



2016 @CANESFOOTBALL Post Game Quotes

University of Miami Athletic Communications • 5821 San Amaro Drive • Coral Gables, FL 33146 • HurricaneSports.com

Assistant AD - Athletics Communications: Tom Symonds • E: symonds@miami.edu • O: 305-284-3248 • C: 305-240-9142 • @Tom_Symonds

Assistant Director: Camron Ghorbi • E: c.ghorbi@miami.edu • O: 305-284-3230 • C: 786-877-7329 • @CamronGhorbi

Assistant Director: David Villavicencio • E: davidv@miami.edu • O: 305-284-3244 • C: 305-726-6739 • @dvillavicencio6

No. 23/21 FLORIDA STATE (4-2, 1-2) 20, No. 10 MIAMI (4-1, 1-1) 19
HARD ROCK STADIUM • MIAMI GARDENS, FLA. • OCT. 9, 2016 • 65,685

Florida State Head Coach Jimbo Fisher
Oct. 8, 2016

Opening Statement...

"Before we get into this game, I do want to say for all the families that are being affected by that hurricane — in the state of Florida and all through Georgia and the Carolinas and everything else, may God be with them all and all the things that are going on. Because that thing, I mean what that thing's done and we're going through it all week and I pray to God that everyone ends up all right and gets that over with. I wish that thing would break up and go.

Florida State-Miami, isn't it? As about the best I can say. People ask me what I thought, I say, 'It's Florida State-Miami.' It always is. It doesn't matter what the records are, what goes on. Somehow — some way — that thing always comes down to the end. It's a one-play deal. That's the one thing I want to commend our kids for. You cannot say that they did not play hard, that they did not play with fight, that they did not play with guts. We didn't always [play] perfect. We've got a lot of things to clean up still in all three phases of our football team and we know that. We're a work in progress but at least that heart and soul is there. That's what we build our program on: toughness, effort, discipline and pride — and that's the four things we talk about all the time. They play with every one of them. We ask them every time you get knocked down to get up today and they did it. To get up right there at the end and block an extra point — when the game could have — a minute, 38 — to tie to do that. That's a lot of character to do that. Our defense — Charles Kelly and our defense — I thought was outstanding today. They did some really nice things and they were put in a bad situation with a punt return right there and they did a good job on that. We've got to get that fixed. We had a chance to score down there early in the game and threw a pick. They got momentum and the one drive they got us but our kids battled and we got the score before half and got it back to a two-score game — got 10 points. We got the critical interception in the end zone; that was a big play right there for our guys to get that and we go down and get a touchdown. Then we get back in the game and get the lead and then we have a chance to put it away and they hang in there. You could just see — I could just sense the game. I said they're going to score. We're going to have to go in two minutes and we're going to have to go in and goal-line stand or something. I could just feel how the game was going. But that's Miami-Florida State.

Mark's [Richt] done a great job with those guys. They played hard but just extremely proud of our kids. I mean, we had so many guys that were banged and bruised.

That's when you come out of this game, it's a physical, physical football game. It always is. It's as physical as you ever play and we're going to have to get ready, get healed up because we've got a really good Wake Forest team coming in next week I think who's 5-2 or 5-1 — something like that. They've got a really good team. We're going to have to get ready to go and get off of this. I'm just proud of our kids. That was a heck of a win to come down here and win here. That was a great atmosphere and environment. That's what college football is about. That was a great crowd. Their crowd was awesome and everything about it. It was a national game — and I'm just proud of our kids."

On how pleased he was with QB Deondre Francois's turnaround in the second half...

"Very. He did a good job. I'm going to tell you something and I mean this wholeheartedly, if the quarterback's not tough, the team's not tough. If the quarterback's tough, your team's tough. You've got to have a leader who's willing to stand in there and take bullets and both of them — Sean [Maguire] — took some shots. He went in there and did a nice job and almost led us down there to a drive. He stood in there and took the bullets, man. You've got to do it. At this level, he's been banged up. He's going to be sore. We've got to evaluate and see how he is and see what goes on. That was a tremendous effort and a lot of courage for him to stand in there but that's what a quarterback does. Now, those guys are respected like they have been. They'll play for him and they always do. When a guy does that, they're going to play hard for him."



