



2018 Cheez-It Bowl
TCU
Post-Game Press Conference
December 26, 2018



COACH PATTERSON: I mean, nine picks. I told some of the Cheez-It Bowl guys, some of the Yellow Jackets the other day, I said, you know, so we could give you guys great ratings, I said, what's going to happen here is we're going to come back and we're going to get the ball last and we're going to go down and kick a field goal and we're going to win. But I said we're going to win 10-9. So I was off by 2 points the other night. So you guys got your ratings.

I'm proud of these guys, obviously proud of the team. You know, where we sat five or six weeks ago, seven weeks ago, at 4-6, and have an opportunity to really win four out of our last five ball games and claw back and do the things they've done, it's a testament to the kind of kids that we have plus what the program's been able to do. And, you know, we lost Grayson [Muehlstein] there for a while. That's when we went to Justin [Rogers], which he had not played this year. So we were down to our fourth quarterback. So Grayson came back, but he couldn't run. So we needed to run the read because they weren't taking the quarterback, but he couldn't run. So they just played the running back.

He made a really good throw. It was one of those things where we finally made a kick, but these guys, in five years, have won 47 games. They've won a lot of football games in their time. So a lot of us have gotten a lot of credit because of a lot of hard work because of the kids that we've had here. So we're going to keep doing and keep giving them the credit.

Q. Have you ever been in -- you kind of mentioned Mark [Cohen] and the interceptions, just this bizarre of a game. You even looked out on the last field goal. You substituted Cole [Bunce] and Jonathan [Song] a couple of times.

COACH PATTERSON: Well, they actually talked me out of it. During bowl practices on the right hash, Cole would be pulling the ball. And guess what? They felt like that Jonathan didn't have the leg on the grass to kick it as far as we did. So then they talked me back into putting Cole back in.

So, obviously, I got an opportunity to tell them they were wrong on the headset when we got done, but we got another chance and did it.

You know, before I answer another question, I want to give a lot of credit to the Cal Bears. Really, coach -- they did a great job. Their defense played very well tonight too. So you got to give them a lot of credit for what they did and how they did it.

Both teams lost some guys tonight, people going out. Their running back went out, their quarterback goes out. Everybody -- it's one of those games where you just end up -- who ends up surviving at the end of the year. It wasn't just a battle with both of us; it's just been a whole season that we've survived. So I can promise you this: I am glad that it's over. I'm glad it's not the playoffs and we have to play another game. I can tell you that.



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Q. Ben, talk about the defensive effort, holding them to 7 points. It seemed like -- you know, you had a sack, Corey [Bethley] had a sack, Ty [Summers] had a sack. It seemed like a very good group effort tonight.

BEN BANOGU: Oh, yeah. At one point of the game, I was going to walk up to Coach P. and ask him if I could play a little DB, seemed like everybody was getting picks. Our defense, we came together and played hard. It was one last game.

As a group of seniors, we made a decision a couple of weeks ago, when we were 4-6, that we didn't want to go out just the wrong way. So we made that decision, and we fought back and we put ourselves in great spots. It was a total team effort.

Sewo [Olonilua], that's the best I've seen him play since he's been here. He almost got 200 yards. I think he was about 5 yards shy. You can't ask any more from a player like that. I'm just glad that we could all come together as a team and get this last win for the seniors.

Q. Gary, what was your plan defensively coming in, with so many guys banged up on defense and it looked like you weren't able to do the substitution patterns like you would normally do.

COACH PATTERSON: We were down to three ends and two tackles. And, really, the tackle was a freshman and the end was young; they hadn't played that much. So we didn't really rotate that much.

Linebacker, we were able to because we got -- Montrel Wilson played, which really helped us, even on special teams. Ty [Summers] was able to play in a limited manner to help us because some guys got tired. But, you know, really Trey [Elliott] really was able to come in for Niko [Small] after the pick. He wore out.

