



MISSISSIPPI STATE FOOTBALL POSTGAME NOTES

Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl: Mississippi State vs. Louisville
December 30, 2019 | Nissan Stadium | Nashville, Tenn.

TEAM NOTABLES

- MSU's captains were QB **Tommy Stevens**, P/H **Kody Schexnayder**, LB **Erroll Thompson** and C **Darryl Williams**.
- Louisville won the toss and elected to defer to its option. MSU received the opening kickoff.
- Today's attendance was 46,850.
- MSU is now 13-10 in 23 bowl games, including a 1-1 record in the Music City Bowl, and 1-1 against Louisville.
- State recorded its 24th takeaway this season in the first quarter and has at least one in 26 of its last 29 games.

PLAYER NOTABLES

- Senior center **Darryl Williams** Made his 38th career and start on the offensive line, and his 38 starts came during the Bulldogs' last 39 games dating back to 2017.
- Junior linebacker **Willie Gay Jr.**, forced a fumble that was recovered by senior linebacker **Tim Washington** on Louisville's first offensive possession. He has recorded either an interception, forced fumble or fumble recovery in seven of his last nine games played dating back to 2018.
- Gay also led the team with a career-high 11 tackles, all solo stops.
- State's second drive of the game, following Louisville's turnover, went 99 yards on eight plays and lasted 4 minutes and 10 seconds. The drive was capped by a 3-yard **Tommy Stevens** touchdown run. It was MSU's longest drive in terms of yardage since 10/29/2016 against Samford (99 yards).
- Senior running back **Nick Gibson** scored his sixth rushing touchdown of the season from 3 yards out in the second quarter to give MSU a 14-0 lead. He finished the season with a rushing score in three straight games, averaging 8.6 yards per carry in that span.
- Junior wide receiver **Osirus Mitchell** caught his sixth touchdown pass of the year from 24 yards out.
- Junior safety **Fred Peters**, in his first career start, recorded a tackle for loss and then a third-down pass breakup to force a punt on Louisville's second drive of the game.
- Senior wide receiver **Stephen Guidry** caught an 18-yard TD pass in the fourth quarter, his fifth TD catch this season.
- Sophomore safety **Marcus Murphy** recorded double-digit tackles for the first time, finishing with 10 including a career-high eight solo tackles.
- Junior defensive end Kobe Jones registered multiple sacks for the first time, closing out the game with 2.0. He also finished with a career-high 3.5 tackles for loss.
- Redshirt freshman linebacker **Nathaniel Watson** recorded his first career tackle for loss.
- Redshirt freshman defensive tackle **Fabien Lovett** logged a career-high 1.0 tackle for loss.
- Redshirt freshman linebacker **Aaron Brule** tallied a career-high 1.0 sack.
- Senior safety **Jaquarius Landrews** broke up multiple passes (2).

A revised transcript has arrived:

#44912: 2019-12-31 01:22:00 Joe Moorhead, Darryl Williams, Jaquarius Landrews, Tommy Stevens

Rev #2 by #166 at 2019-12-31 01:23:00 GMT

http://www.asaptext.com/asap_media/media/75/300/transcripts/44912.pdf

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Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl: Louisville vs Mississippi State

Monday, December 30, 2019

Joe Moorhead

Darryl Williams

Jaquarius Landrews

Tommy Stevens

Mississippi State Bulldogs

Louisville - 38, Mississippi State - 28

JOE MOORHEAD: Yeah, first and foremost, you know, disappointing outcome. I want to congratulate Coach Satterfield, his staff and his team on a great season. I want to thank our fans who came down and had a great showing here. Always get great support for Mississippi State from our fans and it was great to see them here. Appreciate the bowl, appreciate the committee. It was an excellent week in Nashville, and an experience I think myself and all these guys and our staff are very grateful for.

You know, there's a -- all football coaches sometimes at the end of your career you think you're going to write a book and talk about a season, talk about your career and each season is a chapter, and this season was a book in and of itself, and certainly 6-7 was not the outcome we desired. To get bowl eligible, to win an Egg Bowl and have this opportunity to play in a bowl game, to me is a credit to these seniors, a credit to this staff, a credit to these leaders that we were able to battle through a ton of adversity this season.