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Dalvin Cook, Jr., RB

On the blocked extra point

"It just shows the fight and character these guys have. Hats off to Miami, they're a great team. Our guys fought when they needed to. That's something that Coach Odell preaches and harps on all day when we have meetings, so our guys executed that play he called. It's a tremendous feeling."

On going 3-0 against Miami

"This game right here is one of the reasons I came to Florida State. One of the reasons why I came to Florida State was to play in games like this - big time moments like this. To be undefeated against those guys tells us what type of team we are and the type of players Coach Fisher recruits around here."

On Deondre Francois coming back after taking big hits

"He's been doing that all season. I told him that I'd go to war with him any day. He can be my quarterback, in street ball, wherever we're at I will find him to play ball. That's just the type of guy he is, the type of character he has and the type of person he is."

Deondre Francois, R-Fr., QB

On his play in the third quarter

"We started to click on all cylinders, the line started giving me more protection. Our nerves started going away for our offense and we just started to convert."

On getting back in the game after getting injured

"I told coach I was good and ready to go. I felt good, it really didn't matter if I felt good or not. It's my team. I'm the quarterback of this team and they needed me, so I went back into the game."

On keeping the streak going against Miami

"It's a great blessing. I've been praying for these moments since I was a kid, so to come on Miami's field and coming out with a win is a great blessing."



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DeMarcus Walker

On the block...

"They kicked so many field goals that I knew what side was stronger and what side was weaker. Coach Haggins wanted us to block it from the left to the sidelines so they didn't score. That's why when coach trusts you and you make a good call, you make a play. I didn't block that, we did that as a defense, as a team."

On team unity...

"We weren't worried about that. We just had to focus on us. We practiced well. We had the attitude that we knew what we were coming into. The two losses didn't phase us. Something Coach Fisher mentioned earlier in the week was for all the true and real Nole fans out there: What happened to the '89 team and how did they finish?"

On what he saw from the right side...

"I got more pushed on that side, there was one time when they kicked the field goal that I got no push. I think I almost could have blocked that thing but I jumped too early. When it was on the line, I just went with my gut feeling and made the right call. I really did this for the people back in Jacksonville, Fla. We got hit pretty hard and it really took a toll on my mind. I was trying to clear my mind. I was just so heartbroken with everything that happened. I did it for them."



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Rayshawn Jenkins

On being out there on the field

"It was electrifying. It's always a good match up when we go against those guys. I never questioned our effort that entire game, I can definitely say that. We have some execution things that we need to handle, but besides that I think we did overall good job as a defense. We just have some things to clean up here and there."

On reaction to the extra point being blocked

"We have to play defense, that's what my reaction was. We have to go out there and play defense. It's going to happen. Adversity is going to happen. Unfortunately it happened at a time we weren't really expecting it. But at the end of the day we have to go out and play defense."



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Quarterback Brad Kaaya

On his general emotions, mentally and physically...

"Emotionally, it's tough, but we just have to keep going and just let this become added motivation for us going forward. It's only one loss in the ACC. It's more fuel to the fire. The Coastal is wide open right now. I think just about everyone has a loss. We just have to keep going, keep fighting and plan on winning it. That's what I plan on doing. I know that's what the rest of the team plans on doing. We can't let this loss define us."

"Not amazing [physically]. I'll go and see the trainers tomorrow. I took some hits today, took some hits to the head which I wasn't a fan of. I lost a tooth, but I'm good. I'll be in there next week."

On losing a tooth...

"I chipped half of my back molar on one of them. It was one of them. I'll be good though. It's part of football."

On momentum shifting on the third-quarter interception...

"The backside safety played the field. They kind of doubled the field with the safeties. It was a one-on-one backside. It was a route that we hadn't got a chance to work on much this week. I thought Ahmmon [Richards] was going to undercut him on the corner route but he kept it up top. Just a miscommunication. I kind of threw it underneath and the corner turned around and made a play."

