

# Florida State University Football Media Conference

Friday, November 11, 2016

## Jimbo Fisher

### Postgame Press Conference

Florida State - 45, Boston College - 7

JIMBO FISHER: Again, proud of our team. Loved the way they came out and started the game. Played really well defensively. Offensively, very efficient taking the first two drives down, played really well, got ahead, and that was one of our challenges. I said, 'get ahead, stay ahead and keep playing from ahead.' We're learning how to do that, and keep taking steps, and learning to do that process, and very proud of our team.

I thought they played very hard. I thought they played with good consistency. Again, that is a -- Boston College is a very physical football team, best defense when they force a lot of fronts, a lot of blitzes, a lot of -- challenge you in a lot of different ways and try to make you play over the top of them, which we were able to do tonight, Auden and some of the guys in the verticals and the passing game down the field, was able to make plays, and it's hard running the footballs of them. They give you some ugly negative runs because they put so many guys in the box and blitz and twist and do things.

Dalvin was still able to get over 100 yards. The quarterback runs really helped us in the numbers and the angles when we had to use those, and what we did, but getting better as a football team.

We always want to get better in November and keep progressing. I think we are defensively. We were outstanding. I thought they were lights out getting off the field on 3rd down, playing the run, keeping great contain because they do a great job of getting edge sweeps and speed sweeps. We were really playing those really well, and then special teams, we did a nice job, and punted the ball much better tonight, too. Very proud of Logan. He had a good night, hit a big field goal, and you some of his leg and the things he's doing.

So very proud of our team. Again, a lot of work to do. Got to get ready to play a very good Syracuse team next week up there in the Dome. That's a tough place to play, so we'll get ready to go.

**Q. Defensively you held them to 1 and 12 on 3rd down. What is it about your defense that allowed you to have so much success?**

JIMBO FISHER: Well, I think we kept great leverage on the ball. We played well on 1st down to get them in 2nd and long and 3rd and long and then you played from ahead, and then we covered well. We were able to cover and kept great leverage, and those young guys are learning how to play. We pressured the quarterback when we had to pressure him, and gave different looks, and

Charles and those guys did a really nice job.

**Q. Was it good to get the monkey off your back with that quick start?**

JIMBO FISHER: Yeah, it had been, and just learning how to do that, and they've just got to go out and relax and do it. And that said, it's a part of growing and maturing is when a young football team and those young guys -- I say, sometimes you say where they're not intense enough or they get too intense, just do your job, have great weeks of practice, and like I said, when you practice really well and you learn to practice and practice -- not just practice but practice well, you feel confident. It's like studying for a test, then all of a sudden those answers come and you're relaxed. You're not pressing yourself, and they're learning how to do that, and they're learning how to practice and prepare for games with so much youth, and then they're going out and executing and they're getting better at it.

**Q. Did you feel like going in after a good week of practice that they had the right mindset?**

JIMBO FISHER: I did. I felt good, and that was one of our huge challenges. That was my Friday talk, about learning how to get ahead, stay ahead and play from ahead and finish, and then we did all those things.

**Q. I asked you after the game against South Florida last year when he had 266 if Dalvin was the best running back you had ever coached, and you said it was too early. Is it time --**

JIMBO FISHER: Listen, I wouldn't trade him for anybody; I know that. I don't ever say the best I've ever coached, because let me tell you something, guys; I've been fortunate in my lifetime be a part of some phenomenal players, and I don't ever like to compare -- it's like comparing your children. You don't ever say which child do you like the most. You know what I'm saying? But talent wise, Dalvin is a special cat now, and to be as selfless as he is -- he's as good as -- I'll put it like this: He's in that top group of guys that just -- when you talk about performance, you talk about leadership, you talk about teammate, you talk about selfless, you talk about all the things that you really include to be, and affect your teammates in a positive way, he's just a phenomenal, phenomenal guy, buddy.

**Q. Did you know how close he was to the record tonight?**

JIMBO FISHER: Yeah.

**Q. It was 35-0 and --**

JIMBO FISHER: It was, and I went over to him -- I'd have never forgave myself if he went out there in the fourth quarter, to what this team can still achieve, the year it can still have, and for him to get injured at the end of a football game like that, and like he said and we both said, we don't play for records. That's not what we play for. We play for team. He said, Coach, we won the game. That's what I'm here for. We played well as a team. Again, another sign of why he's Dalvin.