Between graduation and injuries and other things that went on this season, I'd like to credit these guys for giving us the ability to get to here, and certainly in all three phases today I needed to be better, our staff needed to be better and we needed to execute a little bit better. I thought we practiced well at State and here. I thought our kids played hard, but ultimately at the end of the day we didn't do enough

to win the football game.

Q. Coach, when you talk about the momentum swing, you guys are up 14-0 and they got hot, 31 straight for them.

JOE MOORHEAD: Yeah, it's a game of momentum. I think we were doing really well defensively. You know, we had trouble moving it a little bit early in the third quarter, and that's kind of when they caught their fire and moved the ball and scored their points, and we came back a little bit too little too late. But Cunningham, the running back, and certainly No. 1 is an excellent player, and we had a hard time defending him. They did a nice job with the run game and some misdirection. I thought we got the ball running a little bit early, struggled a little bit in the second half and got the pass game going. But certainly you don't want to be battling out of a hole against a team of this caliber.

Q. What was different maybe in the third quarter? Seemed like defensively they did some things to kind of slow you down.

JOE MOORHEAD: I don't think it was necessarily different things that they did. I think their D-line was doing a decent job. We were running the same run plays and tweaked a couple things, but it was essentially two quick three-and-outs, and that's kind of what got us. I think if you look at the drive chart, I think their first drive took almost six or seven minutes off the clock, then we went three-and-out, then they had another one, then we went another quick three-and-out and didn't get rolling again until the fourth quarter, so they took a lot of time of possession there in the third quarter and we were fighting defensively. We weren't able to generate much offensively, and certainly those three-and-outs didn't help there.

Q. I know it's disappointing to see Kylin get hurt on the first play.

JOE MOORHEAD: Yeah, very disappointing. Kylin practiced well, practiced hard, decided to play in the game, which meant a lot to him, meant a lot to this team and this university and certainly a base run play you're not anticipating that happening, but he tried to fight through it. That's a credit to him and his toughness and what he thinks of his teammates, and it was good to see Nick and Lee Witherspoon pick up the slack, as well.

Q. Was Nick available in the third quarter?

JOE MOORHEAD: Yeah, we had Nick and a couple other guys that were on a one-quarter penalty back from when we were back in school.

Q. What was going on once Kylin got hurt like that?

JOE MOORHEAD: I would guess not 100, but I don't know how much below that.

Q. How much does (indiscernible)?

JOE MOORHEAD: Yeah, I don't know if it was necessarily a byproduct of what Kylin was doing. Some of it was the plays, some of it was how they were defended, some of it was the reads and things like that. I think we had a good mix of Kylin and Nick and Lee in there, as well. I thought at times we ran effectively but certainly not well enough.

Q. The secondary was kind of piecing things together. A lot of starters not playing (indiscernible)?

JAQUARIUS LANDREWS: I just saw a lot of young guys giving their best, trying to help with the defense and the secondary against a lot of explosive plays, but I give them their credentials for giving it their all.

Q. Tommy, were you trying to do too much?

TOMMY STEVENS: (No microphone.)

Q. You talk about reads and maybe some protection and whatnot, but I'm wondering if there was an instance when you guys weren't moving the ball in the middle of the game and you thought about maybe (indiscernible)?

JOE MOORHEAD: Since what we were going to need to do was throw it around to catch up in scoring based on skill set and what we had available, we felt it was best with Tommy in there and came back and generated two long touchdowns there, so that was the thought process.

Q. You talked about this being a game in and of itself this season, what was the most challenging part to you and what affected you guys most on the field?

