

**NOVA HOME LOANS ARIZONA BOWL
WYOMING VS. GEORGIA STATE
POST-GAME PRESS CONFERENCE
DECEMBER 31ST, 2019 - WYOMING**



COACH CRAIG BOHL, STUDENT-ATHLETES ALIJAH HALLIBURTON, XAZAVIAN VALLADAY

COACH CRAIG BOHL: First of all, great ballgame. And sometimes when you get in games like this, too bad a team has to lose. But we want to say congratulations to the phenomenal year that Georgia State had. And I think they had a quarterback who was able to go out and do a gutsy performance on a torn ACL, really speaks to their competitive nature. And it was a great win for us.

Also, I want to say thanks, what a great experience for our players and coaches. The Nova Home Loans Arizona Bowl is a great bowl, and I want to say thanks to the presenting sponsor, Nova Home Loans.

That being said, this team that we have this year has been a resilient team. They've played together as a team. And a lot of big plays tonight and there have been big plays all year long. Capped off an excellent year. Couldn't be more proud of our seniors and the guys who are also up here on the stage with me.

Q. It was Levi's first career start and he went out there and threw the most yards a quarterback has thrown this season for you guys, some mistakes, but pretty much composed.

COACH CRAIG BOHL: I think you hit it on the head. He was composed, made a lot of big plays. Had a couple of things that we wish we could have had back. For freshmen or for any quarterback, I thought he played with great poise and composure. And to say that Brent Vigen did a great job with him. Some people may think it was a bold step, playing a freshman quarterback. It really wasn't, in effect. I thought it was the right move. It was great experience for him and we're glad that he's here.

Q. What did you like about Eberhardt's run after the catch?

COACH CRAIG BOHL: It was a big, big play. He just kept on going. That was right before the half. I think there's a lot of plays that were key plays in the game, but that one certainly changed the complexion of the game. He's an excellent runner when he has the football. He's a complete wide receiver and a big play for us.

Q. That first drive for Georgia State, they moved the ball pretty quickly, scored within about two minutes. Then you shut them down. What happened after that drive?

COACH CRAIG BOHL: Anytime you go out and you're playing against an offense, sometimes the speed of the game has an impact. They did a couple things with play-action that threw us a bit, and kudos to them. I thought our players responded well. Coach Dickert and the rest of the group did a nice job. And there were a lot of times today where our defense had to come up with some big stops, and they certainly did.



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Q. Alijah, what are your emotions like, this is it?

ALIJAH HALLIBURTON: Man, they're all over the place. I don't even know what to think right now. I'm just happy, excited, sad, all over the place. This is my last game. But it was just such a big game to end the decade off. And such a big game like this and getting the W, just happy for that excited especially for the New Year's to come.

Just excited for the Wyoming program for the years to come because I know there's going to be these younger guys are going to be such complete players. And they're going to bring a lot of success and a lot of Ws especially this one over on the left.

Q. Where is the trophy going?

ALIJAH HALLIBURTON: It's going into my trophy case with my high school awards.

Q. With the start of the season, it was important to win this game, how important was for you to win this game?

ALIJAH HALLIBURTON: This game was really important. Just like I said, it's my last game, especially last game for me. And like after this, I don't even know if I'm going to be playing football after this.

So it was really a big game for all -- especially the seniors -- just their last game, because some seniors definitely don't even know if they're going to be playing anymore football. So just to get this W especially for this program, this university, is very important.

Q. Talking to Rocky Jr. Out there. He seemed so thankful about the opportunity to be a part of the program. What sold you on him?

COACH CRAIG BOHL: Well, out of high school we knew he had some pretty exceptional ability and he kind of took a couple of bounces along the way to get here. And I had a chance to sit down with he and his father and say, okay, where do you want to go? And if you are choosing to come to the University of Wyoming these are the expectations and we're not wavering on these expectations. And he committed to that.

And there was a curve that he certainly had while he was here. I believe this -- beyond being an excellent player, he is leaving as a better man. And he's another guy that's really come in and meshed in well. And we're certainly excited that I've had a chance we've had a chance to coach him.

Q. Xaz, you were banged up but they said you were close to 100 percent. How did you feel in the passing game?



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XAZAVIAN VALLADAY: Felt really good just getting back in the swing of things cuz we had some time off. Just staying in the training room, just doing everything that my coaches asked me to do, doing the work.

COACH CRAIG BOHL: I thought he played pretty good too.

Q. Xazavian, how do you feel like (inaudible)?

XAZAVIAN VALLADAY: He was a great leader, just freshman, stepping up on the big stage like this, just being able to just to do the things a quarterback, they have to do, just knowing everything and where everybody has to be on the field. And my hat's off to him bright future(inaudible) stepping up. (Inaudible).

