

Arizona Spring Game
Kindall Field/Sancet Stadium
Sat., April 13
Postgame Quotes

Head Coach Rich Rodriguez

"We had, I think, 22 guys out with injuries and we probably held another seven or eight throughout the game, so it was ugly at times but it was also fun. We got better. We see it more as a practice than a true game or scrimmage. We made some steps this spring. It was fun to watch."

On junior quarterback Jesse Scroggins:

"This was his first time all spring that he had done this because he had gotten healthier. He had thrown some seven-on-seven but we wanted to throw him in. He felt good. Right after one of his throws he says 'Coach, I'm still learning. I'm still learning,' before I had a chance to yell at him. He'll be ok. Again, this is his first true practice unlimited as it was."

On junior receiver Austin Hill:

"In practice on Wednesday, he had a knee injury. Unfortunately, it is an ACL tear, which just makes me sick because he is such a great player but he still will be. It wasn't an ACL, MCL and all that. It was just an ACL but with that said he will have surgery as soon as possible and get going on rehab. I don't know the timeframe for him being back. But the way technology is today, he will be back bigger and stronger. I really felt bad for him but our guys will bounce back. Austin is a tough, strong guy, and he will bounce back."

On the missed tackles:

"Some guys were playing before their time. We don't do a lot of tackling in the spring because we are worried about injuries but we get them anyway. We did okay. We were limited defensively. They ran two coverages and two different fronts."

On who needs to be the guy to fill Austin Hill's spot:

"It's a fair question but it's a host of guys. We have the guys we have now and we always have a great group of guys coming in the fall that can play well at wide receiver. We want to get eight to nine guys ready at that position. We didn't have that many last year so our hope is for this year. When Austin comes back he'll add that to the mix."

On senior quarterback B.J. Denker:

"I thought B.J. did okay today. He was pretty sharp. I've seen him make a lot of strides this spring, getting more confident, having great eye discipline, making the right decisions. There were a couple of throws he'd wish to have back but he's had a solid spring."

On the linebackers:

"Again, we have to have some competition with the guys coming in the fall. We have to get more guys ready to play and have more competition at every position. I know we are going to have more defensively than a year ago."

On senior receiver Terrence Miller:

"Terrence Miller has been cleared. That was anticipated. He is good to go for his senior year. Terrence is such a smart guy. He will play outside, inside and tight end. I think he's excited about it because it puts him in different positions on the field."

On the incoming freshman:

"We think about half of our freshman will be here for the first summer term. The other half will be here the second session. We, as coaches, can't do anything with them. They'll just be working out. The upperclassmen will probably take them out and throw with them."

On redshirt freshman quarterback Javelle Allen:

"He was having some migraines. He wanted to go but the trainers for precautionary reasons held him out. He was anxious to go. It would have been nice to see him. He's gotten better this spring."

On what he learned from spring game:

"I didn't learn as much as I wanted to this spring game because we had so many guys out. I want to get them healthy by their work out time in summer. That set some of the guys back. If they do their work on their own time this summer and work extremely hard in August, which they will, then they can catch up for this lost time."

"Some of the concerns we had coming in are still concerns in some respects. I think we will have a deeper team coming into the fall than last year at this time, particularly on defense."

Senior quarterback B.J. Denker

Thoughts on the game:

"I felt good today. I was confident and we executed as an offense today and we played well. It felt good to beat the defense this time, too."

On the quarterback competition:

"I love it. I got a lot of work with the first team this spring and I feel really confident now. My spot isn't locked in though so I am going to train hard and try to earn the starting job."

Senior receiver Terrence Miller

On Jesse Scroggins:

"We hadn't gotten to see him live. Personality wise, he has just as good of leadership qualities as anybody in the country. He's a great guy to be around, great guy in the locker room and a great teammate. He has a lot of potential."

On the coaching staff

"I really like this staff. They want me to be on the field and I want to be on the field so I have respect and love for these guys."

On playing multiple receiving positions

"I'm doing multiple things right now but I'm liking every position. I need to get in the playbook a little more and get in better shape but it's a challenge and I'm looking forward to it."

Senior Linebacker Jake Fischer

On the team's performance in the scrimmage:

"Some guys made some good plays but overall we could be a little better. They were having fun, which was great, but some of the young guys who played a lot today have a lot of room for improvement."

On getting everyone healthy:

"Some of the guys out have already proven what they can do, so it's nice to heal some guys up and get some younger guys in. It all worked out."

On quarterback play:

"I think B.J. (Denker) did a very good job. Jesse (Scroggins) will be the first one to tell you he was a little rusty but after that he picked it up and threw some great balls."

Junior quarterback Jesse Scroggins

On his first throw:

"I was like wow, he broke on that fast. Tra'Mayne (Bondurant) is a great defender and he will play this game for a long time. I had no hard feelings though. I just moved on to the next play."

On if he felt like he had command:

"I've done some seven-on seven and one-on-one drills so I felt pretty comfortable. I just felt like I needed to step up and compete."

On the new offense:

"I'm more of a pocket passer and I am adjusting to this new offense. I am learning a lot and also continuing to develop."

Junior receiver Tyler Slavin

On today's performance:

"I think I played okay. I could have blocked better. Other than that, I did pretty well."

On the improvement of the receiving unit:

"We're more intuitive and we're listening. As a whole, we've been a lot more consistent."

On the 97-yard touchdown catch:

"I knew they were in man coverage and I knew the play, so I just ran as fast as I could. I thought I was going to get tackled but I looked behind me and gave him a stiff arm and that gave me a little boost."

Sophomore free safety Will Parks

On his interception in the scrimmage:

"I thought Sir Thomas (Jackson) had it. If you run to the ball, good things will happen. It was pretty exciting."

On progressing throughout spring practices:

"On day one you really need to get back in shape but as the days go by you get better mentally and physically."

On this year's spring practice compared to last summer:

"I feel a lot more comfortable and confident. If you read your keys, you get the play faster and move faster, so I feel confident."