



Wisconsin Offensive Interviews

Friday, December 30, 2016
Omni Dallas Hotel, Dallas, Texas



QUESTIONS FOR OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR JOE RUDOLPH

Q. You said, I think, you're going to use both quarterbacks. How do you guys decide in game when to make a change, once you get to that point? Is it feel?

OC JOE RUDOLPH: I think it's been a little bit of both. Sometimes they know going in when we're going to do it. And sometimes it's been more feel, if we were going to do it at all. And we've kind of played it both ways through the season.

But the guys, they've rallied, done well around it. And you're only trying to make a decision to put the team in the best spot. And, like I said, I've said it a while now, I've got a ton of appreciation for those two. They've made those things work and those relationships. The only way you can do that is if you've got two guys who truly love the team and respects each other and competitors, and they share all three qualities. So it's good.

Q. We haven't seen Chris James since camp basically, and you've seen him during the year and you also know him. What might he be able to contribute when Corey [Clement] is gone and Dare [Ogunbowale] is gone?

OC JOE RUDOLPH: The big thing is he'll be able to jump into a group of running backs and provide a better depth situation than would be otherwise. And I think he'll be competing in there for the lead spot as the other guys will. And competition makes that better.

And as you've seen this year, running backs, they can be used -- it's hard to know that whole offense. It's to get really good at knowing. There's been games we've rode Dare to help us win, Nebraska. There's been games where Bradrick and Taiwan gets us through, Minnesota. And you need that competition and that depth there, and that will help in that respect.

Q. What jumps out at you about Chris Orr?

OC JOE RUDOLPH: The way he's practiced. He practiced as though he's going to be the starter and reminds you of how Ram [Ryan Ramczyk] approached it. I'm not saying Ram because of how well he played this year. Guys that take every rep and work their tails off to get better, they have got a vision of what they want to do. And that's huge.

Q. Ram [Ryan Ramczyk] has gotten a lot of headlines and NFL buzz this year, but how valuable is Michael Deiter to your line?

OC JOE RUDOLPH: Huge. A line can't be about one guy or two guys. You've got to have five, six, seven, guys that you can flat out count on and they can count on each other and they enjoy being around each other.

Quotes provided by Caption Northwest, Inc. – 425-343-4946

www.captionnorthwest.com





Wisconsin Offensive Interviews

Friday, December 30, 2016
Omni Dallas Hotel, Dallas, Texas



And Michael has been a glue to that. He's a communicator, and he gets things organized. He fights. It's not hard to tell how much he cares about this team and about how much he cares about his performance. And the guys get a kick out of him. He knows when to cut it up and have fun, and they look to him in times of leadership. It's pretty awesome. He's great to work with.

Q. Do you think he the leader of the O-line?

OC JOE RUDOLPH: I do. I don't consider him the only leader in that line, but I do consider him a leader in that group. There's different ways each guy leads. Ram [Ryan Ramczyk] leads by example. He puts stuff on film and sets the bar in some examples. And he's funny. He leads he's like Geronimo. He's going to jump in and go as hard as he can and some guys look to that. And they'll be, like, "Okay." Michael is smart and he makes the calls and he works his tail off and he plays as hard as you can imagine." Those are the things that lead. And I think good O-lines, he's the voice. Michael [Dieter] is the voice. But they have a few guys that are helping that leadership just the same.

QUESTIONS FOR QB BART HOUSTON

Q. I know you're going to be leaving after this year, but you know the personnel they have coming back. Would you expect this team to be -- I'm not going to say just as good, because you never can predict chemistry, injuries, but to have as high expectations to do similar things next year to what you guys have accomplished?

QB BART HOUSTON: I would say yes. Alex [Hornibrook] is going to be another year older in this offense. And Bradrick [Shaw] is playing out of his mind right now. There's no looking back for him. Taiwan [Deal], once he gets better. And the line is young, too. We don't have a senior. The only senior we had was [Dan] Voltz, and he's not playing any more. So I can't speak for the defense. But they're going to be a sound offense as long as they just keep grinding, keep getting better day by day. We always talk about the one percent, you know? You can get one percent better every day. In 100 days you'll be 100% better, right? So, as long as they keep doing that, the 2017 season is going to be good.

Q. I talked to [Justin] Wilcox, too, about the defense. But he sounded a little bit excited about the fact that they got so many guys back.

QB BART HOUSTON: Exactly. They're not going to be losing much. So it's going to be exciting. It's going to be exciting to watch the Badgers in the future.