JOE MOORHEAD: I wouldn't say it was necessarily one thing but a combination of everything, kind of grouped together. I think what I certainly don't want this loss today to take away from is this senior class and what they've done at Mississippi State and everything that these guys have done, how many straight bowl games, two straight Egg Bowl wins, getting us bowl eligible and fighting and scratching and clawing through a bunch of different things and that I don't want to go through the list of them, because they're significant, but at that point of the season we were 3-5 and we needed to win 3 of 4 to get bowl eligible, and beat Arkansas and beat Ole Miss and beat Abilene Christian. I think it speaks volumes to these guys and their belief in the program and their culture and their leadership because they if didn't believe and they didn't have fight and they didn't know how to battle adversity, we wouldn't have got to this spot. Also I don't want to get kind of lost in the outcome today, the amount of positive momentum that we have going forward with the number of -- I think we had on the field today to start the game six of our 11 starters who started the first game didn't play, and then I think almost a similar number maybe offensively. So throughout the season you saw a ton of young kids in there playing football, who were either first or second-year players and have done really, really well. When you look at it positionally across the board, I think it's going to bode very well for the future and you add that to what we've been doing from a recruiting standpoint, and you stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before you. These seniors have set a high bar between our young kids, our recruiting classes, our development, I think the future is very bright.

Q. (Inaudible)?

JOE MOORHEAD: It was an existing injury from the season, and then when we cut the guys loose and they went home, he was working out on his own and he kind of dinged it up a little bit trying to do extra and he tried as hard as he could, went out there in pregame, but he just couldn't go.

Q. Darryl, what happened with you in the pregame? How determined were you to get out there and play?

DARRYL WILLIAMS: My knee just buckled a little bit on that turf. They've got to do a better job on the field. I think I did -- I wasn't (indiscernible) in this game. This was last game in maroon and white. I wasn't going to let my seniors down, but my teammates, who no doubt believe in me. I wasn't going to let those guys down. But I'm okay.

Q. Darryl, you mentioned it being your last game. When you look back over the Mississippi State experience, what's it meant to you?

DARRYL WILLIAMS: Oh, man, it's been a journey. Like I said before to you guys, I can't begin to thank them for giving me an opportunity to come and play college football at the Division I level. I just took advantage of each and every day to be the best I can be and put the university on my shoulders each and every day.

Q. Darryl, (indiscernible) what's that been like from the player experience, just the ups and downs?

DARRYL WILLIAMS: I mean, I think this senior class has done an excellent job, our leaders have done an excellent job just keeping guys together. We've been through ups and downs and guys not being able to play in games, guys being hurt. I think we did an excellent job, the seniors, of just keeping guys prepared, keeping guys ready.

Q. There was a moment in the broadcast late in the game where a camera showed (indiscernible) on the sideline and they are holding up a sign that has you quoted as saying that Louisville is soft. I don't know if you know anything about that or if you have any comment about it.

JOE MOORHEAD: Louisville is soft? I've never seen that, no.

Q. Wondering if you have any comment. (Indiscernible)?

Q. How much did you guys as an offensive line want to have that record as an accomplishment for this season?

DARRYL WILLIAMS: We definitely wanted to give him that record, for him to be the all-time leading rusher in Mississippi State history. I think that we wanted to get him that record. We tried our hardest. I think (indiscernible) on the first play. He think it was more of the team. I think we tried our hardest to get him that record. I think that he is going to continue to get better, a premier back in this league, maybe not this league, but the next level. I'm looking forward to seeing it.

Q. Jaquarius, talk about how hard it was to contain Cunningham.

JAQUARIUS LANDREWS: He's a very good athlete. I just had to use my outside (indiscernible), but he's quick, he's fast, and I have to give him his props for that, but it was pretty tough, and I just had to keep my side contained and do my job.

Q. There were a lot of 3rd-and-longs during the second half. Was it something that they were doing effectively or was there something defensively that was just out of place?

JAQUARIUS LANDREWS: Just felt like they had give up a lot of explosive plays. They kept throwing it in the middle and they were scheming us up real good, so there was really nothing we could do about that, we've just got to do better with our play calling?

