

WEBVTT

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00:06:01.980 --> 00:06:09.660

Claire Kramer: Thank you everyone for joining us today. As a reminder, will be using the raise hand function with Coach Kelly. So when you do have a question, please use the raise hand function. Thank you.

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00:21:06.660 --> 00:21:09.690

Claire Kramer: Alright, we will go ahead and begin with Coach Kelly, Coach, if you're ready.

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00:21:10.410 --> 00:21:11.130

Notre Dame Football: Yes, I'm ready.

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00:21:13.830 --> 00:21:19.290

Notre Dame Football: Well, great victory for our guys really proud of the way they

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00:21:20.490 --> 00:21:21.360

Notre Dame Football: Elevated

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00:21:23.010 --> 00:21:26.460

Notre Dame Football: Their compete level. The challenge was this week.

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00:21:28.620 --> 00:21:31.170

Notre Dame Football: Was was so much more about

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00:21:32.910 --> 00:21:37.530

Notre Dame Football: Individuals and the team understanding that

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00:21:39.240 --> 00:21:43.410

Notre Dame Football: What's important now is also about what's important. Next, and

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00:21:44.490 --> 00:22:02.370

Notre Dame Football: And so there's this understanding with this group. Now that everything they do now has bearings on who we are as a football team. Later in the season and and we needed to elevate our compete level and they certainly did that today.

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00:22:03.480 --> 00:22:14.250

Notre Dame Football: We needed to play fearless. We needed to play with great energy and we need to play makers and we saw those three things today and

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00:22:15.450 --> 00:22:19.200

Notre Dame Football: This is a very good glimpse of what this football team is capable of

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00:22:19.860 --> 00:22:20.220

Notre Dame Football: So,

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00:22:20.970 --> 00:22:22.380

With that will open up to questions.

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00:22:23.520 --> 00:22:25.890

Claire Kramer: All right, we will start it off with Pete Samson.

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00:22:27.420 --> 00:22:32.580

Pete Sampson: Brian, I think it's probably the first time in a while you sort of got something from all three phases.

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00:22:33.510 --> 00:22:39.780

Pete Sampson: How important that is that in sort of the what's important now is important. You know what, what's important. Next, and I mean

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00:22:40.470 --> 00:22:49.320

Pete Sampson: These are college kids. They know Clemson is two weeks away now. Is that, is that part of the what's important. Next, and making sure that the program is is peaking on November 7

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00:22:50.520 --> 00:22:52.590

Notre Dame Football: Yeah, so, you know,

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00:22:53.130 --> 00:22:58.920

Notre Dame Football: You know, a lot of times you kind of get caught up in the grind of, you know, just trying to win football games and, you know,

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00:22:59.850 --> 00:23:07.260

Notre Dame Football: We kind of said, look, we're past this you know we're not interested in just winning football games. We're interested in being a championship football team and

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00:23:07.860 --> 00:23:22.890

Notre Dame Football: And just plan to win games is not good enough anymore, we need to we need to elevate our compete level, we need to coach better. We need to play better. We need to play at an elite level and it starts with playing

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00:23:24.420 --> 00:23:25.170

Notre Dame Football: You know, at

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00:23:26.310 --> 00:23:28.740

Notre Dame Football: A level that allows you to

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00:23:30.570 --> 00:23:34.410

Notre Dame Football: Not all of a sudden play your best when you have to but but

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00:23:35.970 --> 00:23:41.910

Notre Dame Football: Have that ready to go, because you are playing at a high level. And that hasn't been the case.

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00:23:43.740 --> 00:23:51.000

Notre Dame Football: So that was the challenge. And that's, you know, it's risky right because you're in some instances, people would say, Well, you're looking ahead. Well,

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00:23:51.570 --> 00:24:01.560

Notre Dame Football: We are looking ahead a little bit. We needed to get this football team to understand that they are really good and we needed to up our compete level in all three phases. We did that today.

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00:24:03.570 --> 00:24:05.190

Claire Kramer: We'll go next to Patrick angle.