Q. I know you've got several running backs. But, when you look at Corey and what he went through last year with the injuries and stuff, talk about how he bounced back and had a

Quotes provided by Caption Northwest, Inc. – 425-343-4946

www.captionnorthwest.com





Wisconsin Offensive Interviews

Friday, December 30, 2016
Omni Dallas Hotel, Dallas, Texas



positive finish to his career this year?

QB BART HOUSTON: He's handled it well. With everything that's gone on, injuries on and off the field, whatever is going on, he's handled it well. And I feel him. I've gone through some adversity myself this year and last year. The stuff you go through now is going to tell you what kind of man you're going to be later in life. And he's set. I guarantee that. You learn how to react to certain things. So he's going to be good.

Q. When you look at how the season is going, we all know how good the Big Ten was as a whole this year. You guys got to the championship game. I know it was disappointing not to win that game. But, as you look at this season as a whole, how will you look back at it for what you guys have accomplished?

QB BART HOUSTON: I don't know. I haven't really thought about it. That may be the first week in January, but I don't know.

Just kind of got to finish this one out, really.

Q. Then how important is it to kind of bounce back from that loss and have a positive finish? Clearly, one game or two games isn't going to define the whole season. But how important is it for you guys to win this game on Monday?

QB BART HOUSTON: You're right. Not one or two games will define a season. But ending this 2016 Wisconsin Badgers season, this is the last time we're all going to be together. We're always huge on sending seniors out right. Now that I'm a senior, I want to send myself out right. So it's just really important to just finish. Just finish it.

Q. I know you know a lot about Western Michigan now because you're preparing for them and all that. But, as the season was going on, did you even notice kind of what they were doing? Are you so enamored and tied up into your season that you don't pay much attention outside of your team and your conference?

QB BART HOUSTON: I was really just kind of focused on what was going on in my life, really. But, whenever I get home late from watching film and you turn on ESPN, there's another big play for a Western Michigan wide receiver.

Q. But you're not thinking that we might play them in a bowl game; better watch out?

QB BART HOUSTON: No, I never thought about it. But now it's here, so it's kind of cool. It's kind of cool seeing how -- when we played Nebraska week seven or whatever. And you're, like, oh, yeah. I remember hearing about them the week after that.

Quotes provided by Caption Northwest, Inc. – 425-343-4946

www.captionnorthwest.com





Wisconsin Offensive Interviews

Friday, December 30, 2016
Omni Dallas Hotel, Dallas, Texas



And now we're playing them. So it's kind of cool seeing how everybody and all the bowl matchups kind of turn out.

Q. What do you know about the history of the Cotton Bowl, if anything? This was not really a Big Ten bowl. Until Michigan State played here the last two years, there was only one Big Ten team in the first 79 years of this game. So is it a game you paid much attention to growing up?

QB BART HOUSTON: Growing up, yeah. Because the Cotton Bowl was the bowl to be at. But I've always been a fan of the Rose Bowl just because I'm from California. I was big Pac-12. I love watching Cal. But yeah. I was, like, watching the Rose Bowl. But Cotton Bowl was -- I think there was three or four back then. Now there's six. But it's got huge, huge history. We did a little presentation on what has gone on. And only three Big Ten teams have been there. And two of them weren't even Big Ten teams when they were here. Nebraska and Maryland or something like that.

Q. For you guys, I know you don't forget the Big Ten championship game. But was the break good to kind of have a little chance to kind of get past that and maybe get the bitterness out of that loss and move on or what? How do you put that into perspective?

QB BART HOUSTON: Yeah. The time gave us the chance to wipe the bitter out of our mouth. It took me about a week to get the coaches in to watch the film so we could really put it away. And there's always teaching no matter what. Win, lose, or draw there's always teaching you can find on tape. So took them about a week to get them in there. But yeah. Just about a week.

Q. But it gave you time to get focused back on trying to win this one and gave you a little time to actually mope a little bit, if you needed to?

QB BART HOUSTON: Yeah, exactly.

QUESTIONS FOR RB COREY CLEMENT

Q. Since camp, I'm curious what do you think he (Chris Orr) might be able to bring to the team next year?

RB COREY CLEMENT: Chris is definitely right off the bat fast. And he's definitely one of the fastest backs I've seen since, as far as quickness, James White was here. And he can catch out the backfield. He has a passion for learning, and that's what you want out of a guy who's definitely transferring. You've got to respect that. I'm pretty sure that's a hard transition.

