELLY: That's a possibility. That's a definite possibility.

DeShone Kizer - Jr. - Quarterback - Notre Dame

Q. What did coach say to you guys after the game?

DESHONE KIZER: He kind of pushed the message to us that we're going to have to put something new together for us to figure this out. Obviously, 1-3 is a horrible way to start a season and in order to move forward from here there's going to have to be some changes. What we're doing isn't working right now.

Q. He's been pretty quick to shoulder the blame himself after the last couple losses. Today he kind of pushed it on you guys. Do you feel like you guys need to be held to a higher standard?

DESHONE KIZER: We're always held to a higher standard. What he comes in and tells the media is one thing, but we understand that in order for to us win football games we're going to have to come out with a fire and a sense of urgency, the thing that's he's been preaching all week.



And this week we came out with a little more, but we have to execute what we do and today we didn't. Come out with a great start and we hit another low. For us, on offensive side of the ball, to move forward we're going to have to execute better than what we're doing.

Q. How do you feel about the way you played?

DESHONE KIZER: I got to execute what I'm doing better.

Q. (No microphone.)

DESHONE KIZER: They wanted it more than us. From warmups to the fourth quarter, they came out to play and we didn't. We didn't execute the way we were supposed to and it's clear as day that they came in here ready to win the game. They had a really good game plan for us on both sides of the ball and they executed what they were supposed to do.

And if you're going to come out here with a travel roster of a bunch of D-1 athletes and you're going to execute what you're going to do your game plan against a team that you've been watching all week, you're going to win a football game and that's what they did.

We didn't execute what we needed to do. It was the same roster of 22 guys on the field and we're going to lose games if we're not going to execute the way we're supposed to.

Q. You say they wanted it more. How do you make you and your teammates want it more?

DESHONE KIZER: It's a mindset. It's a fire that you see out of a guy like Dexter Williams today. It's a fire that you're supposed to have every time you step on the field and the passion for the game and that passion just lacked today. We didn't have it. And that's going to be something that we're going to have to adjust moving forward if we want to make one of those big changes to turn this season around.

I've never been one 1-4 and I don't know how you go about it, but there's clearly things that need to change and there's definitely going to have to, we're going to have to have more passion if we're going to want to win games.

Q. After the game, coach said every position is up for grabs. How do you feel about that?

DESHONE KIZER: I'm going to go in tomorrow, watch the film, make the adjustments I need to make and try to prepare myself to be a better quarterback next week than I was this week.

Q. (No microphone.)



DESHONE KIZER: No, we work on not trying to have rhythm and being able to evaluate drives from a drive by drive basis.

And at that point, we give up a special teams touchdown and you can blame momentum to anything. But for us, we went out there and we started turning the ball over and not executing what we were supposed to do and that's the number one initiative is take the game plan that's put in front of you and do your best to play that game plan your best.

Q. Do coaches consult with you about what you would like to do on a fourth and one?

DESHONE KIZER: No, no, that's a hierarchy decision. They will talk about that and make on their own. I just try to play when they tell me to play.

Q. He says everybody's job is up for grabs.

DESHONE KIZER: I'm in a competition every time I step on that practice field. There's a great quarterback behind me. My job is up for grabs every day I step on that field and I'm going to continue to grind out the way that I've been grinding out since the day I got here when there was two guys in front of me. Now there's a great guy behind me and I know I have to go out and make myself better. If I can be a better guy than I was this week, next week, I'm sure I'll be on the field.

Q. (No microphone.)

DESHONE KIZER: He's given me the keys. He's definitely kind of given me the offense and letting me run with it. To go 1-3 and not come up on some big drives at the end of games, that all falls on me as the commander of this offense, it is my job to execute it every time I touch the ball, and I haven't done that well lately. I have to play complete games and be more consistent if we're going to win games from here on out. We're going to have to make good adjustments this week to find some consistency.

Q. (No microphone.)

DESHONE KIZER: The quarterback's the leader and, yes, what he does and how he goes about his job is definitely going to affect the whole team, but there's everyone out on that field, there's leaders all the way across the board. It's a complete team mentality, it's not one guy that's going to have to take the whole energy thing and put it in his own hands.