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00:24:07.080 --> 00:24:21.270

Patrick Engel: Brian, how just how important was it for the receiver

room, in particular, to get performance like it did from Bennett with Kevin not available inch to have somebody who was a downfield contesting catch the right is consistently and it was

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00:24:22.290 --> 00:24:23.250

Notre Dame Football: Yeah. Well, it was

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00:24:24.300 --> 00:24:34.980

Notre Dame Football: It was the point of emphasis all week and that you know we lost Kevin on Thursday after you know we had finished practice. So it was it was a blow, but we

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00:24:35.580 --> 00:24:45.300

Notre Dame Football: We were very confident and all of other guys and and you know, Ben came up with the big play right, you know, certainly, you know, we can talk about it but you got to go do it too. And

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00:24:45.690 --> 00:24:58.770

Notre Dame Football: We've had great confidence. Ben had not been healthy, but we knew what he was capable of and he went up and took the ball away and set a great tone for how we were going to be moving forward and

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00:25:00.000 --> 00:25:07.920

Notre Dame Football: You know, we're going to need to continue to see that from him and McKinley and and we're going to need to see it from, you know, all of our wide receivers.

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00:25:09.960 --> 00:25:12.330

Claire Kramer: Now, next question will be from Tyler games.

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00:25:14.100 --> 00:25:18.630

Tyler James, South Bend Tribune: Brian. Just to follow up on Kevin Austin. What was his injury prognosis and how long would be out

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00:25:19.920 --> 00:25:31.950

Notre Dame Football: Well, he broke the foot right on the score again. So we'll, you know, we'll talk to the family, a little bit more. And, you know, these, these are the type of injuries that require

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00:25:33.060 --> 00:25:39.780

Notre Dame Football: More than just, you know, Reese resetting the screw. We believe that this is an injury that

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00:25:41.130 --> 00:25:48.060

Notre Dame Football: Is very similar to the one that gives went through and he's come back in great shape. So it's going to require you know obviously

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00:25:49.260 --> 00:26:04.770

Notre Dame Football: Consultation with the family and our medical team, but we're going to get them back in the spring and doesn't lose a year. It's disappointing. I know he's very disappointed. We're disappointed for him. He's

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00:26:05.850 --> 00:26:08.370

Notre Dame Football: You know he's had a rough run of it, but we're going to get them right

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00:26:09.540 --> 00:26:13.620

Notre Dame Football: And and get them back back for next year.

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00:26:15.660 --> 00:26:17.100

Claire Kramer: We'll go next to Pete burn.

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00:26:20.430 --> 00:26:26.310

Pete Byrne: I coach. I think this is the third time this season your defenses. Now, how the team to single digits.

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00:26:27.570 --> 00:26:33.900

Notre Dame Football: Actually, it's the first time since 2002 that we've given up less than 10 points in back to back games. Did you know that

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00:26:34.350 --> 00:26:36.600

Pete Byrne: I didn't. But I'm glad that you shared that with us.

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00:26:37.110 --> 00:26:44.730

Pete Byrne: Thanks, thanks to clear and Katie, you've got great consultants there. Hey, I knew, I knew I could do that to you. So thank you for allowing me

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00:26:44.940 --> 00:26:57.870

Pete Byrne: My pleasure. Happy to help. How confident are you in that unit when you do get to a situation where you play against an elite offense that they can make enough plays to keep the scoring down to where you can win a game.

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00:26:58.140 --> 00:26:59.520

Notre Dame Football: That's a pretty good defense.

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00:27:00.630 --> 00:27:05.880

Notre Dame Football: You know there there's there's playmakers all over that field. There's a

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00:27:08.040 --> 00:27:13.350

Notre Dame Football: It's very difficult to run the football against them. They if you're a drop back team.

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00:27:14.790 --> 00:27:18.300

Notre Dame Football: You know, and this is the first drop back quarterback that that we've seen.

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00:27:19.620 --> 00:27:21.840

Notre Dame Football: Other than the opener against Duke

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00:27:23.250 --> 00:27:33.810

Notre Dame Football: They, they make life difficult for you. You are under duress with that group coming at you and we saw, we saw the pressure that was placed on that young man today and

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00:27:35.190 --> 00:27:36.990

Notre Dame Football: Then on the back end, you know, you've got

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00:27:38.700 --> 00:27:54.780

Notre Dame Football: You've got some outstanding players. Now, again, it's not like we've had great continuity, that's the that's four weeks. Now that we've had four different combinations at the quarterback position. So it'd be nice to get some continuity back there. Terrific was not healthy.

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00:27:56.460 --> 00:28:02.880

Notre Dame Football: It had been sick didn't have the virus, but had been sick. There are other sicknesses. I didn't know that.

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00:28:03.270 --> 00:28:12.480

Notre Dame Football: I have to get caught up in this for so long, but he had been sick and under the weather. We just just felt like it wasn't right to travel them under the conditions that were that were at so

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00:28:13.440 --> 00:28:21.570

Notre Dame Football: Another another rotation out there but Clarence did a nice job but it's it's a really well balanced defensive football team.

