

Arizona vs. Colorado

Friday, Nov. 2

Arizona Stadium

Postgame Quotes

Arizona head coach Kevin Sumlin

On challenges coming into this week...

"It is the execution for four quarters in all three phases and we were not perfect and that is what we have been talking about for the last two weeks. If we played for four quarters and execute, then we will check the score board. "

On the team the last couple weeks...

"Obviously we moved people around. We have lost a couple of guys in the back end and at linebacker, and I think [Anthony] Pandy has really given us a chance to get Tony [Fields] and Colin [Schooler] off the field and rotate them, so those guys are not playing 75 plays. The move of PJ [Johnson] to end has really helped to get our best players on the field and we have had some guys come on and make some plays. I think there is a growing confidence in those guys around each other just because they have played a lot of football and been all over the place. We have had a rotating lineup really the first five, six weeks and with guys that were injured out. I think what you're seeing is about the same roughly, 14, 15 guys putting on defense right now, we communicate."

On how special it was for J.J. Taylor to look as good on his 40th carry as he did on his first...

"We know the plan is not to hand it to him 40 times. J.J. [Taylor], he is a machine. He wants to play and he plays hard. You look at some of those runs and his big games 200 or 300 yards. He has ripped off some explosive plays, 40, 50, 60 yard runs, tonight, his longest was 21. He worked for every yard he got and I think our offensive line did a nice job, and schematically our offensive staff did a nice job of attacking the edges. I think Khalil [Tate] carrying out his fakes and doing some other things really has helped because you could see when he took off and ran tonight, that's the first time anybody has seen him hit that."

Arizona junior quarterback Khalil Tate

On what's been clicking for the team in the last few weeks...

"We've really just been playing all four quarters. That's something Coach (Kevin) Sumlin has preached to us since the beginning of the season. We're finally starting to understand that and show it on the field."

On throwing the ball tonight...

"We were just efficient. We really took that into consideration on offense and we haven't been as good in the past few games. I was telling them we need to step up on our end. Defense does their job and offense needs to continue and keep improving."

Arizona RS junior defensive tackle PJ Johnson

On what this year has been like for him...

"It's been amazing. I've been through a lot in my life. I have a lot of great teammates here. No matter what happens, they keep my spirits up. Now I'm playing football and I'm healthy. I try to stay positive and I have some great teammates that keep me up all the time."

Arizona RS sophomore running back J.J. Taylor

On if it felt like he had 40 carries in the game...

"I was just doing what I was told and making the most out of the opportunities I was given."

On the third down play late in the game on their own goal line...

"The whole situation was to make sure you didn't stay in the end zone, but get the first down and seal the deal. That was just the mentality."

Arizona sophomore linebacker Colin Schooler

On how important it was to back up the win over Oregon with this win over Colorado...

"It's huge. We have a bye week coming up this week. So it's good to go into that with momentum and get healthy next week."

On Laviska Shenault Jr. not playing...

"Well we know he's a big target for them, so having him not in the game obviously changes what they do. We just had to stick to our game plan, and we if we execute it properly, then we're not going to give up as many yards."

Colorado head coach Mike McIntyre

Opening Statement...

"I thought our players battled and we had opportunities to win the football game. Arizona made some big plays. Khalil ran around and threw the ball up in the air and their guys came down with it on long-delayed plays. Those plays are tough to stop. We've got to get a better pass rush and we can't cover the gap for that long downfield that many times."

On how the team played this week...

"Our guys came and played really hard. I thought they came out of the chute and they played really, really hard. Arizona made a couple plays by Khalil running around and throwing it up and that's basically how they scored three of their touchdowns. I have to give credit to Arizona for doing that and for making those plays."

On the difficulty to gain consistency in their offense...

"I thought that we did some good things. We should have scored a couple more times down there. We overthrew one and that's three points that Steven Montez would like to have back. He played really well, but that was one you'd like to have back to Kabion Ento. And then I think Kabion should have caught one that Steven put it right on there. If you combine those two together, that would've been the difference in the football game."

Is this the toughest challenge of your head coaching career to this point and try to get this team?

"I think every year's a tough year and every game is a tough game. We've got a ton of people out and I thought the way the guys kept fighting and not hanging their head with all these players going down was impressive and I think they just have to keep battling. And the coaches and staff have to keep battling and fighting and keep finding a way."

Colorado junior quarterback Steven Montez

On the mood of the team....

"It sucks, that's the only way to describe it. It sucks not winning, especially how hard we work week in and week out. It's tough. But I mean these tough games, these tough losses, they're going to tell you a lot about the team that we've got. And I thought, for the game we had last week, we came out and fought. I thought our guys played really well, we just have to do a better job of when opportunities present themselves, we have to make the plays. I don't think it's a question of effort or going playing hard, guys giving it all they've got. I think what's holding us back is when we have those opportunities to make those plays, we have to capture them, we have to make them."

On missed opportunities...

"There are opportunities all over the place where we could've gotten. There was a fade at the beginning of the game that I missed wide and that's on me. It was there, the opportunity to score a touchdown was there. We just didn't execute. We have to start executing if we want to have a chance to win these close games."

On the offensive performance...

"We had some drives and put some plays together and we're starting to make positive plays. There was a little bit of consistency, but there was pressure all night. But the good ones find a way to get it done. We just have to come back and keep working and stay hungry. It's easy to slip into that mentality, since we've lost four in a row. That can't be how you look at the game that every week is a new opportunity. People can be beaten. I know Washington State is a good team, but they have to play us at Folsom, so we're going to give them our best shot."

On the team mentality...

"I think overall we've stayed positive. I think it's all about those opportunities to execute and we have to do a better job of executing when they show up."

Colorado senior wide receiver Juwann Winfree

On dealing with injuries...

"It's been super tough, we all have to deal with that, including myself, I've missed four games. Laviska (Shenault) is out. It's tough because you never know when it's going to happen. But our guys stepped up and made plays, not enough plays, but I feel like the people who came in for the injured players stepped up. You just have to deal with adversity, injury comes with football. That's expected but it's how you bounce from that."

On stepping up in the offense...

"We're hungry. We haven't gotten that many opportunities this season, so we were ready to make plays. We were preached to all week about how we were going to have to make plays and how the game was going to rely on offense. That's how we approach it, day in and day out. We're just trying to look the best, catch every day and work hard."