

NORMAN — Baker Mayfield apologized on Monday for planting an OU flag in the middle of Ohio Stadium following Saturday's win. The Oklahoma quarterback addressed the situation before taking questions during a scheduled news conference. "It was an emotional game, and so after the game, I did not mean for it to be disrespectful toward any Ohio State people at all, especially not the team or the players," Mayfield said.

"They're a great team, a great program, so I didn't mean for it to be disrespectful at all. We do the flag thing at OU-Texas, so it was something I got caught up in." Was he surprised by the backlash? "Like I said, it was an emotional win. Obviously, if they did that here I'd be pissed, too. Not surprised looking back on it," Mayfield said. "I understand why they're very upset about it but I didn't mean it to be disrespectful in any way." Sooners coach Lincoln Riley was asked about Mayfield's apology. "I'm not surprised," Riley said moments later during his weekly news conference. "Again, I know him well enough to know what he meant by it. It was not anything disrespectful towards Ohio State. It was an emotional game and he was celebrating with his teammates. I know that's why it happened. "Am I surprised he said something? No. I'm glad. I don't think it should take away from the quality of the game that it was, two really good football teams on the field. It was a great atmosphere in Columbus. They did a great job, and it was a fun game. I think you see by how many people watched it that the rest of the country agreed as well. So that, to me, should be the focus of what happened." National college football analyst Kirk Herbstreit, who provided analysis for the game on ABC, shared his thoughts during a Monday visit to the Dan Patrick Show.

"That was probably a little bit uncalled for," he said. But Herbstreit also offered much praise for Mayfield. "The way he played was incredible," he said. "If you know him personally, like I do ... it (the flag-planting) was more playful for

him" than malicious, he said. Herbstreit, who played quarterback for OSU from 1989-1993, also

added, "It's definitely not going to come across that way to Ohio State fans,

anyway." .@baker_mayfield6 apologizes for planting the flag after the win. pic.twitter.com/GABar6zchJ â€” Oklahom

(@OU_Football) September 11, 2017 Eric Bailey 918-581-8391 eric.bailey@tulsaworld.com Twitter: @ericbaileyTW

know Get local news delivered to your inbox! Sign up! * I understand and

agree that registration on or use of this site constitutes agreement to its user

agreement and privacy policy.