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00:28:23.850 --> 00:28:25.230

Claire Kramer: Next to Eric Hansen.

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00:28:27.660 --> 00:28:38.970

Eric Hansen: Me coach at the beginning of us just an update on maybe what happened to Braden lenzie there late in the game. But the bigger picture. Question is, as you move forward.

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00:28:39.420 --> 00:28:53.220

Eric Hansen: Looking at receiver options. Do you need to sift through some of the other options deeper down the depth chart like Wilkens and and Jordan Johnson or people like that to replace Austin.

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00:28:54.150 --> 00:29:02.550

Notre Dame Football: Now know Joe Wilkins will be Josie really good player Joe just will get more reps Kevin keys Kevin Lauren's keys will be back.

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00:29:04.140 --> 00:29:11.190

Notre Dame Football: And he saw a little bit of time. Now we're in good shape there. I feel really good about the group, we have hopefully

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00:29:11.820 --> 00:29:18.330

Notre Dame Football: You know, we're not talking about anything but pulling some of the scar tissue that that's really been the issue with Braden, it's the scar tissue.

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00:29:18.930 --> 00:29:27.810

Notre Dame Football: From the, the original injury that he's that he's pulled at and it's been, you know, you know, troublesome for him. So hopefully it's just the scar tissue.

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00:29:28.320 --> 00:29:34.800

Notre Dame Football: But know what what the rope, the rotation that we have and the guys that you see other than losing Kevin Austin.

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00:29:35.400 --> 00:29:44.910

Notre Dame Football: That's the group that's going to be with us will continue to use those guys. And then, as you know, we, you know, we use that rotation of tight ends and the running back position.

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00:29:45.450 --> 00:29:52.230

Notre Dame Football: Carbon Williams is is a great weapon for us as well. So we feel like there's there's plenty of options out there for us.

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00:29:54.990 --> 00:29:56.970

Claire Kramer: Right next to Andrew men talk

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00:30:04.170 --> 00:30:06.870

Andrew Mentock: The in the first three quarters. I know the the

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00:30:08.250 --> 00:30:12.000

Andrew Mentock: The front seven for it's pretty potent and they had, I think, two sacks and

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00:30:13.500 --> 00:30:22.950

Andrew Mentock: Nine quarterback hits in the first record and now they're bringing more than than just the defensive line, how would you kind of assess your team's ability to handle that pressure, including in book.

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00:30:25.650 --> 00:30:30.750

Notre Dame Football: Yeah, I mean, they're an aggressive. They're one of the best defensive fronts in the country. I think they were number one defense.



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00:30:31.890 --> 00:30:38.850

Notre Dame Football: You know, we knew that we were going to, you know, be challenged against a very, very good defense but

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00:30:39.930 --> 00:30:44.610

Notre Dame Football: You know, Ian's got great escape ability and and he's very difficult

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00:30:45.630 --> 00:30:46.470

Notre Dame Football: You know, to handle

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00:30:47.970 --> 00:30:52.500

Notre Dame Football: You know, I have to watch the film to find out you know how we did against some of those one on one matchups

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00:30:53.400 --> 00:30:58.110

Notre Dame Football: But it's not always offensive line. Sometimes it's you know coverage sacks. Sometimes it's

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00:30:58.680 --> 00:31:03.840

Notre Dame Football: You know, not getting the ball out of your hands. But, you know, by and large, you know, it's a really good offensive line. I mean, we

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00:31:04.590 --> 00:31:19.680

Notre Dame Football: You know, we had in terms of total offense, you know, 434 plays. We had 83 total plays and we had 40 almost 41 minutes of possession time. So if you told me that and 45 points I would say, you know, that's a pretty good day.

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00:31:21.870 --> 00:31:23.370

Claire Kramer: We'll go next to 10 Priester

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00:31:25.050 --> 00:31:27.690

Tim Prister: Brian, I was going to ask about the offensive line only giving up two

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00:31:27.690 --> 00:31:36.570

Tim Prister: Sacks but obviously they gave time book found the openings. What was your realistic expectations going in with the

running game.

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00:31:37.080 --> 00:31:47.970

Tim Prister: Obviously, you're not going to post huge huge numbers against this team, but you were nine for 13 on third down through the first three quarters. So, and you're you're good on short yardage runs as well.