Q. What's this season been like for you?

TOMMY STEVENS: It's been wild. Yeah, obviously still emotional for me. Nothing really in life goes exactly how you think it's going to go. With that being said, I mean, the picture or the plan, it's -- I'm so thankful. I'm so thankful to have been able to come here to, to meet a whole new group of guys, play with guys like Landrews, guys like Darryl. It wasn't easy. It wasn't easy to make that decision. It wasn't easy to -- for those guys to welcome me in the way they did. I'm forever thankful for that, for those guys just giving me a chance. It's tough. It's tough because a lot of people on the outside don't really understand how much it takes. They don't understand how -- and with that being said, it's difficult, but we love what we do. It's a lot of emotion, a lot of emotion. I'm going to miss this team.

Q. (Indiscernible)?

JOE MOORHEAD: It's like watching one of your own grow up. We have a relationship that dates back and I've known him for a long time, watched him grow as a player, watch him grown as a person. He's got a wonderful family. You know, whether it's in the game of football playing, whether it's in the game of football coaching, whatever he does in life, I know he's made of the right things. He's a good kid with great character and a great set of values, and whatever he sets his mind to he's going to accomplish.

Proud to be associated with Tommy Stevens.

Q. You're a guy that took advantage of the transfer portal, being a grad transfer, that's been a hot topic this year. Looking back now, was that a good decision for you, to have the ability to take advantage of the grad transfer portal?

TOMMY STEVENS: Like I was saying there, I don't think anything that happened this year would have determined whether or not it was successful or not. It was the best decision for me at the time. I don't regret it at all.

Q. Kind of along those lines, the transfer portal or anything like that, are there any (indiscernible)?

JOE MOORHEAD: You know, we're going to take a couple days off here. We report back on Sunday with a team meeting, and then class will resume on Monday, and then I'll have next week set up, the position coaches, and met with the players individually and have season-ending meetings and I'm going to meet with all the players individually next week.

Q. (Indiscernible) how have they impacted your team?

JOE MOORHEAD: With the guys that have the opportunity to play at the next level, they have to have the ability to get that done, and all those guys have been blessed with ability and talent and they've done an excellent job at this level of football and now it's going to be about their opportunity to go to the combine or our pro day and show things that they're able to do from a measurable and quantifiable standpoint and put those things together. You don't need all 32 to like you, you just need one to like you and I know if these guys get the right opportunity that they'll make the most of it.

Q. Joe, wrapping up your second season, this is obviously not how you wanted it to end, but what's your biggest takeaway?

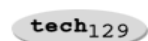
JOE MOORHEAD: We've just got to stay the course and keep working. Certainly ending the season with a loss in the bowl game is not ideal. Two years, 14 wins, two bowl appearances, two wins over top-25 teams, two Egg Bowl victories, three successful top-25 recruiting classes, a bunch of young guys that have played and played well. It's trying to focus on the positives, sit down next week and evaluate every aspect of the program, see where we're at, continue what we're doing well, and looking to fix the things we need to do a little bit better and take -- obviously not the positive momentum from this game but all the things we've done well the past few years and need to build off of that.

Q. You were mentioning those list of accolades. Do you feel like there's sometimes too much weight put on that final record?

JOE MOORHEAD: Not necessarily. I mean, it's a barometer of what you've done for the season. I think there's context for everything, but certainly finishing with six wins and getting to a bowl and winning the Egg Bowl, you would have loved to finish this one off the right win and finished the season with a winning record rather than a losing record.

FastScripts Transcript by ASAP Sports

Rev #2 by #166 at 2019-12-31 01:23:00 GMT



A new transcript has arrived:

#44913: 2019-12-31 02:07:00 Scott Satterfield, Micale Cunningham, Cj Avery, Chatarius Atwell

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Monday, December 30, 2019

Scott Satterfield

Micale Cunningham

CJ Avery

Chatarius Atwell

Louisville Cardinals

Louisville - 38, Mississippi State - 28

SCOTT SATTERFIELD: Well, just first of all, obviously really, really proud of our guys, the way they fought tonight, and just the way they handled themselves the last three weeks with all our bowl practices. We told the guys, listen, we want to make this a fun experience for you guys. We want to have fun practices. We want to do some things together as a football team, and we were able to do that. We grew closer as a football team the last three weeks, and I think that's very important. I think a lot of times that goes unnoticed.

