University of North Texas Head Coach Seth Littrell

On playing so close to home and how the team stuck together this season

“First off, it’s an honor to play here. We’re very excited to play here in Frisco. What is cool about it is we get the opportunity to stay at home. All of our alumni and fans get to come out here and come to the bowl game. That’s what our players are excited about. On top of it, we’re playing a really good opponent in Miami of Ohio. I know they are very well coached. They’ve had a great season, played a really tough schedule early on much like us. So, there is no doubt in my mind that they’re better than our record even says they are. I think the biggest thing is we’re very proud of our guys, the season they’ve had. They’ve worked really hard, stuck together, listened to the voices in the locker room that mattered and trusted in their coaches. They’re done a really great job. It’s exciting to see this group. I and these players - and I’m talking about myself as much as anybody – we’ve learned a lot of life lessons this season. Just hearing my own message of sticking together, making sure we pull the rope in the same direction. You’re against all odds but if we can just trust in those things and trust and believe and have faith and keep grinding one day at a time, things will pay off for you. So, as much as these men learned, I learned just as much which is cool.”

Senior Quarterback Austin Aunee

On coming back from a 1-6 start to the season

“I think from the very beginning of the year we knew we had a really good football team with a lot of talent. We lost some guys due to the downfall of 1-6. But in the locker room, the guys believed when no one else did and that’s all we needed to do what we did the last five games. When you have that belief and you have guys that are working hard day in and day out, we reaped the rewards of the work we put in on the practice field every day. I think the guys did a great job of sticking together during that time and working hard every single day. The belief was there when we were 1-0 and when we were 1-6. So we did a great job of sticking together and coming out to 6-6.”

Junior Linebacker KD Davis

On coming back from a 1-6 start to the season

Austin] Aunee hit it right on point. We just kept coming in getting one day better, one week better. We just trusted our coaching staff and trusted each other. Even though we were 1-6 we just kept the chip on our shoulder and kept getting better and better and went on a win streak.”