Q. As one of the leaders on this team, do you feel like you need to change the way you do anything going forward?

DESHONE KIZER: Yeah, I need to remain focused and work on my consistency. I think my mentality and my poise is something that this team isn't benefiting from. I'm going to have to be more verbal, I'm going to have to make sure that I take my job and put a little more effort into it, in the sense of the energy side of things. Guys are going to go out there and



feed off of me and I need to make sure that I have the energy that it takes for all 11 guys to go out and play well, not just myself.

Q. You said you never really been in that situation before. So how do you move forward? Obviously it's kind of uncharted territory for you.

DESHONE KIZER: You look to the leadership. There's coaches for a reason. They're going to tell us the best way to go about it and I'm going to trust in whatever they have to say and they're going to spend, it's their job to go in and evaluate what we're supposed to do and how we're going to move forward, so I'm going to rely on those guys and trust in those guys who have been doing it for a countless amount of years. So if we can just trust in whatever they have to say, then I'll follow suit.

Q. Did you feel the other team wanted it more than you guys did?

DESHONE KIZER: Yeah, I think that was, that became apparent today. I think that we are a team who has the ability to score every time we step on the field, but that's only when everyone on the field's locked into their job. And I clearly have the position now where people are going to feed off of me. So I have to make sure that I have the energy for all 11 guys out on the field, rather than just me and allowing those guys to rely on themselves. That's a big difference from last year's team to this year's team is that you had a bunch of veterans out there last year who are going to be able to thrive on their own and it's clear now after being 1-3 with some of these young guys I'm going to have to bring the energy for them.

Q. Where would you say your confidence is and the team confidence is at this point in the season?

DESHONE KIZER: I think there's a lot of elite guys in there who have been playing elite football they're whole life and there's probably not a lot of us who have been 1-4. So we're going to have to rely on the leadership of the coaches to figure out who we are and then build that confidence back up. But at the same time we all are capable of being great and if we can go out and better ourselves next week and focus how we're going to go 1-0 next week then I think that's going to allow us to build the confidence we need to win games.

Q. Coach talked about having more fire and passion. How do you deal with being 1-3?

DESHONE KIZER: I've never been through it. You have to rely on your previous experiences, we have lost before, everyone here has lost before, so you go to your typical way of going about a loss and then you make the adjustments moving forward when you're trying to prepare for the next game. Confidence is something that you're going to have to have to win games, with the schedule that we play, and when we go out and compete, on Tuesday with our first practice out there, I think everyone's going to hop back into their



football mode and have the confidence that they have always had.

David Cutcliffe - Head Coach - Duke

DAVID CUTCLIFFE: I was trying to keep moving myself so I didn't hold our plane up.

But to start with, I'm extremely proud of the effort, just the effort, not the victory first, but the effort our team displayed on the field, the effort our coaches displayed in coaching our team. I think some of the biggest aspects of it, for us, are being down 14-0 on the road and coming back.

We had a severe injury to one of our captains and one of the best football players I've ever been around, DeVon Edwards, and our team just rallied with that. Down in the fourth quarter and finding a way to come back. It was just a fiercely competitive game. Notre Dame as a really good football team.

We found a little bit more out about ourselves today and what our personality has to be to win. So not all that complicated, we did the things that we had to do to give ourselves a chance to win on the road, and then found a way to win it in the fourth quarter. As I said, extremely proud of all of our people and the job that they have continued to do. With that I'll take any questions you might have.

Q. You just touched on DeVon Edwards. Usually you go down 14-0, your best player goes down and everyone expected this to get away from you. Obviously, this had the reverse effect. How did everyone rally around and galvanize in that situation?

DAVID CUTCLIFFE: I think it goes back to last Sunday, last Tuesday, and how we responded to a loss to Northwestern. How DeVon responded as a captain, standing up in front of our team on Sunday.

College football's unique in the fact that anymore you're not hitting near as much live in spring and in August and so you kind of it takes a little longer maybe to figure out who you are.

