

Ian Book

Postgame Quotes vs. Syracuse (12.5.2020)

On what it means to be the all-time winningest quarterback in Notre Dame history

It's a dream come true just to be able to attend Notre Dame and have a good career. To be able to have this be my last home game and step back for a second and to never have lost at home - it is really a team award though rather than an individual award. I'm just really thankful to be part of this special team. I probably didn't think that, honestly. When I stepped foot on campus I just really wanted to work hard and become the starter whenever that may be and now we're here today. It really just means a lot. I couldn't have done it by myself, there's a lot of people who have helped get me to this point. When I got here, all I wanted to do was just play quarterback - I wasn't thinking about breaking any records, or never losing at home. Again, it's just a special, special night.

On his connection with Javon McKinley ...

Javon (McKinley's) been doing an unbelievable job - I'm just happy for him. With this being his last night in Notre Dame Stadium and him being able to finish like that in Notre Dame Stadium, it's unbelievable. It's (our connection) just trust. I trust he's in the right spot at the right time and we showed that tonight and we'll see that more in the next three games that we've got.

On the ability to lead the team to two undefeated regular seasons ...

First off, it shows this team's got grit and is tough. There was a time we didn't even know if we were going to play with Coronavirus. We join a conference (the ACC), which nobody's done at Notre Dame, and just a lot of unexpected things and this team just never shied away. We put in the work that was necessary and here we are undefeated as we joined a conference and are headed into the Championship Game. It just shows this team has grit, never gave up, never flinched and to have two undefeated (regular) seasons is just doing what Coach (Brian) Kelly has asked - he always says 'protect the house' - so that's one thing and we've been able to do that. Just fight for every win - we've been down, we've been up - this team just never shies away so it's a special team and you don't always say that, but this team is just special.

On walking off the field for the final time ...

Bittersweet, definitely a little emotional but I just took it all in. I definitely took a step back and just embraced everything. It's been an unbelievable journey. I remember my first day on campus and now I'll never forget my last game in the Stadium. My family has been in my corner since I was born and they've always motivated me to work hard. It's unbelievable that they could all be here tonight, I really appreciate them never missing a game other than the Boston College game. It's who I wanted here and they were able to make it and it makes that moment more special.

On how he wants to be remembered by fans ...

I want to win a national championship and if you hear my name, that is what you think of. We still have to go do that, so that's what I want (Notre Dame fans to remember about me).