It was one of those deals where, fortunately for us, as the game went on, our offense was starting to control the ball a little bit more when we got more rest. When we got more rest, we were able to play better. That first quarter, in about five minutes, there wasn't much rest.

It's always a team effort. We always say you got to score one more and you got to hold them to one less. And we found a way to get in the end zone, Sewo [Olonilua] did, so we could tie it up. And then, really, we didn't think Grayson [Muehlstein] was coming back. So I told him on the bench, I said, "Look, we're going to have to win this. We've got to stop them down here on the 10," wherever it was that they started with the ball, "because I don't know if we're going to be able to move it because, right now, we don't have a quarterback who's taken a rep in a live ball game."



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So, fortunately, Grayson was able to come back and we were able to do some things defensively. But we rotated. We actually -- one of the coverages that really helped us we put in this morning. I kept watching some stuff they were doing, and I didn't like a couple of things. Fortunately for me, I have people like Ray [Thomas] and Niko [Small]. They were able to adjust some things, and it really helped us in their trip sets. So you just have to make one more play.

We've been talking about -- these guys have been playing like this for the last half of the season, really, even though the West Virginia game got out of hand. It was five minutes left to go in the half, it was 3-3.

So I've been proud of the way they've grown up, the people that have had to step up. And, you know, their legacy going out, always remember, this will be one of those seasons you'll remember as much as the Rose Bowl year because of what these guys had to go through and everything that they had to put up with and fought back to get to a winning season. That's hard to do.

Q. Sewo, when the passing game's not going as well as you guys would have liked, what's your mindset? And talk about your night and putting up the big yards and kind of carrying the offense.

SEWO OLONILUA: I just knew we had to run the ball. That was the game plan going in even then. We stuck to it. Our O line gave us some big holes, and I just ran through them.

Q. You said it's been a long year. Will you allow yourself to take a few days off, or will it be back to the grind?

COACH PATTERSON: We're going to get home, going to help a little bit with the playoff games, I think. And then about the 2nd or 3rd or 4th, we're -- you know, we can start looking at recruits for 2020. And we'll probably have junior days at the end of January. So, this time of year, there is no rest. But we'll get a chance to get home, get a chance to get a couple nights for everybody to rest a little bit and not have to worry about things and do things.

It's been a great year. We don't want everything that these guys have done here in the last part of the season to go to waste. So recruiting-wise and off-season-wise, we'll need to work with the younger guys, because we're going to lose some good players on defense.

So, for us, we need to be able to grow some guys up so we can play at the same level that we've been able to play over the last 20 years.



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I'm just proud -- I'm very thankful for all the TCU fans that came. I know it's the 26th, so it was the day after Christmas and all those kind of things. People have to make sacrifices. And for the crowd that was here and the people that were cheering -- maybe there was a lot of people in Phoenix that decided to wear purple, but it seemed like there was a lot of purple in the stands.

So I want to thank all of them too. It's been a lot of fun, the families and everybody you have. We always forget them. I think, in the 36 seasons I've been -- I think I've been to, like, 25, 26, 27 bowls, and I think I've been in a hotel room, like, 23 times out of those years. That's just what we do. My sons have grown up thinking that that's what Christmas is. It's got a hospitality room, and you're going to stay in a hotel room and you get room service. I'm just like, "No, this is not the real world."

But it has been fun. I will tell you, we had a good time Christmas Day. These kind of memories are the ones that you remember a lifetime because you get a chance to spend it with a whole bunch of guys. You get a chance to actually appreciate each other a lot more.

Everybody worries about the wins and the losses, and you keep your job because of that. And you go to bowl games because of that. but the bottom line to it is we always talk about 40, not 4. This is a perfect example of these two guys sitting over here and the guys on the team who are guys who will be here for a long, long time. And, hopefully, we'll keep recruiting guys who are like them. That's what we try to do.

There's also a way to win. There's not just you win; there's also a way you should win. That's important to us.

Go, Frogs!