On his emotions in the last two minutes, including the missed extra point...

"It was a tough one. It's heartbreaking when that happens. You think you're going to overtime and then that happens. I don't know. It's a heartbreaker but we just have to keep going. Of course there's things that we could have done differently in all phases of the things leading up to that point. It shouldn't have had to come down to that point, but it did. Overtime would have been good. I think we could have made something happen, but you just have to move on."



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Senior Defensive Back Corn Elder

On his emotions in the final two minutes of the fourth quarter...

"It was tough, but that's part of football - ups and downs. We felt like we could go out there and make a stop, but we didn't."

On the physical nature of the game...

"We gave it everything we got. That's what we want to do every day, is play and give everything we got. That's what we did."

On Coach Richt's decision to kick a field goal and not try an onside kick...

"We have confidence in our defense. We had one of the best defenses in the country. It felt good that he had confidence in us, and we felt like we could get a stop."

Junior Defensive Lineman Chad Thomas

On the emotions of the locker room following the loss...

"We lost. Everybody is hurting. When you take an L, you're going to hurt and you're going to feel some type of way. But we have to get on to the next game tomorrow. We're going to practice with the right mindset and just focus on North Carolina."

On his personal emotions...

"This game. We put our heart into it. We made some plays, made a couple of mistakes. Mistakes cost us."



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Sophomore Running Back Mark Walton

On the emotions of the team...

"It's a bad feeling. We weren't expecting this. Everybody is down right now. It's time to move on right now. Everybody is just down."

On the touchdown run that was called back due to a holding call..

"That's the game of football. Things happen like that. You score and get a penalty call, like you saw last year a few times...you just have to move on. Things happen in games like that, a bad play by the o-lineman, holding. You have to move on."

On the emotions on the sideline after the blocked extra point...

"We still had a chance. I think it was like 1:36 for the defense to go out there and stop them. We still had a chance to get in field goal range and kick a field goal to win, just try to score. We still had a chance."

On if he feels that Miami lost the game rather than Florida State winning it...

"You have to be real with yourself. We played four quarters out there and Florida State came out with a victory. A loss is a loss. You can't say you feel like you won or feel like you lost. A loss is a loss. You take it as a man."

Senior Wide Receiver Stacy Coley

On his emotions...

"We lost. It hurt us. We have to keep moving."

On the blocked extra point...

"It hurt. We lost by a point. I feel like we could have executed more and gave more effort, but it got blocked."

On the seniors not having beaten Florida State...

"It's tough, but we have another game coming up Saturday. We have to look past that and keep moving."



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Head Coach Mark Richt – Florida State Postgame Press Conference Oct. 8, 2016

Opening Statement...

"First of all, congratulations to Florida State for doing a good job winning the game and doing what they needed to do to win it. Tough one, to finish the way it did. Obviously getting what looked to get the score to tie it up and not being able to protect well enough to kick an extra point is tough. Tough for everybody. But, to their credit, somebody cared enough to blast through and get it. It was a great effort on their part.

"I'm very proud of our players' effort overall. I'm sure there are some moments where it wasn't just perfect. But I saw guys fighting their guts out. The defense played extremely well most of the game. Very few times did they struggle. They gave up a big play on the long touchdown pass, but other than that played extremely well. Offensively, just very inconsistent. We had a couple of bright moments, but just not good enough tonight to win, offensively. Special teams overall did pretty good. That return by [Braxton] Berrios was outstanding and gave us a lot of excitement and a lot of life. It gave us an opportunity to have a really short field to go ahead and get the touchdown. You turn it over deep in their territory like we did, had the one touchdown called back which hurt, obviously...those kinds of things, you can't do. I told the guys the margin for error is going to get less and less as we go. You can't make those types of mistakes and still win. It definitely starts with me. Just didn't do a good enough job as the head coach. We're just going to have to get it better."

On the holding call that negated a Mark Walton touchdown run and a targeting call on Jamal Carter...