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00:31:48.630 --> 00:32:02.130

Notre Dame Football: So it's it's it's really the key areas of the field, we needed to be really good in third down in short conversion, we, we certainly needed to be really good in the red zone and

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00:32:03.780 --> 00:32:07.860

Notre Dame Football: An area where we gave up a couple of hours late in the game.

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00:32:08.340 --> 00:32:21.630

Notre Dame Football: Not to give up any negative place if we stayed away from those three. Those are the three goals in the running game then we were going to be able to carve out enough in the running game that was going to allow us to do the things that we wanted to do it was going to be

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00:32:22.890 --> 00:32:29.700

Notre Dame Football: This game plan was going to be centered around our ability to make plays down the field throwing the football, there's

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00:32:30.330 --> 00:32:39.090

Notre Dame Football: It's difficult to run the football when there's nine guys there and it's amendment coverage, regardless of how good your offensive line because there's free hats that they can't block for you.

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00:32:39.600 --> 00:32:47.850

Notre Dame Football: If I could get our offensive lineman to block those guys to I'd be fine. But they're busy blocking the guy that they have to block and we can't get to those safeties so

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00:32:48.240 --> 00:32:59.130

Notre Dame Football: It was putting you know Mike My nightmare on

those safeties and and you know exploiting you know those kinds of matchups and getting Kevin Williams one on one, and getting

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00:32:59.460 --> 00:33:09.660

Notre Dame Football: You know those one on one matchups but really those three areas, Tim, where the most important things stay away from negative plays be really good in short yardage conversion and run the ball down in the red zone.

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00:33:11.430 --> 00:33:12.930

Claire Kramer: Well the next to Tim O'Malley.

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00:33:14.520 --> 00:33:17.850

timothyomalley: Coach, you just mentioned, Michael Mayer, I know he's been impressive from the outset and

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00:33:17.880 --> 00:33:26.340

timothyomalley: His stats are going to be surprising to many people have been watching, but is he really coming along. Now, to the point where he can be a go to player in several situations for you as the season progresses.

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00:33:27.180 --> 00:33:35.160

Notre Dame Football: Yeah, I would say, you know, maybe I talked about this a little bit earlier, but our red zone, you know, philosophy, in terms of getting

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00:33:35.970 --> 00:33:48.720

Notre Dame Football: The right players on the field and featuring them, but he's now become a guy that you know we're featuring and third down situation as well you know in knows where he's going to be built a really good report, a very short period of time.

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00:33:50.340 --> 00:34:03.330

Notre Dame Football: Yeah, he's, he's a he's a very, very important weapon for us Tommy's a little, little banged up right now but you know Trumbull obviously is a weapon for us. And, you know, will continue to build, you know, with our wide receiving corps and our running backs.

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00:34:04.770 --> 00:34:07.470

Claire Kramer: And we'll wrap it up this evening with Adam written

Berg.

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00:34:08.850 --> 00:34:23.940

Adam Rittenberg: You Brian just you mentioned earlier about the need to elevate the compete level even looking ahead a little bit but but how difficult is that to do, is there a certain type of team that you can do that with or. What's that process like especially in a year. That's so unusual like this.

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00:34:24.960 --> 00:34:39.900

Notre Dame Football: Yeah, you wouldn't say that pit going on the road for the first time and picking pit for for your team. That's the number one defense rush defense that hey let's pick pit to look ahead. No, that's that really wasn't the mindset. Here the mindset was to say, look,

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00:34:41.550 --> 00:34:50.400

Notre Dame Football: What's important now is that you've got to continue to apply your process and continue to think about, you know, pit is going to be ready to play you they're gonna they're gonna

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00:34:51.000 --> 00:35:02.790

Notre Dame Football: Obviously, and they always have played us tough, but that's not really the point here. The point is that we have to elevate our play if we want to have any chance of getting to our goal, and that is to win a championship so

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00:35:03.390 --> 00:35:20.010

Notre Dame Football: We just change the way we we approach this game and and it really benefited our guys I told him. Don't worry about the scoreboard. I really don't care about the wins or losses as it relates to this game itself. I care about how you elevate your play, play fearless. Go get the football.

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00:35:21.120 --> 00:35:31.680

Notre Dame Football: Attack all the time because we're going to need to look like this down the road. If you want to fulfill any of your goals. So it was really less about who we were playing

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00:35:32.880 --> 00:35:36.360

Notre Dame Football: And more about how we played and that's how we went about it.

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00:35:37.890 --> 00:35:39.960

Claire Kramer: Right, we will end it there. Thank you very much. Coach

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00:35:40.200 --> 00:35:40.560

Notre Dame Football: Thank you.