But I felt like when, we practiced in the mornings, really early. And when we hit the field Tuesday morning, you felt like you were coaching a different team. So you can't turn those things on out there on Saturday. Tuesday and Wednesday show up on Saturday. Not every snap.

So I think if we hadn't have been as prepared, and DeVon had a big part to do with that, we



wouldn't have been able to respond. But I believe in my heart we have the right kind of people and that's what you do when you're the right kind of people.

Q. Do you have any diagnosis on his injury?

DAVID CUTCLIFFE: We'll have to confirm tomorrow, but it probably is going to be ligaments. So heartbreaking. Won't be confirmed until tomorrow. But I've learned those guys are pretty good at knowing what it is with the examinations that they do on the field and in the locker room and on the sidelines.

So, his mom's here, I hugged her going in at halftime, just wonderful people. I'm going to say this, because I'm emotional about it, DeVon Edward and tomorrow mass is your are two good as people I'm not talking about young men or players, I'm not categorizing them, they're two as good people that I have every known in my entire life. I'm proud that they're in my life. That's how I feel.

Q. What's your assessment of the offense today, particularly how much you struggled the last two weeks. You only had the one turnover today, the penalties were down, mistakes were less, just what did you see them do you think out there today?

DAVID CUTCLIFFE: I thought we were physical. It starts there. I thought we used the field really well, something that we have needed to do. I thought that we had a great plan, our offensive staff executed very well during the week Matt Guerrieri called a great game.

And what I mean by using the field, you got to use the field this day and time with big talented defenses. You use it sideline to sideline, you use it in length, you do things behind the line of scrimmage. But my hat has to go off first and foremost, any time you play a good offense, it starts with the offensive line.

Marcus Johnson, he's a great young offensive line coach. I couldn't have been more proud of a group, they have answered the bell and hopefully, we can continue to grow in that area.

Q. On the ligaments, knee ligaments, I assume?

DAVID CUTCLIFFE: Yes.

Q. And you think it's probably season ending?

DAVID CUTCLIFFE: Probably, yes.

Q. Earlier in the fourth quarter, you were hesitant to kick the field goal. Obviously, your kicker struggled early this year. What was the thought process on that?

DAVID CUTCLIFFE: Well, I thought we would make the first down and you don't ever do that unless you think you're going to make the first down. I felt like it might take a



touchdown to win. I didn't think a field goal would win the game. And I love to go for it on fourth down. I didn't do a very good job of having us ready on that play. You don't get do overs in our business.

I wouldn't have kicked the field goal. I would have done a different thing offensively, which that all falls on me in that circumstance.

But I have confidence, AJ had a great week. We did make a change in our holder and Danny Stirt who is a non-scholarship player, who is as a place kicker and a punter for us, just had a great week. It built confidence in AJ and our guys believed, that unit there, they believe in him and he's got a lot of talent.

So, I knew when it came down there at the end, the field goal, there was no doubt in my mind he was going to make it. But I just felt like we needed a touchdown to win and I think we would have.

Q. Did you consider going for it on fourth down on the end there?

DAVID CUTCLIFFE: When you have a team with no timeouts, you don't do that. You don't play overtime. If they have no timeouts, you kick the field goal. And you realize that they're playing on a shorter field, but they also have less time in that circumstance. So I felt good about that.

Q. What did you see in their, coming into the game what did you see in their defense that you thought you might be able exploit?

DAVID CUTCLIFFE: Well, we felt like that, again, as big and strong as they are, we wanted to make them run. We felt like we had to use the field. We felt like we have some speed, which we do, and quickness, which we do. So we felt like we could keep them off balance. They're extremely well coached, they're physical, I mean they are really physical. We just found a way to pick at them enough and make 24 first downs. That was probably as important as anything that we did to keep that offense of theirs off the field. That was obviously a big part of the plan as well. So, just finding ways to find, keep them off balance is really what we felt like we had to do.

Q. Can you share your impressions of DeShone Kizer and what were you, how were you trying to attack him maybe on their last two possessions?

