



2018 Cheez-It Bowl
TCU Media Day
Quotes for Coach Patterson
December 24, 2018



COACH PATTERSON: Well, thank you. Just on behalf of TCU, our chancellor, Victor Boschini, our AD, Jeremiah Donati, and all of our players group coming to Phoenix. Third time here. We've loved it. As usual, hospitality is unbelievable. We had a great practice. The facility we're practicing at it has been unbelievable. The hotel is spectacular. So it's been a great time for us so far. We' got most of our work done before we came. We had a shorts-and-helmets practice yesterday, and then we'll have one more day and we'll be ready to go.

We're excited. We're excited to be here, and we know have we have a great opponent against Cal. Justin -- Coach Wilcox, we have history with him and their staff. We're ready to get it done.

Q. Coach, can you talk about playing in the baseball venue? Do you kind of like that setup and have you guys been able to get there yet?

COACH PATTERSON: I don't know. Haven't been there. Haven't played there. I'm sure it will be great.

Q. What have you learned about your team from the beginning of the season to now?

COACH PATTERSON: We've learned that we've lost a lot of guys. I think you found out a little bit about the program and the foundation of what we have, the way these kids have fought back the last -- won three of the four ball games. So very proud of them, especially the seniors.

Our number one ultimate goal is to give the seniors the best season they could possibly have. In this group here, they won a lot of ball games. Coming into the season, we won 40 ball games in four years.

So for them to get back to a bowl game, especially a bowl game like this, get an opportunity to play against a good opponent and that's how they get a chance to end their career, hopefully with a win and a winning season, it is big for us. And so just sitting here is for us a success story with everything they went through, with all of the injuries that we had.

In 36 years, I've never been through anything where we've had between 27 and 30 major surgeries where guys were out. Probably 40 guys that didn't play for more than four ball games. So to be here and be able to do this and really be able to sit with these guys and be here sitting on the podium is a positive.



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Ben Banogu came us to as a transfer. Graduated, has his degree, first team All-Big 12 defensive end. Not only a great player but a great person. You'll like talking to him.

Next to him is Lucas Niang. He's an underclassman. Lucas was an All-Conference player that has a great future running, you can see by his size. He's from Connecticut, great family. Was a guy that we got from a long way off that came here, and we're better because of him.

Ray Issahaku came from Atlanta, Georgia. He was a cornerback that turned into a safety that's ended up being an All-Conference player for us. Also got his degree just the other day.

To my left here is Ty Summers. Ty will graduate in three years. He's been working on his masters. He's been a little bit beat up but has been an All-Conference player. He is really a high as far as learning and doing different things within our program. He gives us a lot of multiplicity as far as being able to play linebacker and also as a team player.

To his left is L.J. Collier. L.J. came from a little IA school in Munday, Texas. Really is a guy that's developed in, just like Ben, into two of the best defensive ends. As far as I'm concerned, I'm biased, but probably the two best ends in the Big 12 so you have -- we brought for you five guys that I think not only are good players but also very good people.