



Cincinnati Football vs. Oklahoma Postgame Quotes Sept. 23, 2023 | Historic Nippert Stadium

Head Coach Scott Satterfield

Opening Statement

"First of all, just give a shoutout to our crowd, our fans. They're incredible. Our students, the student section, what a great atmosphere. This is what college football is all about. Our first Big 12 game playing a team like Oklahoma, in our stadium at Nippert. When you sit there as a little boy looking at college football that's what you want to see and that's what we had today. So, incredible job by our administrative team and everybody involved in putting this together because there's a lot going on to make this a great fan experience out here and they did it, man it was awesome. It's such a great place to play. I'm disappointed obviously in the score, but I'm proud of the way our guys fought. I'm looking at the field and seeing we're a little bit undermanned as far as the numbers go, depth issues, and our guys are battling. They're coming off, they've got shoulder, leg (injuries) everything and they don't want to come off the field. They want to continue to play and continue to fight. I told them that's what championship teams are made of. That's what we have to be. This outcome is not what we wanted, but we're striving toward that, we're striving toward championships. If you've got a team full of guys that will fight, you're going to get there. We're going to continue to work hard, we're going to keep striving to get there. I'm very proud of our defense today, they held a high-powered offense to 20 points and didn't get a lot of help from our offense today. So, they're right back out there having to continue to defend an offense that goes as fast as anybody in the country, with a quarterback that may be as experienced as anyone in the country. They came into the game, what? With an 83 completion percentage and scoring 55 points a game, we held them to 20 points. I was proud of our guys on that side of the ball, quite honestly played well enough for us to win. I think offensively in spurts we moved the ball. I thought today we had some protection issues. We had some guys who went free in the secondary and we didn't have time to throw it. Those are certainly things we need to work on this week. As far as the pressures go, [Brent] Venables is an outstanding defensive coach, who did a great job with some pressures. We popped a few runs in there, but not consistent. That obviously hurt us. Our game plan going in, we wanted to control the game on our side and be able to occupy the ball, to be able to run the ball, and get them to stay on the sticks. Now the problem with that is when you get off the sticks, and we did in the first half. I felt like we were third and long most of the third downs that we had, maybe the first five or six. It is hard to overcome those when it's that long yardage. We're not very good on third down because of that today. But again, I think on offense, our guys played hard. They're playing their butts off and that's what it takes, continue to do that. Missed a field goal, and we knocked down a 55-yarder, but certainly, we have a short week this

week. We have to go on the road in the Big 12 with a team that has some dings, which is difficult. We need to live in the training room this week. I told the guys "we have to get our bodies and minds ready to go." It'll be important for us this week to take a little bit off physically throughout practice. It'll be a lot of mental stuff this week as we're heading all the way across the country to play on a Friday night, so Thursday we'll be out of here. It's going to come around really fast."

On keeping team motivation during the lack of scoring

"We're trying to score every possession. We're going out trying to make plays. We had some chunk plays, with 15-20 yards, but not the 40-50 yards that are getting you all the way down into the endzone, those big plays for touchdowns. We're playing against a really good defense and Coach [Brent] Venables is one of the better defensive coaches throughout the country. We had some opportunities in the throw game where we gave up some pressures. We got sacked on a couple of those. Even when it's seven minutes to go, we're still in the game. It's a two-possession game, we're still in it. We're still fighting to go tie this thing up. But we obviously have to find ways to get in the endzone. There's no question."

On Emory Jones' interception in the end zone

"They were spinning the covers to Xzavier [Henderson]. It was two on one right there. We have to work this out. In his mind he was thinking in red zone or close to the red zone, 'let me throw it to the cornerback here and let him go up and get it. The problem with that is we were on the right hash. The ball has to travel both sideways and to the endzone, so the safety had time to get over top and make a good pick in the endzone. We have to work on the three-man side that we had over here in the boundary."

On the performance of the defense

"I'm proud, no question. We gave up some plays in the secondary throughout early in the season and guys are going to get tested out there. They held up good today. I think they hit one vertical ball and sideline. That was the only deep shot they hit. They battled, they played hard. The thing about Oklahoma is that they go so fast. It attacks you physically and mentally, so you have to play that play. You just ran your butt off, made a tackle, you have to look up, get your call from the sideline, find your receiver and get lined up just like that. It's extremely difficult. It's hard to simulate that in practice. Our defensive staff did a really good job this week of getting our guys prepared to play. I'm really proud of those guys."

