



No. 12 Florida State vs. No. 3 Clemson
Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016
Jimbo Fisher Postgame Press Conference

On the chop block:

"It was ridiculous. It was not a chop, it was not a chop. I will tell you what, you hold coaches accountable, you hold players accountable, hold the damn officials accountable. It is garbage and then to call another penalty on the sideline is even more garbage. It is cowardly, gutless and wrong. They can fine it or do whatever they want to do with it. That is a fact, look at the film. It is ridiculous that they do that. That was a huge call in the game. We still had chances in the game to win after that, but it is ridiculous. The guy wasn't even in position to make it, plus it was 10 yards down the field so the penalty should have been marked from there not from the line of scrimmage. It was targeting on 12 when he got hit in the belly and knocked out. He got hit with the crown of the helmet right in the chest. He gets killed in Miami and he gets killed here. Both of them. Bad, real bad.

On the Trey Marshall targeting penalty and ejection:

"I didn't think it was targeting. I still don't. I don't think he led. He hit him with the side of his helmet. I don't think he hit with his crown. They review that, but they don't review Deondre (Francois) who is being exposed on a two-step deal and they won't call that. Whoever is in the booth is bad too."

Do the penalties overshadow your performance?

"No. They were critical calls in the game and Clemson won the game. I give them all of that. That is not why we lost the game. It is just a shame that you could have changed and seen what happened if you called the game correctly. That is their job."



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Florida State Offensive Player Quotes**

Junior Running Back: Dalvin Cook

On the takeaway from the game:

"We've got to do a better job of executing in the big moments."

On the costliness of the penalties:

"You'll never get in a rhythm as a team if you have penalties and yardage like that. We've got to clean those things up as a team and especially as an offense. If we want to attain the goals and be the offense we want to be, we have to clean those things up. We can't have those self-inflicted wounds. That will get a drive stopped."

On what he saw that made the running game go:

"They were giving us what we wanted all game. We did a great job running the ball on them last year. We knew what they were going to do. They were going to stack the box and try to take the run away. We tried to establish the passing game early and I think we did that pretty good and the running game just opened up in the second half."

On becoming the second FSU back with three 1,000-yard seasons and what it means in terms of what he wanted to accomplish here:

"What I really want is national championship. I'm not a guy about stats. I'm a guy about wins and losses. I'm a team guy. I always want my guys to succeed. That's what we work so hard for during the summer. Our time is valuable when we go out there and work hard and put in the time that we put it. I know all these guys want to win every game. That's my focus right there – keep these guys' heads straight and keep playing some good football."



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Florida State Student-Athlete Quotes**

Junior Offensive Lineman Roderick Johnson

On the penalties:

“Offensive penalties are just self-inflicted wounds. We had the momentum but going down we were shooting ourselves in the foot with our procedure which put us behind the eight ball. But that’s one thing that’s critical that we still have to keep working on and eliminating.”

On what Clemson was doing consistently to pressure the offense:

“They weren’t doing anything. When we gave up sacks, that’s mostly because we beat ourselves, O-line beat themselves. Communication is everything but you know we’re still working on techniques and fundamentals and things like that and still putting ourselves in place to get in front of defenders and to block them.”

What happened on the last two plays?

“I’m not sure. I will have to look at film but sacks are sacks on the O-line and protection wise but it’s just us not communicating. Communicating is good but we still have to put ourselves in the right position to make certain plays and execute well. We have to work on executing plays and not putting ourselves behind the eight ball.”

On the progress of the O-line:

“We have made some progress but not enough.”

On the overall play:

“I think we held up our end of the stick very well. We still have lapses and falls that’s nothing but on us. I think we still have to get there to make plays on the run game and the pass game. We will look at the film tomorrow and evaluate and see what we did wrong and eliminate those and continue to do what we did well. ”

On the biggest takeaway from tonight’s game:

“We are never out of the fight. We left our heart out there and we fought until the very last play. That’s one thing we work on around here, laying our heart out on the line for the brotherhood. Tough loss but it’s not like we were out worked physically or out worked mentally. Sun is going to come tomorrow and we still have to evaluate the film and get ready for NC State and be ready to roll.”



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Florida State Offensive Player Quotes**

Freddie Stevenson, FB, Florida State

On the penalty during a long Dalvin Cook run:

"It is something that I have never seen happen before. I have been cutting people all year and I was just shocked because I've never seen a call like that before."

On how much did that call change the momentum:

"We had a lot of momentum rolling and that was a big run. That kind of took a lot of the momentum out of us."

On the call being made on him:

"I am thinking that something else happened then he called it and I am thinking 'what did he call?' He said 'block below the waist' and I said 'that is what a cut block is.'"

On making a clean block:

"I could've been more outside, but it's still a clean block."

Derrick Nnadi, DT, Florida State

On getting consistent pressure on Deshaun Watson:

"We just stayed focused on our technique and did what we were supposed to do and be consistent and just push the linemen back."

On the pressure impacting Watson's ability to maneuver:

"Yes. I feel like any type of quarterback, especially a dual-threat quarterback, doesn't like close areas so that probably affected him a little bit."

On bringing pressure off the edges early:

"I don't know the plan for the corners and the safeties, but I know for my job and the d-line we have to beat the man in front of us one-on-one and pressure the quarterback."

On the impact the line can have when playing together:

"When we play the way we should be playing, when these type of games happen, we have a lot of momentum and a lot of pressure. We just have to keep pushing, but we just didn't get the job done."



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Clemson Head Coach Dabo Swinney

Opening Statement:

"I'm glad to finally walk into this room and be happy. It's been a long time coming, I can tell you that. First of all, I don't know how you can expect anything less from Clemson vs. Florida State. What a game; just an incredibly hard fought game. Both teams had an unbelievable will to win the football game and we just made one more play than they did. We knew we'd get the best version of Florida State that there possibly could be. So give them a lot of credit. A lot of talented players over there – that quarterback is a tough young play and he's got a bright future. And dad gum No. 4 – I hope he's leaving. He's a great player. They did a heck of a job.

"Our guys just hung in there and kept battling. We took the lead early. They battled back. We had a couple of lulls, a couple of missed opportunities. I didn't think we played very well in the second quarter. But we came back out and did what we needed to win the third quarter to get the stop and go down and get points. Then again we kind of hit another lull, they made some plays, got the turnover and it was a critical turnover. They got two scores off of our two turnovers – I think they got 14 points off of turnovers and we got three. We put our defense in a couple of bad spots and that's tough to do against a really good team like that.

"The resiliency was awesome. They had to be at their best and they were in the fourth quarter. Five hundred and something yards on offense and Deshaun (Watson) he had four hundred and something yards – 378 passing – he's just unbelievable. He just keeps playing and that fourth quarter was just awesome offensively and what we were able to do and continue to answer. When we had to have the drive with 3:20 – we got it. When we had to make the plays – when we had to have the fourth down conversions – we got it. When we had to make the two-point play – we got it. When we had to make the field goal – we made it. When we had to get the stops – we got it.

"It was a heck of a ball game and I'm proud of all those guys."