



Postgame Quotes
Cincinnati at Miami (OH)
Sept. 17, 2022 | Paycor Stadium

Head Coach Luke Fickell

Opening Statement

"I think when the defense wasn't doing quite as well and struggled a little bit at first, the offense honed in and flipped the energy and momentum, especially right before half, and then we get finally get a pick, and then go 90 yards and score with 12 seconds to go. I think that was the difference in the ballgame. The energy that was created from the turnover and then to the drive for the half of the offense. I think that going into half that gave us a little bit more, obviously, my energy and momentum. It also settled our guys in a little bit more. I think we came out the second half, didn't play clean, there's a lot of things, we got to do a lot better. I really do think we were in control and had a better grasp and a feel for what we were doing, but I am going to give them a lot of credit. It was a hard-fought battle."

On the team responding to the 10 point deficits

"We are figuring out what "us" looks like. I think there's us a little bit more of a calm nature than last year. I think, offensively, that's what Ben (Bryant) is, where maybe last year, Dez (Deshaun Watson) would have been a little bit more vocal, a little bit more energetic. I think the calm nature of him is a little bit more of maybe where we are headed towards. It's kind of similar defensively. Last year, you might have had some of those Myjai Sanders of the world, even Coby Bryant, who maybe were much more emotional type of guy, where now we got a little bit more of the Jabari's (Taylor) and the (Ja'Von) Hicks', and Huber that may be a little bit more clam. I think that we are figuring that out and handling things in a different way, but I give a lot of credit to our guys. They handled it really well."

On Mason Fletchers' performance

"He did a great job. We have been so good on those pooch punts. Right before half, we are pooching it in and they don't call a fair catch and every one of our guys was behind the return. That's one of those ones that will be a really good learning opportunity for us. I think in general, our confidence level and what he can do and you know that they brought seven guys after they twisted about six in the front side. Where we are really good is that when he has to get it off, he can get rid of it in 1.7 seconds because that's what we do on a daily basis. He's done a phenomenal job. He's not rattled by the seven or eight guys that they tried to bring after him. The one coming out of the endzone that he hammered and rolled was huge. Drew Donely filling in and taken over the punt returner spot for Tre Tucker a little bit, as much as Tre is doing for us. To see a wideout that can run like he can but then can make the play down the field is where I think we made a difference."

On the running back situation moving forward

"Charles (McClelland) did a great job. There's one of those 18 that stands out in my mind, that we've always got to clean up but you know, Charles has done a really good job. I didn't know he went for 101, I know they're going into this they (Miami (OH)) have done a great job of stopping the run. A great job at loading the box and making it very difficult. I thought we had to be able to run the football and I still think we've got to be able to run it better. I think Charles (McClelland) showed us that he can be a little bit more of a feature back. He can't do it all by himself, and I think that's where some of those things are just kind of weighing on me a little bit. Who else is going to be on this bus? Are we going to get Ryan (Montgomery) back? We got to have some of those guys that everybody trusts we can get in there and win games with"

Senior linebacker Ivan Pace Jr.

On if he had any insight on Miami's gameplan

"They definitely changed up some signals. I looked to the sideline a couple of times just to see if I could see anything. They changed it a little bit, but they were out there doing their thing."

On working with head strength coach Brady Collins

"I was actually up to 260 when I came in now, I'm only 230. He definitely changed my body."

On playing in his hometown NFL stadium

"It was actually really good because I always wanted to come down here. I always went to little mini football cans down here. It's just good to see I can play in this stadium too."

Graduate student linebacker Wilson Huber

On Pace switching to middle linebacker

"Yeah, we just felt like Ivan had a good chance to make a lot of plays at the middle linebacker spot this week. So, we made that switch and it obviously worked out well for both of us and for the team as a whole. I have rotated both spots since I switched over linebacker, so I was confident playing both spots."

On the rush defense's strong performance

"I think going into the week, we made a really big emphasis on just being physical front, the front five, seven guys up there, their job is to stop the run. That was a big emphasis going into the week. I think we did a really good job of executing what we needed to do. It worked out in our favor."

On Miami's 10 points to start the first two possessions

"I think Miami came out and executed really well. But obviously, you know, they did score. So there was some stuff on our part that we didn't do well. And I think we made really good adjustments going into the later first quarter and especially in the second half. I think we just need to come up find in the first quarter find on that first drive, because that's really what we do. We got to apply pressure at all points of the game and not just in the second half. That's something that we need to continue to work on."

Senior quarterback Ben Bryant

On playing Miami (OH) for the second year in a row but with a different team

"Some things were different, some were the same, but every week they are going to try to surprise you with some things and you have to adjust. I think we executed well. There are a lot of things we need to clean up with turnovers and things like that, but it was a good win."

On how he distributes to his receivers

"I don't play favorites. I tell them all the time that I will throw to whoever is open. They aren't greedy and won't complain about not getting the ball. It is a really good group and I am happy I get to throw to those guys."

On Tyler Scott's performances

"Tyler (Scott) is a mechanic. He is always working his releases and getting open. I know that if I get him the ball, he's going to make someone miss and get yards after the catch."

On being teammates with linebacker Ivan Pace, Jr. after competing against him in the past

"I took some shots from Ivan (Pace, Jr.) last year. It was nice seeing guys on the other team take those instead of me."