Like I said, he's working with Coach (Paul Chryst). He's had him before. He knows his

Quotes provided by Caption Northwest, Inc. – 425-343-4946

www.captionnorthwest.com





Wisconsin Offensive Interviews

Friday, December 30, 2016
Omni Dallas Hotel, Dallas, Texas



tendencies. He knows what to say, what not to say, and how to come out to practice. He's not looking to put this team in a bad position at all. So if he can could kick return, punt return, I can see him as a one-through-third-down back, if he wants to be.

But like I said, that's up to Coach, where he sees him, how he wants to mix Bradrick Shaw, Taiwan Deal. Have a potential three-headed monster coming out next year. It's a lot about how they work off-season. I'm looking forward to it.

Q. I noticed that someone wrote that Bradrick Shaw was the leader to come back next year and Chris [Orr] tweeted something. I forget actually what the tweet was, but it's like "don't forget about me."

RB COREY CLEMENT: I feel with Chris [Orr] on that. Before this season even started, I had my personal tweets I put out there. It's just that numbers can't win this game. So anything last year is last year.

I'm pretty sure Chris is looking for a new, fresh start and nothing is guaranteed, and I'm feeling for that. I don't think he's wrong in saying that at all. He wants to compete with Bradrick. And who doesn't want to compete to be the number one? So it just shows that Brad has definitely made a name for himself, and he definitely has something to hold on to.

Q. Corey, talking about fresh starts, clearly last year wasn't the year you wanted with injuries. What has it meant to have the kind of year you've had this year after all that?

RB COREY CLEMENT: It's meant everything, everything, to me. And even though I'm not a senior captain on the team, it has definitely allowed me to put myself in a position to build my character back up. And last year I didn't have the best image that I wanted. And my teammates knew that wasn't me at all.

As far as that goes, that was tons of frustration built up. And I wanted to have the best season possible not only for myself but for the team. And I felt as if I couldn't help out.

And this year has definitely been another opportunity to embrace a leadership role and earn the number one spot back for a running back on this team and just respect the position I'm in and take nothing for granted.

Q. How much fun is it when you're on a stretch like you're on? Eight 100-yard games. Do you feel like things are going right?

RB COREY CLEMENT: I feel things are getting into gear, working with Coach Rudy [Joe Rudolph] and the O-line and learning everyone's tendency around me rather than focusing on myself. Knowing your O-line is a key thing to knowing how to facilitate with those guys. Coach

Quotes provided by Caption Northwest, Inc. – 425-343-4946

www.captionnorthwest.com





Wisconsin Offensive Interviews

Friday, December 30, 2016
Omni Dallas Hotel, Dallas, Texas



Rudy found who to put on the O-line. A lot of guys have been in and out this season. And it's hard to keep up with, but that's what coming with the game. You've got to learn to roll with the punches.

Q. For those here for the 2015 opener at this stadium, how different is this team and what do you guys remember? How will that experience of playing in the stadium help?

RB COREY CLEMENT: We're more calm, relaxed, coming into the stadium. We've seen it a ton of times now. Being able to practice in it has calmed our nerves.

And like I said, Alabama is Alabama and one of the top teams in the country, still sitting at number one. You've got to respect them as an opponent. So we've got Western Michigan. You can't look at them no different. They're undefeated, undefeated for a reason. They know how to stay in the game and win a game. It's our job to make sure we leave the Cotton Bowl with a victory and not repeat the same thing in the 2015 opener.

Q. Corey, what do you see from Western Michigan? Do they remind you of a Big Ten-type school? They're a little probably a little smaller than teams that you're used to seeing. What do they do similarly? What do they do different than teams that you're used to seeing?

RB COREY CLEMENT: As far as Western Michigan goes, those guys definitely have a will to stay in the game and they pride themselves on take-aways. And I really think they're their own team. I really can't compare them to anyone else.

And their coach (PJ Fleck) is definitely fired up, amped up to lead that team on. So we've got to stand behind Coach [Paul] Chryst as much as we can to make sure we're in the right position to make sure he leaves the bowl game victorious.

But as far as I said, Western Michigan, you've got to respect them as an opponent and they're here on this stage for a reason, just like us.

Q. We're all talking about the season they had, but you guys had a good run there. 6-0 before you got to the Big Ten championship game. What do you see as the foundation set for this team to continue on and maybe have another chance next year?

RB COREY CLEMENT: The next class after this, you know, upcoming class, those guys are definitely going to be set for a great position. But it's all about how they carry that on to off-season workouts.