But when you really have a good camaraderie and good chemistry together as a football team, then you tend to do better things on a football field, particularly when you face adversity, just like tonight. We got down 14 points early in the game, and the kids didn't flinch. I mean, they kept playing, kept battling. Next thing you know you're right back in the game, and then we grabbed that momentum and then we poured it on.

But I'm really proud of our staff this year. When I told our team when we came into this thing last December and January, from where our team was then and what they were able to accomplish this year, big credit to our staff, being consistent every single day, and we've had some days that haven't been easy. We've worked these guys really hard at times, and they're like, what are we doing.

But when you have a season like this, you win eight games, you overcome so much, when no one thought we were going to win any games this year, picked dead last in our conference this year, and all the things that we were able to accomplish. But it just goes to show you when you have belief in one another and you focus on the team and not an individual, then great things can happen.

I'm really, really excited and proud to be a part of this team, and to finish this season the way we did with eight wins and to beat a Mississippi State team and of course coming back off of -- we had a tough loss at Kentucky and being able to bounce back against Mississippi State was tremendous for us, and honestly we'll use this momentum as we head into the off-season.

Q. Coach, I know you didn't recruit these seniors, but they've meant a lot to this program. What was it like getting to see all those seniors make some big plays?

SCOTT SATTERFIELD: Yeah, you know, and those seniors have had it rough. We have 27 of them that are done. Out of that 27, probably 12 guys probably played significant. The other guys really don't play a whole lot. And so I told the guys in the team meeting last night, I said, listen, there's going to be some guys tomorrow that maybe haven't played as much as they wanted to play this year, but you're going to make big plays tomorrow.

Peete was one of those guys. It was crazy, man. I said, you're going to catch a touchdown pass, and sure enough, he caught a touchdown pass today, I think Michael said the first one since 2015. Boosie made a big sack tonight. Just those seniors, I'm so proud of them to stick it out because it has not been easy for them. It was hard for them.

I told the team, too, we had 22 scholarship players that could have been on this team this year that for one reason or another during the off-season decided other things. 22, that's a whole signing class. So what these guys have had to do, the guys that stuck it out with us, it's so rewarding for them to be able to come out here and finish it off with a big-time bowl win right now. I'm so proud of these guys and particularly these seniors, but I'm excited for the young guys, the guys that will be coming back so we can build off of this in this off-season as we head throughout that and into next season. So this momentum is going to be huge for us.

Q. Can you talk about the momentum swing, you're down 14-0 and then 31 in a row?

SCOTT SATTERFIELD: Yeah, you know, it's hard to go back and rehash the game. I just know that we've been down before and our guys haven't quit. We just keep playing. You just play the next play. This is what we tell our guys: Play the next play and then some good things are going to happen.

We were able to get the ball back. Obviously you go score. I think probably one of the turning points of the game was Tutu's play where he threw the touchdown pass. That was a huge play for us. It was a play that we've had on the call sheet for probably the last five games, just haven't gotten to it yet. That was a great momentum grabber right there, and I'll tell you, our guys had a lot of juice tonight on the sideline, guys on the field. Emotional at times, probably in the first half particularly with some of the calls we didn't feel went our way.

But I love that emotion. So at halftime we said, listen, guys, take all that emotion and channel it to each other. We're not talking to the other team, we can't control anything that happens with the referees. Focus in on each other.

That third quarter, man, it was awesome. We came out in that third quarter fired up and our guys played, and then we felt at that point, man, we're going to win this football game.

Q. Your first start this season was against Western Kentucky. What do you think has been your biggest area of improvement since then?

MICALE CUNNINGHAM: I would say definitely in the passing game, being able to choose my receiver down, my O-line giving me significant time back there to get the ball into our playmakers' hands.