**Q. What do you see this team still being able to achieve?**

JIMBO FISHER: A lot. I still think this team is getting better and better, and these seniors leaving the legacy of hard work, and learning these young guys, just because you didn't have all your goals and everything didn't go right to keep working hard, to persevere and become as good as you can become, and that's the ultimate goal at the end. Become the team you possibly can

become. Young guys leaving a legacy of what the future can hold in how they practice, how they have to achieve, how they have to still go in, you're still playing, still got another arch rival, still got an ACC game left, and you've still got a chance to win 10 games and the legacy of doing all that and winning a bowl game.

But more importantly, the pride of who you are. You have pride in your work, and when you at the end of the day become as good as you can become and have great pride in how you practice and how you play, you achieve everything you want to achieve because that's what it's all about. It's not about championships, it's becoming what you can become, and when you do that, all the other things fall in place.

**Q. Talking about the young guys tonight, when you see Auden, six receptions, 101 yards, two touchdowns. We've seen Auden have another big game. How would you describe the progress you've seen from him over the last few weeks?**

JIMBO FISHER: Well, and they're learning because I'm going to tell you what; ask them how much I've been in their tail for about the last eight, ten weeks, and then when we're forced into playing them -- because I wasn't going to -- if you're going to play, go make some big plays but I need those every-down plays. I need that consistency because we've got to have play as a team. They have done it. I've been extremely pleased with them, and that's when what you're capable of and how you play, they have to match up, and those guys are learning how to do that.

**Q. What do you think these two games have shown that Auden, at least for himself, can be more than just that guy in jump ball situations and red zone --**

JIMBO FISHER: He's learning how to do it. And there's still some times where he got bumped around tonight and learning to play with his size. He's always learning to bend. He's got to learn to bend like a little guy and then use his size when he has to. You've got to keep that great flexibility in his hips, and he's learning to do that and he's learning to run more routes. We're adding more to his plate, and understanding situations, leverages, all those type of things. He's growing.

**Q. I know the circumstances weren't ideal, but Sean getting to play here today --**

JIMBO FISHER: Oh, I was extremely happy. To come in and hit a big go route and then come down and throw two touchdowns like he did, again, I told you, his parents ought to be the proudest parents in the world. That guy right there is salt of the earth, and whatever you ask him to do, again, another great teammate, another great senior, what he's achieved. The big games he's played, whatever -- yes, sir, I'll do it, and he goes in and performs every time he goes in with a lot of heart and a lot of toughness. Just very proud and happy for him.

**Q. What is the status on Deondre's injury?**

JIMBO FISHER: He's fine. He just took a shot on the shoulder and he was bruised up right there and got a little sore, guy took him pretty good and then Sean was in, and I said, we're up, there ain't no sense to come back. It didn't dislocate or anything, just a bruise, and we'll heal him up and be ready to go.

**Q. Only 50 yards passing for Boston College. I believe it was about 25 yards before that garbage time drive, but what was really effective about the pass defense?**

JIMBO FISHER: I think kept great leverage on the football. And we pressured the quarterback. How many sacks did we get on him tonight?

**Q. Three sacks.**

JIMBO FISHER: Three sacks and got a lot of pressures and one 1st down, and we covered very tightly, played great leverage on the football, got up in guys, and those young guys, those DB's are just learning to play their technique so much better.

**Q. Who individually has really grown the last few weeks?**

JIMBO FISHER: All of them. There's no -- all of them in general have. They all have, and I know that sounds like a cliché or coach talk, it's not. They all have grown, because they're learning how to prepare and practice, and what they're learning to do is the ability God gave them is the last thing they use. They're learning how to get lined up, play great leverage, understand the down and distance, understand how to prepare, where to play, where their help is, and then all of a sudden, then that athletic ability comes -- that's the last thing you want to use. They're learning to play the game mentally and psychologically the way you want to play it.

**Q. Early on the pass protection seemed to be really good, a couple breakdowns.**

JIMBO FISHER: We did, and that one in they got now, 7, he's got them deer hips now. He can drop them hips and come around that corner. And big guy had a groin injury, 71 got a groin injury right there and it was bothering him. He didn't come out and he couldn't get that hip open and it was bothering him and they got some pressure. That drive right before the half I was disappointed we couldn't get something there, but that guy is a good pass rusher. We changed the protection, went back, chipped him a little bit, banged him around, and helped that tackle, and you've got to be able to do that when you get great pass rushers.

