



Wisconsin

Post-Game Quotes

Western Michigan vs. Wisconsin
Monday, January 2, 2017
AT&T Stadium, Arlington, Texas



LEO MUSSO, SR. SAFETY

On his Cotton Bowl experience:

It's kind of hard to describe. I've been to a lot of great bowl games but this one is second to none. The experience and the hospitality is kind of hard to match how great this bowl is.

On the Win:

As a team we were doubted all year so that was motivation for us. We played a lot of great teams and we knew we were a great team. We've been on a big stage before and I think that definitely helped out. They were a great team but our offense was rolling and it was great to come out here to such a great venue and get the W.

BART HOUSTON, SR. QB

On what went through his head, the first play of the game:

Not to toot my own horn, but I'm really good at focusing on the moment and being in the moment; that's probably my biggest strength. I really wasn't thinking much. What's the play, hand the ball off. It's second nature.

On the offensive line:

The offensive line has been awesome. The amount of growth they have had in the off-season throughout the year has been unbelievable.

VINCE BIEGEL, OUTSIDE LINEBACKER

Thoughts on the game:

There are multiple guys who stepped up in the game. It wasn't just our big play makers. There were guys all over the field. Troy (Fumagalli) had a phenomenal game tonight. T.J. (Edwards) always has a great game. I think us stepping up early and then having to hold on to it, grit through it and persevere, I really think it reflects the season we had. You have to give a lot of credit to Western Michigan for coming out and having a great game, but we're going to enjoy this win. It's a great way to end the season.

On T.J. Edwards' interception:

I think Western Michigan really took care of the ball and that is a credit to them. T.J. made a great play on the ball and intercepted it in the red zone. I really think it turned the tide and put us in favor and our offense was able to capitalize on that, come up with two scores and I think that was really the difference.



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On the team's identity at the end of the season:

I think the two words that come to my mind are perseverance and grit. A lot of things are out of your control like injuries, the strength of schedule. Our team was really able to persevere. We were able to stay true to ourselves, go out there and work hard every day. It's also a credit to coach (Paul) Chryst and our coaching staff to help keep us focused. What a great way to finish off for the seniors. What a great way to finish off for the rest of the team and carry that momentum as they start offseason training.

T.J. WATT, OUTSIDE LINEBACKER

On having to prove something after Big 10 championship:

We definitely came out to show people what we could do. I feel like we did face some adversity that was equal to that game. We came into halftime, it was kind of the same feeling. We started off really fast and things started to, not slip away necessarily, but kind of get closer that what we wanted to. I said to the guys this is the same situation we were in three weeks ago. We have an opportunity to not let that happen again. It was a big difference for us in this game.

On getting pressure on WMU quarterback Zach Terrell:

He had a great feel in the pocket and I think we underestimated that a little bit. We knew he was athletic but the pressures didn't seem to be; they were working, but we just weren't getting him down which we had a problem with all year long, but it was good enough, I guess.

On it being a great way to cap the season:

We've been through a lot and the way we were able to do it today kind of sums up our season. We started strong; we faced some adversity; and then we bounced back from adversity and got the win. It's just a great way to finish the year.