On what is preventing them from scoring in the redzone

"I think it's probably several things. If you get off the sticks a little bit, then it makes it a lot more difficult because if you're inside the redzone and it's third and eight, the field is very condensed. Now they're just a little bit tighter so it's harder to find those windows and throw the football. Then when you don't run the ball really when it's that third long in that situation. I think the big thing is stay-at-home sticks, having those second to medium calls to be able to continue to get into the endzone. I do think it comes down to guys executing for us fundamentally and making the blocks. When you get the tight read it's usually going to be one

on one with somebody. We have to do a better job of fundamentals inside the red zone like blocking with our upfront and our tight ends.”

On third down conversions against Oklahoma

“I believe most of these situations were third and long. I would have to go back and look at them, but I believe over half of them were at least third and eight. It is so difficult versus a team that can bring pressure on you, and you can’t hold the ball that long. In order to get to them we need to have time to run down the field to get that many yards to throw. I think it was more first and second down issues overall.”

On Ken Willis’ first career start today and his level of play

“I am really proud of him. We threw him in the fire and when your first start is against Oklahoma, who is putting up 55 points a game, it can go extremely fast. I thought he played a solid football game. A couple of times he was out of position but that is to be expected. He was flying around, making plays and tackles. Someone in his position is going to get exposed. You have to make plays at that position, and I thought he did a really good job. It is only going to help us down the road to have him available to be out there to play and get some experience like he did today against a fun offense.”

On keeping the team focused on the next game

“You focus on every single day to do the best job we can possibly do. If you have a lot of fight inside of you, you’re going to bring it every single day and our guys know what they showed today. They will come back ready to go tomorrow. You can’t surrender to the outcome. You have to focus on that day and give everything you have. When you do that, the outcome is going to come in your favor. Are you disappointed when it doesn’t? Absolutely, but that’s the adversity that we have to work through. We don’t have a ton of depth and a lot of positions right now and so the guys are out there going to have to play. They’re going to have to keep going and go out and make plays. You can’t let a bad play, or a bad game affect you. You have to come back the next day ready to go.”

On the look they were trying to accomplish with the tackles split out

“We were just trying to get some first downs and we did. You try to play with defensive coordinators and Venables over there. They have not seen that from us. Let’s spread them all out. Let’s see how they can do it. We picked up a first down and picked up a few more yards. Any which way we can try to steal yards with that. What you’re trying to do is get them to misalign, and they were confused, so it worked.”

On Oklahoma linebacker Danny Stutsman’s success today

“What they did with their linebackers, they played downhill quite often. When they bring pressures and when they block their backers up in the gaps, obviously they’re right there. They made some tackles and made plays there. Whenever we were spitting those runs, our guys blocked it up really nicely. We did not make many of those guys miss in the hole, and I think those guys got us down. A fourth and one early in the game, number 28 is right there and made

the tackle in the gap. Sometimes it is going to be one on one, and you have to try to make those guys miss."

On preparing for BYU with the shorten week

"Yeah, that's tough but I think for us this week, it is going to be a lot more mental. We're going to watch the film and see exactly the landmarks where you have to get your hat, where you have to put your hands. If they're doing this, you have to do this. So, it's going to be a lot of teaching. We will have one workday this week where we'll get after it. It'll be like our Tuesday and Wednesday combined. We have to get after it, we have to rev our engines back up and get ready to go again with our guys. That'll be our workday and that will be the day that we'll have to get all of that work in. Thursday we are on a plane, and we are out of here. Flying across two time zones and playing really late on Friday night. We have to get ready to go and utilize all the time leading up to game time to get our guys ready."

On what the team can learn from the first game in Big 12

"I told the guys, I don't know how many championships these guys have won in the Big, but I know it's a lot. They come in here and it's an entourage when they travel. I don't know how many planes and buses they took here and how many people they have on a sideline. It's a boatload of people because they have won a lot of championships. They've been around a long time. This is our first game in the Big 12, and our guys went toe to toe. It should be encouraging to our guys and to our people to say 'hey, listen, we're not that far off.' We have to continue to fight and continue to do the things we can compete for championships in the Big 12 and we're excited about that. We're excited about the challenge that's coming up next week."

Quarterback Emory Jones

On what confidence the team can gain from a defeat to a ranked opponent

"Definitely. I felt that from the first game and even the second. I felt like I saw the type of potential in our team. We went toe-to-toe with (Oklahoma) out there, one of the best. We know that right now we can compete in this league and that it's something we are going to do. We are gonna put our minds to that going forward."