**Q. When you did protect well you were able to take shots downfield?**

JIMBO FISHER: We were, because as I said, they make you play, and it's not ugly but what I mean is it's feast or famine. They get up in your grille. Their DB's are long, too, now, so they can get long, and if they can get their hands on things, they play great leverage, they play physical and they try to make you play over the top of them, and we did, we got over the top, then when we got over the top, we did a great job with our back shoulder throws on the fade. We're learning how to do that, and then the crossing routes we got open a couple times and did some boots and things, but they made us play that way. Our young receivers keeping -- again, playing physical back, in other words, giving us the space to back shoulder. Travis Rudolph -- you talk about Auden, but Travis Rudolph played a heck of a football game. That one play he made and scored now, that was outstanding, but he caught two big-time back shoulder fades, too, that we stuck and their guys were playing over the top, but he squeezed.

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**No. 18 Florida State vs. Boston College**  
**Friday, Nov. 11, 2016**  
**Florida State Offensive Player Quotes**

**Senior Quarterback Sean Maguire**

**On playing on senior night:**

"It was nice, you know. You always got to be ready and it's kind of ironic that that moment came on senior night. So, it was pretty awesome to get out there."

**On getting a rhythm again after not playing for a while:**

"Yeah, it's been a while since I got out there and played meaningful snaps. But after a few plays you get right back in the rhythm."

**On the growth of the team the last few weeks:**

"It's been huge, you can see the growth at practice, how much better we've gotten at practice and how we've carried that over to the game. I think this game sums it up, playing well on both sides of the ball and on special teams."

**On being a backup this year:**

"It's been tough, obviously with recovering from the injury in August and the ankle in the Peach Bowl. You know, you just have to be ready and know the situation. But I'm mature and understand the situation that I'm in. That's why I prepare every week like I'm going to play and that's why I think everybody on this team respects me."

**On the "maturity" praise from Coach Fisher:**

"That goes to credit my parents, I guess. I grew up in a strict household, where you got to earn respect and learn the hard way."

**How Nyqwan Murray and Auden Tate progressed recently?**

"They always had the talent, and you could see it in August, but there is so much more to the game. You know, things that Travis (Rudolph) and Bobo (Wilson) did so well like when to snap off routes and when not too. Just certain situations and yardage. That's just something, that with the more experience they get the better they get."



**No. 18 Florida State vs. Boston College**  
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**Florida State Defensive Player Quotes**

**Sophomore Cornerback Tarvarus McFadden**

**On limiting the Boston College passing game:**

"We mixed things up a little bit this game. Teams have been getting used to us playing man-to-man, so we came in and tried to mix it up and throw them off."

**On describing the defensive performance:**

"It was an outstanding performance overall. Our defense has known we were capable of doing this. Just to come out and show everyone what we are capable of is great."

**On the performance in coverage from the defense tonight:**

"We knew coming in to this game that we would have to be very disciplined. Boston College runs a ton of tricks and motions, so we knew coming in to the game that we had to be very disciplined. We knew in man-to-man that we had to keep our eyes on our man no matter what was going on. Boston College tries to get you with eye discipline."



**Florida State vs. Boston College**  
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**Florida State Offensive Player Quotes**

**Junior Running Back: Dalvin Cook**

**On whether he has spoken to all-time rushing leader Warrick Dunn:**

"I talked to Warrick [Dunn] at the Clemson game but it wasn't about the record. I think he knows how close I am."

**You're 19 yards shy, so what would it mean to break Dunn's career rushing record?**

"You've got to commend Warrick, his character and his ability; what he did at this school and what he did for this school. Warrick is a great person, a great teammate...To be up there with Warrick and to capture his record it would mean a lot. Sitting here talking about it, I'm just blessed to be here in this position."

**On Sean Maguire's performance in relief of Deondre Francois:**

"I gave Sean a new name – 'Mr. Always Ready.' Sometimes he won't even be warm when we call him in but coach knows he can call either run or pass when Sean comes in the game because that's how experienced he is. We're just lucky to have him as a teammate and to be a part of this offense. Sean's a great teammate and a great guy to be in the locker room with, and I love him to death."

**How rewarding was it to see Maguire come in and have success:**

"It means a lot and he needs to be rewarded for what he did and how he fought back to be here for the team and moments like when Deondre goes down and he comes in. For him to be rewarded with touchdowns, I wish we could get him more."

**How much growth have you seen with the team on a day-to-day basis and was tonight a continuation?**

"It started the week of Clemson and how we practiced and approached the whole week. We approached the week like the games on Saturday but we're going to get better this day, this practice, this meeting. We didn't get the

outcome we wanted in the Clemson game, but it was a step for the whole team. Last week [at NC State] was a close game but we grew as a team. We're growing every week. We want to learn; we want to get better."