"I didn't see it. I didn't see the holding. I don't have the vantage point the officials have. All I saw was one of the greatest runs I've ever seen. It's a shame that run went for naught, because it was a phenomenal effort by Mark [Walton]. It was a game-changer type of run. Then the targeting [call], I guess I can respectfully say I didn't think it was targeting. I thought he hit with his shoulder and I don't think he tried to hit him above the neck. Even on the replay it didn't look like it. I was shocked on that one. Everybody has a job to do, and I don't know every detail of what everybody is talking about, what constitutes a target. From my vantage point, I thought it was a pretty clean shot. It's hard to play defense nowadays, because you can't hardly hit anybody. We do want the game to be safe, but you also want to be able to play ball.

"It's a physical sport. You tackle. I was very proud of the effort of our guys. Somebody asked a question at the end of why not onside kick. I felt like if we knocked it down in there like we did and get them deep in their territory, we had three timeouts, if we got them out on three-and-out...I didn't think they'd throw the ball, which they didn't. We probably would have gotten the ball with 1:10 or so [remaining] if we could have got that three-and-out right there. They did a good job of putting it away. Even if we did kick an onside and didn't get it, they wouldn't even have to drive and kick it way deep. It's hard to go 90 [yards]. We probably would have had the ball just in field goal range if we could have gotten a stop there. Strategically – I'm not pointing the fingers at the defense at all – but from my strategic point of view, that was my thinking."

On the struggles of the running game and if he would have liked to see more from it earlier...

"We do throw a lot of RPOs – the run-pass option – and the looks were there to throw, so you throw it when that happens. We've had a lot of success doing that all year long, so we kept going with that same strategy. There's times when we just have to call it and run it and get after it. That's what happens sometimes when you have that option, one way or another. We'll probably look at a lot of tape and say, 'Hey, if we had handed it, look what might have happened' type things.

On the third-quarter interception by quarterback Brad Kaaya...

"We moved the ball well. We got it down in the red zone and had a chance. I think it was second down...it wasn't third down. Just a ball that if it's not there, launch it out of the back of the end zone. Go play another down. From a quarterbacks coaching point of view, I must have planted some kind of seed in his head for him to go ahead and make that throw. I put that on me."

On penalties...

"It'll be interesting to see. I'm looking forward to see the TV copy to see what happened. The ones when the plays are over and someone pushes or shoves or grabs, or this or that... that's the very worst penalty in football. It's a lack of discipline, and we treat that one different than the rest of them. The other ones we may do something during practice or after practice. That one we get them up at 5:30 in the morning and try to wear them out enough where they do want to do that. Maybe we'll have to give them two mornings."

On getting the team refocused for North Carolina next week...

"There's a lot to play for, no doubt. It was not a Coastal Division game – it was an ACC game obviously, but not a Coastal game. Everybody is still in the race right now. Everybody has a lot to play for, and we're one of them. We have North Carolina coming up and a few more Coastal Division opponents pretty quick. We'll find out how we fare on that side. Hopefully we can get back in the race. I think we will. I think we'll have a good plan, I think we'll get after it and we have a chance to come back here at home and have our fans help us out."

On the blocked extra point...

"Usually if you get penetration there's something going on up front. I couldn't see the trajectory of the kick. If you get the kick up, sometimes it cures some of your issues if you have issues inside. If it's a low kick, you can block it perfectly. If they come through and you get a high trajectory kick, sometimes you can get away with it. I really don't know what happened, but it looked like our left side, my guess it was probably a guard or tackle...but I'm not sure. I didn't see that part of it [low snap]. We'll look at that. I think the ball got put down. The best copy of that is TV copy because you watch our coaches' copy and you just don't see it close enough. So we'll see it closer and have an idea of what the deal is. It's just a shame. It would have fun to still be playing."

On the time of possession battle and if it affects the defense...

"It might. If you go with tempo, you're not going to have as much time of possession. If you hold the ball another 20 seconds in between every play, the time of possession will probably be closer to equal. Some of our most successful drives have been using the tempo. We'll always look at that and try to make a determination if we're putting our guys in a bad way. But right now, that's how we feel is our best shot of moving the ball well."