Q. You broke a single season yardage record tonight. What does that mean to you?

CHATARIUS ATWELL: It just feels great. I've been doing my research and seeing how many yards I need, and I told him, hey, man, throw it to me and I'm going to grab it. Just keep coming to me, and he's like, I got you, and I mean, it just feels great, man.

Q. Scott, how much do you think your team speeds particularly at the skill position helped you guys out tonight? Seemed like it was tough for them to kind of handle your guys?

SCOTT SATTERFIELD: Yeah, one of the things coming into this game, we were a little concerned about their size. That's a long team length wise and they've got a lot of good size on that team. So that's a little bit concerning. We're not as big up front really as you talk about O-line, D-line. We do have significant speed at a lot of positions, two of them, three of them sitting right up here. But what we tried to do all year, we've had big plays offensively, tried to get the ball to Tutu and Dez and Hassan Hall and Hawkins, Cunningham, all these guys that can really run, so we're trying to create space for them and allow them to run, and that's how we've lived.

We've lived on big plays this year. Hawkins I think went over 1,500 yards rushing this year, which was incredible, of course Tutu breaking a record receiving. I mean, that's what you want. You've got an offense that can run the ball and throw it, you're hard to defend.

We also utilize our tight ends. Marshon Ford is a freshman this year that had a tremendous year for us, caught another touchdown pass tonight. He caught two, that's right. Man, he's got about seven or eight on the year -- seven, yeah, which is tremendous for him. He was a guy that was a walk-on we put on scholarship last spring and he's a freshman this year.

So we've got some good young players that we love the way they can run. We try to utilize that speed, there's no question about it.

Q. This third quarter, Coach talked about the juice and the momentum. Was that as well as you've played in a quarter as a team this year?

C.J. AVERY: Yeah, I think that's probably as well as we've played as a team. We attacked the whole quarter. We had no missed assignments. Everybody did their job, and that's what it led to.

Q. Take us through your play and how big were your eyes when that ball popped right to you?

C.J. AVERY: I'm going to tell you what, we've been passing the whole preparation. We've been scooping and scoring all throughout preparation. When the time came, my eyes -- I put my eyes to the ball, put the peaks together, scooped it and I took it to the apartment.

Q. Have you ever had a ball bounce more perfectly to you?

C.J. AVERY: Actually, I mean, I didn't have my eyes on it too long and it bounced right into my hands. Perfect bounce.

Q. Micale, you guys went nuts on the sidelines when Devante scored. What has he meant being the special teams guy and the guy that's been here for five years and for him to get a touchdown?

MICALE CUNNINGHAM: I've been knowing Peete since high school. He has so much passion, so much love, just knowing where he comes from and that background he comes from, and it's just crazy to see Peete make plays like that because we actually talked about it. Like the whole time we knew he was going to play tonight, he's like, I need a run, I need a run, I'm like, I got you bro, I got you. And then a play finally came for him. Just happy for him.

Q. Micale and Tutu, as well, what have these seniors meant to this program? What do you take away from what they've meant and what have you learned from them?

MICALE CUNNINGHAM: I mean, a lot. This team is so close, and our bond, like you don't see one without the other, like for real. And they just like came -- when I came from high school, they took us under their wings and led us in the right way.

CHATARIUS ATWELL: I feel like since Coach Satterfield and them came, I feel like all of us and the receivers and DBs and everybody came in as a family, and we just built that brotherhood because I know last year they had a bad season and it didn't really go that good because everybody was in different places, so I feel like this season we had came together as a team.

Q. When you guys lost Dorian, it seemed like everything went up a level as far as the energy and everything you did. Talk about after losing him and kind of T.J. coming in and stepping up?

CJ AVERY: Well, when we lost Dorian, T.J. knew he had some big shoes to fill and he knew we needed him, so we tried to keep him motivated and keep his confidence, so he played out well.

Q. You mentioned that you guys had the trick play on the play sheet for several games now. What made you guys want to use it at that moment?