DAVID CUTCLIFFE: Well we would like to attack him, but we couldn't find a way to attack him much through that offensive line.

I watched him in high school, we have a player on our team from the same school, played with him. I think he is terrifically talented. I knew how big he was, but I went out in



pregame and he was out there throwing with a ball cap on. And got great talent, he's got some great people around him, and he's a young quarterback still right now. I think his best years are ahead of him. But he can flat light you up.

Now in the end, when you are in a situation, or circumstance, where you're on a short field and what I mean by short field is the field goal range, and they are in a position to not make less than first downs, milk the clock. And his big arm made it hard. We were trying to get him from getting out of bounds with the ball.

But we wanted to keep things in front of us. We felt like they would attack deep in the middle of the field. And we got some good players who made some plays on the ball and competed and forced him to put a little more air under it than he would want to or have to. So it's a little bit cat and mouse. But from a, now that we have finished and don't play them, from a quarterback, my, being a quarterback guy, I like watching him. But on TV from now on.

Q. You're down 14-0, they score a couple easy touchdowns. Shaun brings the kick back. It seemed like it changed the game for you. How did you feel about that and what was going on on the sidelines as far as the mood of the team?

DAVID CUTCLIFFE: Well we felt like we have been on the verge, you know we're a really, really good kick off return team. They looked like the best kick off return team for awhile today. But we know we're really good. And we told our team all week long, we're on the verge of this. And, of course, we thought it would be DeVon.

But Shaun's a great athlete, great vision and great quickness. So it did energize us, but I reminded all of them, that's not what we came up here to do, to have to look for something good to happen to play well. That's not what you don't on the road. That may sound crazy, and they were excited, but I said, you know, now let's get back to being focused on what we intended to do from the beginning. And that's to compete every play.

I thought our team did a great job of doing that through 60 minutes of this game. I didn't want it to ebb and tied with emotion. That's not what you do when you go on the road, because who is the emotion in favor of? It's in favor of them, almost every single time.

So, I thought our team fought through that. But a little help to have a nice kick off return for a touchdown. That doesn't hurt.





Equanimeous St. Brown - So. - Wide Receiver - Notre Dame

On difficulty of loss..

It's hard. It's hard for everybody. Everyone hates to lose, everyone wants to win. It's on me, it's on everybody, it's on the team. We need to get better.

On Coach Kelly's comments that playing seems like a job, team not energized, how do you fix that...

We need to come together as a team and be more excited for games. We need to have that fire. I need to step up and everyone else needs to step up as well.

On how to keep mentality up after tough losses...

We have to have short-term memory. It's in the past and there's nothing we can do to change it. We need to look forward and move on to Syracuse.

On Coach Kelly's postgame message to team...

We need to have more grit. He's going to look for the guys that want to play. It doesn't matter if you're a five-star in high school, how high your stats were. If you have that fire and that grit, you will play.

Josh Adams - So. - Running Back - Notre Dame

On mistakes...

We have a lot of potential but I think that we cause a lot of the mistakes that happen out there, and that's what happened today.

On how the team got out of rhythm...

It's something that [Coach Kelly] preached about all week in practice: paying attention to little details, details that you tend to forget sometimes, details that make the difference between a long play and a short play and no play. I think that's mainly what it was that caused us to get out of rhythm and a lot of that is on us as running backs. We have to do a better job of leading and running hard.

Mike McGlinchey - Sr. - Offensive Line - Notre Dame

On who to turn to and how to lead the team going forward...

The answers are within our football team. There's no turning to a specific source or anything like that. [We have to] coming together collectively as a team and figure out what we can do better and what we need to work on. We have to change [our] attitudes and get



ourselves to win football games. I don't think [we have to] look for any magical answers. We have the character in our locker room to make the changes that are needed. It comes right from within the individual and then collectively from the team.

On what he anticipates moving forward...

The idea is to keep improving on what the message is. The message cannot change. We're 1-3. There's a sense of urgency to get better, change our attitudes and fix what's going on with our football team. We've got to play consistent throughout [each game]. There's no other way around it. We just have to do it.

