



Team Arrival – Oregon
12/25/21

Oregon Interim Head Coach Bryan McClendon

Question: How was the flight down?

McClendon: It was good, it was good. We had a charter flight that brought some of the guys and the family so everybody's excited about being here, ready to get everything started. We have a meeting that's starting up and then we're going into walkthroughs and running and everything else like that just trying to make sure we do everything we can do to have a really good preparation for this bowl.

Question: How have practices been?

McClendon: It's been really good. The guys have done a really good job about being able to block out some of the stuff and kind of keeping the main thing, the main thing. That's been a big part of what we've been preaching, what we've been talking about. So, we're just doing a great job of making sure that our guys do that. Making sure our focus stays on the guys and making sure that we're enjoying the entire experience because not many people get the chance to experience something like this. So, we're doing a really good job of just making sure that guys are locked into this part of it, not really focusing on anything else and being ready to go out there and play some good football.

Question: Besides the opt-outs, is there anybody that didn't travel?

McClendon: No. Everybody that's been there is here. So, like I said, all the guys are here. Everybody's working hard and ready to go out there and play and getting everybody back out there tonight. It's going to be an important part.

Question: Because of what's transpired the last couple of weeks in bowls, was there an effort to get booster shots before you guys left?

McClendon: Yeah, that's something that's on the forefront of everybody's mind right now, just in general. I mean, we're just trying to stay as vigilant as we can, whether that be through booster shots, whether that be through doing a really good job of adhering to all the social distancing and mass mandates and things like that. So just trying to make sure we're doing a good job as far as that. As far as that goes, we've been very, very, very fortunate on that front. So, we just tried to make sure of that and keep our fingers crossed that we can continue that this week.

Question: How much are you relying on senior leadership to have the team realize this is a business trip, but you can also enjoy yourself?

McClendon: We're relying on those guys to be able to maintain how we practiced and be able to maintain the focus of being able to block things out and things like that. So, they have done a tremendous job up until this point. I do not foresee that change in it at all. So, I'm really, really, really happy about the about special group of guys that we have in leadership roles. And it's not just senior leadership, it's just those team leaders in general, and have been really pleased with those guys all year, all year.

Question: What are you most looking forward to in this trip?

McClendon: Really just being able to go out there and have another opportunity to go out there and play. You know, the kids have worked really hard to earn this opportunity, and we really want to make sure that everybody's taking very seriously this opportunity that we've earned. And everybody's done a really good job of that. So, we're really excited about being able to play a really good opponent with a really storied history emerged from really good players. So right now, we don't have time to focus on anything else, to be honest with you. So, we just want to enjoy all festivities and everything else up until that part, but we're here to play a game. And right now, that's the focus.