### **Senior Quarterback Sean Maguire**

#### **How rewarding was it to get an opportunity like this on senior night?**

"It was nice. You've always got to be ready and it was kind of ironic that moment came on Senior Night. It was pretty awesome to get out there and do that."

#### **Was it like riding a bike, getting the opportunity to get in a rhythm?**

"It's been a while since I got out there and played some meaningful snaps, but after a few plays you get right back in a rhythm."

#### **What kind of growth have you seen from this team over the past few weeks?**

"It's been huge. You can see the growth in practice; how much better we've got in practice throughout the week and carrying it over to the game. I think this game sums it up being a complete game on both sides of the ball and special teams."



**Florida State vs. Boston College  
Friday, Nov. 11, 2016  
Florida State Defensive Player Quotes**

**Derrick Nnadi, Defensive Tackle, Florida State**

**On overall preparation of the defense**

“Our coaches had us really prepared for this week, especially with the quick turnaround with it being a Friday game. We really had to stay focused this week.”

**On defending against the Boston College run game**

“With their running game what you have with them is really unique. Especially with the interior linemen you’ve got to be really disciplined and play your man. If that is your gap, you’ve got to stay in your gap. If you have the A-gap the linebacker has the opposite A-gap, so you’ve got to be really disciplined to stay in that gap so the linebacker can fold out that gap. A linebacker sees the same hole as the running back is going to see, so it is important to stay disciplined.”

**DeMarcus Walker, Defensive End, Florida State**

**On the preparation of the defense**

“We were very prepared and we had a great week of practice. Everybody was locked in from special teams to walk through to everything so we came in with our mind right and we executed.”

**On seeing the team gel together**

“It is very fun because we see what it takes to be a great team and play great football. Hopefully this can carry over to next year.”

**On the effectiveness of the defense against the Boston College line**

“It was effort and execution. We didn’t do anything special. We just lined up and played football.”

**On the success against Boston College**

“My hat goes off to Boston College because they are a great team. We just came to play tonight.”

**Ro’Derrick Hoskins, Linebacker, Florida State**

**On the overall play of the defense tonight**

“We came out lights out. We followed our keys to the game, reacting to plays and doing everything we saw in practice and we just came out and played full speed.”

**On holding the Eagles to 50 yards rushing**

“That is really good for our defense. We wanted the shutout, but we will just keep pushing and pushing to make that happen.”



**No. 18 Florida State vs. Boston College**  
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**Boston College Head Coach Steve Addazio**

**Opening Statement:**

"There's not really much to talk about here. We were poor on third down, we didn't run the ball well, didn't get anything going on offense, put the defense on the field too long. Credit them, they played very, very well. I thought we evened ourselves out on defense after the first quarter. I thought as the game wore on in the second period and third period we found a way to discombobulate offensively up front and weren't able to get anything going in the throw game."

**Two games to go, are you still in a position where you can salvage the season?**

"Yeah, we've got two games to go. It starts with UConn next week. We have an opportunity to beat UConn at home. We are coming off a stretch of some pretty tough games. We've got to get back to work and we've got to play our best football right now down the home stretch – that's what it's going to take."

**How much of the game was on the offense that didn't get going?**

"I don't think we played well up front at all. We're not making plays right now. Credit them, obviously that's a physical, good looking football team but we are not making plays. We had a lot of breakdowns up front in this game; critical ones on third and two and different things all over the place. That's my job to get that fixed. It wasn't good enough. Just not good enough. I thought we came out the blocks, made a couple of plays, and as I said I knew it would be a slugfest in there a little bit with them. They're quite good on defense, they're stout. We went into a little bit of a nosedive on that minus yard sweep play on our 40 and that parlayed into that third and two with the 'backer run through. That was ridiculous which then parlayed into a series of an offside penalty, a sack and some nonsense on third down and we never really spun back out of that again. Just never spun back out of that. We didn't make any real plays in the throw game. We didn't get open a couple of times, we tried to run some man-beaters and we weren't able to get those man-beaters open. That was the tale of that. You've got to be able to come out – we thought in the second half come out one play at a time; one series at a time. But we just really didn't get anything done, whatsoever. I don't know what opportunity Patrick Towles had or didn't have – these are the things I'm going to have to look at on the plane on film and get to it and see exactly where the issues were. Obviously they were playing heavy, close to the box, we wanted to throw the ball a little bit more but we had that series, that, with these guys (Florida State) you get in second and 10 and third and long and the next thing you know they are pinning their ears back and it's not a real productive down and distance to be in. We were trying to get something going and get us into some sort of normal down and distances. We never got in sync. Just never really got in sync."