Isaac Rochell - Sr. - Defensive Line - Notre Dame

On Dexter Williams being the only one who played with passion...

I only want to speak positively about Dexter. He has a lot of passion. He's a passionate guy, so I do understand why [Coach Brian Kelly] would say that.

On bringing out the passion into the rest of the team...

There is definitely a way to bring passion. It's tough when you're in the predicament we're in. We just have to find a way

Nyles Morgan - Jr. - Linebacker - Notre Dame

On whether Duke had more energy...

If a team is scoring touchdowns, they will have the momentum. Our job is to take away that momentum.

On agreeing with Brian Kelly's assertion that positions should be up for grabs after today...

It's not my call. He is the coach, and he will do the best for this team. He has to make that call.

On what the team needs...

We need more energy, more passion, and more drive.

On his perspective of what happened defensively...

I think I speak for everybody else, but I saw passion, in my eyes, from the defense. But we do need more passion.

On the first fourth down when they came up with a stop, what he saw that allowed him to fill the hole so quickly...

It was a base call that allowed the linebackers to run free, he [the Duke running back]



popped into my hole and I did my job.

On whether he feels more productive when allowed to get downhill...

Yea, it makes my job easy. Then I just have one job, and that allows me to go out and make a play.

James Onwalu - Sr. - Linebacker

On where you go from here as a team...

Obviously, the things we've been doing haven't been working, so we just need to go back to the drawing board. We need to get rid of the things that haven't been working and continue to get better on what we have been doing well.

On his message to the team as a senior leader...

We need to identify the things we aren't doing well and figure out a way to fix those things.

Zach Harmon - So. - Center - Duke

On coming in to play Notre Dame...

For the past two weeks we've been struggling, and we came in here like it was any other week. We know this is a talented team; Notre Dame is very talented, and we knew if we were more fierce and played harder than they wanted to play that we would get it done. That's what happened.

On support from hometown of Toledo...

It was awesome. I was hoping to see DeShone after the game. I know a lot of people from Toledo are watching out for DeShone and me. It's great to get it done and beat DeShone, my high school quarterback, a bit. It's a good win, and it feels really good.

On seeing DeShone's success...

He used to be on all the local sports channels. Now he is all over ESPN, the biggest national sports network, and it's awesome. It's cool telling the guys that he's my high school quarterback and bragging on him a little bit. It feels a little bit better beating him this time instead of bragging on him, but it's all fun. I'm really proud of him.

Breon Borders - Sr. - Cornerback - Duke

On mentality in the second half...

It's all about motivating each other, and our coaches do it. We did a great job staying positive, and we also motivate each other. Leadership on this team is critical, and we came



out on the positive side of things.

AJ Reed - Fr. - Kicker - Duke

On his first college field goal being a game winner...

It's pretty cool. I'm really happy, and I can't thank the guys around me enough, especially the O-line snapper holder. I really can't thank God enough because without Him I wouldn't be here.

On the guys talking to him before the field goal attempt...

They were all telling me that they had my back and that they knew I was going to get it done for them.

T.J. Rahming - So. - Wide Receiver - Duke

On big pass play...

I think we knew that the safety wasn't as aggressive and he had a bad angle, and we were just able to get by him.

On the freshman kicker's ability and the fact he had never made a field goal before...

We were all behind him. We just had to get him to be confident in himself, and that's what we did this week. We just tried to uplift him, we all trust in his ability, and he did a great job.

Daniel Jones - Fr. - Quarterback

On big play and whether or not he expects it to be a big gain...

It has several variations and has the potential, well we hope every play has the potential to have a big gain.

On playing ability and what clicked for him...

I think we were, as a team, executing at such a high level. We weren't perfect by any stretch, but overall, we were executing more consistently than we had been. The offensive line was doing a phenomenal job up front; pass protection, run game, they were executing at a very high level. The skill guys as well, all of them were doing their job as well and we all just worked together.

On Clay Chambers in his first start...

Clay played great. I have all the confidence in the world in Clay and all those guys out there. Clay made a lot of good plays out there for us today, and that was good to see for sure.