Q. (Question about Levi and the different quarterbacks)

XAZAVIAN VALLADAY: Just being able to (indiscernible) and knowing that you've got a lot of weapons on offense, and everybody gets a chance to make plays with the ball in their hands.

Q. Did it surprise you?

XAZAVIAN VALLADAY: Everybody was going to have their moment and (inaudible). Like Coach Bohl always says, just be ready.

Q. (Question about Wilson)

COACH CRAIG BOHL: I think it's a message for all our players. All our players are important, and they come from all different kinds of places. But time and time again, when I first got the job that you couldn't win with Wyoming players. And (inaudible) and I had a chance to visit with Coach Harshman (phonetic) along with Josh coming in. And Logan's worked really hard to develop his skill set. And I think he's going to continue to play football.

And I guess it's a refreshing example for a lot of our youngsters that are in the state of Wyoming that you too can have an opportunity; maybe you're not come in do the things that Logan's done. But we're always going to look for players within the state. And it's sure been great to have guys that are within the state. And I think Logan's really represented the state well.

Q. Alijah, what did you think about the quarterback getting off the map and limping on the bad leg and battling til the end?

ALIJAH HALLIBURTON: He's a tough son of a gun. Like first, I don't know if he can even run on his legs like that. I just didn't know that you could run on a torn ACL really and keep playing on it. But he was making a lot of great plays, especially at the beginning of the game, and had a lot of big runs.



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And just credit to him, his toughness. We was hitting them a lot. And he just kept getting back up and trying to figure out a way for his offense to do good or score or something. But credit to him, though.

COACH CRAIG BOHL: Sometimes you hear that some bowl games are somewhat meaningless. Tell that to that guy that this was meaningless -- two really good teams.

Q. 12 runs 12 passes --

COACH CRAIG BOHL: Basically I've listened to you guys tell me we always need to be more balanced.

Q. Was it by design?

COACH CRAIG BOHL: Some of it, you think you could project on how a defense is going to deploy their guys, but they had a lot of guys on the line of scrimmage which gave us opportunities for us to throw the ball. And we have been working hard on the pass game. And so that blend of run and pass certainly stresses a defense, and then those guys up here making plays like that, both in the run and the pass game really helped.

Q. How crucial was the roughing the punter call?

COACH CRAIG BOHL: Obviously it translating into some points. And one of the things you do whenever you rush a punter, you hold your breath a little bit because if something does go wrong there, it's always been my experience as an old defensive coach once you stop them when something like that happens, the number of times that you give up a touchdown right after that is pretty doggone high and that certainly was the case here.

Q. How much does a win like this help the program going into next year?

COACH CRAIG BOHL: Nothing spells success like some success. And I think it sends a message to the younger players, if you work hard, stay focused and believe in the system, believe in what the coaches are telling you, that makes a difference.

And also I think there's a case in point, some of our captains were talking, last year at this time we were bowl eligible and didn't get selected. And so that was a real point of emphasis. And it was important for us to finish the year off strong. I think we had some great wins this year but to come off -- you always remember your last win. And so this was a great, great capstone to that season.

Q. What does it mean to a program to have so many freshmen and sophomores?



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COACH CRAIG BOHL: We need to stay hungry. There's times that you feel well we have all these pieces in place, but sometimes those are the things that come back and bite you in the butt. These guys up here are an example, hard work and determination and staying hungry.

And that's going to be a big chore for me, as their head football coach, make sure our culture stays hungry and focused, that we continue to take another step forward. We've got some unfinished business to do in our league and we're excited about next year already.

Q. You've always played good defense. Run the ball. Do you still have to develop evolve in the pass game?

COACH CRAIG BOHL: Without question, running the football is going to be important. It's going to be one of our trademarks. But you can stop the run if you deploy enough guys up there. And this is where you get your play-action pass or short pass. It's going to be important for us to do that. However, we're not going to become something like Mike Leach and Washington State. That's just not us.

Q. Alijah, talked about it before. When you committed to the program they were coming of a 2 and 10 season now you've seen three bowl games. How much a better place is the program in than what you've been in.

ALIJAH HALLIBURTON: This program, like coming in 2-10 from that last year, I could just tell from the other seniors, the other players, like, what was going on. They wanted change. They wanted to get better. They wanted to get wins, you know?

And so, for me, I kind of, like, experienced that, I guess I think, the 2-10 season and the way I just kind of learned. Like Coach Bohl said, staying hungry when your number is called and stuff and overall we just need to do better.

And this program has changed so much since then, being bowl eligible for the last three years. That's pretty important.

Q. When you came from Colorado, how is important to be successful?

ALIJAH HALLIBURTON: It's really important. I kind of got overlooked by CSU, CU, all of them. And I took a chance on Wyoming, and it was just really important for me to make sure that this program does great and is on success, the path to success.

[End transcript.]