Quotes provided by Caption Northwest, Inc. – 425-343-4946

www.captionnorthwest.com





Wisconsin Offensive Interviews

Friday, December 30, 2016
Omni Dallas Hotel, Dallas, Texas



QUESTIONS FOR RB DARE OGUNBOWALE

Q. Clearly you lost the championship game. I know that was a disappointment but put the season in perspective for us.

RB DARE OGUNBOWALE: Like you said, our goal was honestly to just win the Big Ten championship. We didn't do that, so that was real tough for us. But at the same time, we proved a lot of people wrong this season. And we did some good things on the field, and I think we proved to be real close as a team.

A lot of guys got better as the season wore on, and that's moving forward. But I would say the season, I obviously would have loved to have won the Big Ten championship and not lose those close games that were lost. But at the same time, I think it's been a good year and I think we can go out with one more win and have an 11-game season.

Q. As good as the Big Ten was overall this season, all the great teams and everything, it says a lot about what you guys were able to accomplish.

RB DARE OGUNBOWALE: Right. And we played some good teams and won some good games, lost some close games and things like that. But, yeah, like you said, the conference was really strong and it was real fun. Every game was a fun game.

Q. Western Michigan, they won a couple Big Ten games. They won them both on the road early this season. What's your take on them as you watched them on film and prepared for this game?

RB DARE OGUNBOWALE: They've got a good defense. They've got good players, and it will be fun to play against a team like that in a bowl like this. They've got some good athletes, so I'm looking forward to winning those matchups and things like that so we can go out on a win.

Q. Do guys relish the opportunity to put the end to their Cinderella season?

RB DARE OGUNBOWALE: I'm not really worried about that. Some guys on the team didn't even know they were undefeated. So we're not really worried about that at all. It's just a chance for us to go out and win one more game, play one more game and win it.

So that's awesome for them to be undefeated. That's obviously every team's goal going into a season, to win every game. So that's pretty awesome that they've been able to accomplish that, and that hasn't really crossed our minds in preparation. But we obviously want to win the game.

Quotes provided by Caption Northwest, Inc. – 425-343-4946

www.captionnorthwest.com





Wisconsin Offensive Interviews

Friday, December 30, 2016
Omni Dallas Hotel, Dallas, Texas



Q. I guess it's been good to have a little bit of an extra break because you didn't have to run a play the next week after the Big Ten game?

RB DARE OGUNBOWALE: I wouldn't necessarily say I'm over it. Something that you have to feel. But at the same time, it's not holding me back at all. Obviously we know that we lost a game, and now we have an opportunity to win a game and end the season on a high note like that. So, I mean, some people got over it right away. Some people, like I said, still kind of hurts. But it's part of the sport.

Q. What do you remember about the stadium when you played Alabama? And how much of an advantage is it having been in the stadium?

RB DARE OGUNBOWALE: I wouldn't say it's an advantage now playing in that game. I do remember how loud it was. It's a real fun place to play. I think playing during the daytime will be different because of the lighting. The lighting will be different because there is natural light that can come into the stadium.

When we played a couple years ago, it was night, just the lights on the field. But besides that, I wouldn't say there's too many things that I can go back two years and remember and say, "This will put me a step ahead of those guys."

QUESTIONS FOR OL MICHAEL DIETER

Q. Do you feel like you've taken more of a leadership role on the O-line this year having more starts than a lot of the other guys?

OL MICHAEL DEITER: I don't know, maybe a little bit. I feel like the O-line as a whole is kind of accepting everyone, is accepting their different leadership roles as we have gone along. Obviously I've done most of the talking and stuff like that for the O-line.

But as far as in the team, I think all the guys on the O-line, all five of them, have really stepped in to a little bit of a leadership role. Even guys like Jon [Dietzen] and David [Edwards] just because of the things they've been able to do at such a young age.

And then Beau [Benzschawel] and Ryan [Ramczyk] have also just accepted their role as being leaders as well.

Q. How much better do you think you've gotten over the past year? In what areas do you feel you've improved in?

OL MICHAEL DEITER: I think I've grown in all aspects of the game. But I don't really know

Quotes provided by Caption Northwest, Inc. – 425-343-4946

www.captionnorthwest.com





Wisconsin Offensive Interviews

Friday, December 30, 2016
Omni Dallas Hotel, Dallas, Texas



if there's any certain things that I would point out I've grown the most and what I'm best with. There's still a ton of stuff I can get better with. Just kind of keep working and get better. But I definitely think I have taken steps in the right direction. I'm not where I need to be, and I can be better. So that's encouraging.