SCOTT SATTERFIELD: Well, number one, it's the last game so you've got to get it off the call sheet, and so actually the play before that I said, if we get some yards here, we're going to call it. Yeah, we really wanted to get plus 40, midfield, kind of right in that range right there, and just -- we needed something good to happen, and we felt like that was going to be a play we could score on. And it just executed perfectly, great throw, great catch by Ford, and you know, so it's just -- certain plays, I think, that we practice that you don't get to every game, and you said, listen, we've got to get these off the call sheet and make sure, so that was a great time for it.

Q. That comment about going for the ball and (indiscernible)?

SCOTT SATTERFIELD: Yeah, he was probably key in that as we write these plays down. It was ironic; we talk about that. We love going for the bomb. If you go back and look at our season this year, we've thrown a lot of those, right, Tutu? There's a reason why he broke the record. But no, we want to throw the ball down the field, there's no question about it. When teams suck up on our running game it allows us to get the ball down the field, so we've been a big-play offense all season, and it's been fun to watch from the sideline. I've got the best view in the house.

Q. There were home games last year where you didn't play in front of as many Louisville fans maybe, and there's been so much about redemption this year and coming back. How powerful was it to come from 14 down in front of all those fans?

MICALE CUNNINGHAM: I mean, we knew that us being down 14 really knowing we've been down 21 before and came back from it, so we just brought everybody together, just stayed level headed, and you

see what happened.

SCOTT SATTERFIELD: I'd say this: It was like -- before the game I turned around and looked and I was like, oh, my gosh, this is awesome. You have to remember the last five games it's been rain games so it's kind of hurt the attendance a little bit. But that was home game for us I felt like. I turned around and it was all red, all the way up in the upper deck. They were loud. When our defense had 3rd downs they were getting into it. It was tremendous to see that kind of spirit and the life of that stadium right there with a bunch of Cardinal fans. It reminded me of really the Notre Dame game when we had a packed house in our first game right there.

We feed off of that, we know that we can't do it without those fans, and we're looking forward to getting back on that field next year and packing that house out at Cardinal stadium.

Q. Can a win like this propel you into the future?

SCOTT SATTERFIELD: I mean, all wins help, honestly, just because you look at recruiting, they want to be a part of a program that wins, and they want to be a part of a program that has fun. One of the things we want to do this year, man, we wanted to have fun. Ask these players; we've had fun this year. In the locker room, on the practice field, whatever it may be, we're trying to have fun, but when it's time to work, our guys work.

And then you win games like this, we want our future players to want to come in here and be a part of this. We start school back, which it's crazy we start back next week. I wish I could give the guys off a week, but I really can't. They've got to be back there next week. But we're going to probably have over 20 newcomers that are going to be a part of our team starting next week. And then as you look as recruiting 2021 down the road, that's what it does for programs. Wins like this, seasons like this, it just propels you and gains you momentum so you just keep bringing in players like these guys right here, great players and great people.

Q. You mentioned the future. This defense (indiscernible). How much does that help them confidence-wise going into next season?

SCOTT SATTERFIELD: Listen, you've got to think the last three weeks all they've heard on defense is how bad they were. Just like you keep hearing that crap, you've got to go out do something about it, and that's what they did. They practiced well. The drills they were working on, tackle drills every day, and then making all those kind of plays they did, like he scored tonight -- I think back to the Western Kentucky game, our defense scored -- Rodjay scored that night, should have scored again tonight. He had one right in his numbers he missed. But yeah, twice we scored in the stadium.

But you used to talk about something like that, our guys took it personal, so they did a great job tonight, held that running back, I think he maybe got dinged early but came back and played, we held these guys in check in the rushing game. I was so proud of our defense the way they played the final round. We're getting sacks. It was fun to watch, really fun to watch. I think probably our most complete game really as you look at offense, defense, all other parts, probably the most complete game. That's how I want to finish our last game; that's the way it should be.

Q. Can you just say what you saw --

SCOTT SATTERFIELD: I hate that Dorian was not out there, and it was kind of a deal where his foot got caught up underneath, the guy is twisting his ankle and he's trying to get out of it and kind of pushed us back. I don't like the call. Obviously nothing we can do about it, but fortunately he's back next year.

Thank you all.

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