Q. It's easy to look at Corey's [Clement] numbers and forget that you guys have a combination of running backs. Can you talk about how that's worked for you guys? Corey does his part, but he's not the only one back there.

OL MICHAEL DEITER: Yeah, Corey has done a fantastic job. Obviously the numbers have been great for him. But we've also got Dare [Ogunbowale] who can run the ball well, but he's also a really big threat throwing the ball to him, screen game, stuff like that. And then we have Bradrick [Shaw] who is young, up and coming who will really be a special running back. I mean, he's really emerging this year as someone who can take some workload, get some carries, make some big plays for us. And then we always fall back on Corey as well to balance all that out. And we really almost ended up with three running backs that were all very productive. It was awesome because they all have their differences and what they bring to the offense. So, I mean, with Corey leading the way, helping everything out, we have Dare and Bradrick who are also special backs.

Q. You've kind of gotten past the Big Ten championship game so you can focus on this game. Western Michigan is the only other team other than Alabama that is undefeated. How does that feel for you, and how do you take the approach to this game?

OL MICHAEL DEITER: Playing an undefeated team, 13-0, you've got to give them their credit. That is not an easy thing to do. I don't care who you're playing, that's tough. So hats off to those guys. They've earned it, and they've played well. They're a good football team.

You approach it the same as any other team you play. I mean, you treat them with the utmost respect. You prepare the same, week in and week out, and know that that team is capable of doing some really good things because they have. Like I said, to go 13-0 is something you have to acknowledge. That's tough. So they're capable of doing some really good stuff and preparing. Get ready to play your best.

Q. Good season all around for the Big Ten. What do you think the foundation is for this team to continue to compete and to compete at that high level next season and in seasons ahead?

OL MICHAEL DEITER: That's kind of a good thing about winning a bowl game, to really propel you into the next season and build that foundation, which we have. And we will have a lot of guys coming back. So this is a huge point in the season for us to get guys better, to win a bowl game, to really give you a bunch of momentum going into the next season, and just getting guys opportunities, younger guys who are coming back, all of us who are coming back, to keep

Quotes provided by Caption Northwest, Inc. – 425-343-4946

www.captionnorthwest.com





Wisconsin Offensive Interviews

Friday, December 30, 2016
Omni Dallas Hotel, Dallas, Texas



that foundation and to build off it to become an even better team for next season.

QUESTIONS FOR OL RYAN RAMCZYK

Q. How much of a leader is Michael [Dieter] for the line?

OL RYAN RAMCZYK: Yeah, he's definitely kind of become the leader this year. I think the big thing is everyone really trusts him. He's a guy that you come to with questions. Gladly he will help you with anything, and he's just a guy that you can talk to.

Q. Was he a big help for you when you came in last year?

OL RYAN RAMCZYK: Yeah, I think so. Last year I was on the scout team so I didn't have a lot of communication. I talked to him a little bit, but definitely this year it's him and the rest of the offensive line. It's been good. We've just bonded together and guys will help you out with any questions you have, defenses or what we're running or what we're supposed to be doing.

Q. Are you any closer to making an NFL decision yet?

OL RYAN RAMCZYK: A little bit, but I'll officially decide it after the game.

Q. Talk about the bowl week itself, on and off the field from the activities, practices. How is everything meshing together?

OL RYAN RAMCZYK: It's been really cool. It's my first bowl experience so it's been really awesome. Everything is over the top, really cool. We went to the Cowboys game first, and that was awesome. I've never been in the stadium, so it was really cool to be able to experience that.

And then practicing on the field is cool, being under -- right next to those huge monitors up there is pretty awesome. So far it's awesome. And the players lounge is sweet as well. They've got Xboxes in there and games and whatnot. So that's been fun.

Q. How have practices been going?

OL RYAN RAMCZYK: Really well. We've had two weeks before we came here kind of prepping for Western Michigan and getting in here this week and getting back to practice was good.

Q. What does Western Michigan throw at you, things that you guys had to prepare for?

OL RYAN RAMCZYK: I think they kind of throw a lot of different blitzes at us and

Quotes provided by Caption Northwest, Inc. – 425-343-4946

www.captionnorthwest.com





Wisconsin Offensive Interviews

Friday, December 30, 2016
Omni Dallas Hotel, Dallas, Texas



pressures. And their linebackers will fill the holes fast. So being able to communicate up front and pick those up. And if we don't pick it up, that's a tackle for a loss. If we do, that's a potential for a really big gain. So just communicating up front.

-- 81st Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic --

Quotes provided by Caption Northwest, Inc. – 425-343-4946

www.captionnorthwest.com

