



Cincinnati Football Game One Postgame Quotes Sept. 2, 2023 | Historic Nippert Stadium

Head Coach Scott Satterfield

Satterfield Opening Statement

"The first thing I want to say is how awesome it was just to play in Nippert. It was everything that I anticipated being and then some. Shout out to our student body that came out here. They showed up an hour early, and then were posted up in that endzone, all wearing white. It was awesome. We still have people filing in after we started the game, which was awesome. When we fill the stadium up, we fed off of that energy. Right from the start, I think on our first drive we went down and hit a big touchdown and from that point forward, we really didn't slow down. I thought that Emory [Jones] played very well. I thought he did a good job in his decision making. We felt that we had some good receivers and they proved that to be true today. Guys made some great plays, and the offensive line did really good in the first half and the defense was very solid. I think ECU's offense is a very good offense, and their quarterback [Parker McKinney] has proven that he's a good quarterback. So we knew that he was going to be able to make some plays on us. He had some throws and we really didn't get to him in the first half. I was talking to our defense coordinator, Bryan Brown about trying to get some pressure. I think we ended up with three or four sacks in the second half and we did a good job of creating turnovers. I thought that was big too. I was disappointed in the sack and fumble. We have to get that fixed. I think the special teams did awesome too. They were just knocking down field goals. We didn't really need [Mason] Fletcher today but when he got in there, he boomed the last one, which was awesome to see. I thought our coverage teams were really good. It was good to see all those things in the first game because you don't really know what you're going to get in the first game. I did think our kids were very well prepared this week. They were very focused and intent on coming out playing a great game and they did that. It was awesome to see."

On all the new starters

"We had one returning starter. I think we really did a good job of finding players that are team guys in the portal and that's hard to do. The receiver group that we have, they're talented, but they're also very unselfish and they played like it today. Six different receivers scored a touchdown today. I mean, that's great distribution. You just don't ever know how it's going to work out in the game. I think we knew early going in that we wanted to take some shots down the field and we hit them. I

think once that started rolling, we started opening up some of the run game and Corey [Kiner] broke off that big run that we had there, and we were able to get a few more runs in there. So, I think it's going to go hand in hand. We have to be able to do both. We want to build around the football, but we have some good weapons outside that need to get their touches."

On acquiring a lot of talented players out of the portal

"I think it was a collective effort. The whole recruiting department and all our coaches, we worked really hard at it. I think obviously in the portal, you're under the gun a little bit. I get hired in December and all of a sudden, we have to try to get some guys here in January and then you go through that semester like all right, what can we get in May? So, being under the gun more in January and then you have a little bit more time and those guys did a great job of identifying and trying to bring guys in to help us this summer. You don't know how it's going to be, but we gelled together this summer a lot. I think Emory's [Jones] relationship with X [Xavier Henderson], from Florida really helped and that was a good connection today. I think [Evan] Prater did awesome. He's got a bright future out there. He's a big guy that can run and catch, we saw that again today. When I think about when I first got here, it was one of our weakest position groups and now it's one of our strongest position groups. So, I think that's how quickly you can flip a group when going utilizing the portal."

On the run game and if Corey Kiner will get majority of carries

"I think it is going to take all of those running backs. I think four or five guys played today but it's going to take all of them. We have guys that can catch the ball better. We have guys that can protect the ball better and guys that can run a little bit better. We are still working that out as we head through the season. We will find out which guys can help us the most. The ones that run in that room, and allow them to play a little bit more, but it would not surprise me if one of them played more than the other one today. I've been pulling for all of them, but we are going to end up playing with the guys who make the most plays."

On Emory Jones's strong start and confidence for the team

"Yeah, I mean, obviously it is great for your confidence if you are throwing dimes out there. That is going to make you feel good, and as the game went on, we just kept feeling good. As a play caller you are thinking that these guys are seeing it. So, I thought let's continue to try to hit some of these plays and they were making them. I believe if they are doing that, we are going to keep feeding them. We are going to try to take what the defense gives us. This afternoon, the defense was giving us some of those balls down the field. What I love about Emory [Jones] is that he is not just dialed in on one guy. Even though [Xavier] Henderson had the better game as far as yards go, he is dialed in on everybody. I love the distribution of whatever they're going to give us. I think, Emory [Jones] played very well. There were four plays where I think 'Okay, he could have done better on those.' As far as decision-making goes, he is very efficient, 19-23. He played about as good as you can play."

On Bryon Threats interception and how special of a player he is

“Yeah, he is our energy guy back there. He is always talking, flying around, making plays and he does a good job of coming down and stopping the run. That was a big-time play to get the interception there. We needed one and he does a little bit of everything. There are sometimes you get some safeties that are just really good in the pass game, not in the run. He's a very solid overall player where he can come down and fit the run well, but he also is a threat to get an interception in the passing game. He had a really good game today. I believe he is one of our better solid players in the back end.”

How this win will help prepare them for other teams

“I think we go out there to play the game and I wasn't necessarily trying to score that many points. We're trying to execute and make plays. We throw a bubble out to Barry [Jackson Jr.]. He made the play, so we can't apologize for getting a lot of yards and a lot of points. Whoever we played we have to try to play the best we can possibly play. We realize next week we have Pittsburgh. They have a better defense, we recognize that. We played them last year. They have a tremendous defense actually. It will be a lot more of a challenge, but we will play whoever they put down in front of us. We have to go and try to play our very best. We want to try and execute and when you do that, good things happen. It'll be hard to execute next week so we're going to have to be even more sharp and we're going to have a great week of practice. Tonight we're going to celebrate this win, and then tomorrow, we'll worry about Pitt.”

On update of Sammy Anderson Jr.

“Yeah, I think he had a head contusion or something in the upper body and was not able to get back in the game. We talked to him at halftime, and he seemed fine. He's smiling, he's feeling good about it. But I think with an injury like that you need to be more precautionous than anything. We'll have more of an update in the first part of the week, but I anticipate him being fine.”

On the return of Ivan Pace Jr.

“I wish he was on our team. I got to be around him for a bit in December and I'm so happy for him. He was a guy that got down there at the Senior Bowl and did awesome. He did a great job, and nobody took him, but he got the last laugh and now he's starting for the Vikings. Good for him and I love underdogs, those guys that have a chip on their shoulder. That's how I envision our program, if anyone is counting us out, we are just going to keep battling. Just like Ivan did to earn that starting spot. I love it when our former players, those NFL guys come back, I absolutely love that. Those guys that helped get this program to where it's at right now. Man, they're always welcome I love when they come back, open arms when those guys come back.”

Redshirt Senior Quarterback Emory Jones

On setting the tone for the day on the opening drive

"It definitely got us going as an offense. It was a play we had been running a lot. Xzavier [Henderson] got through and got on top of the safety. I put it up there for him and he did the rest. Definitely felt good about that. My first touchdown in [Historic] Nippert Stadium felt good."

On having confidence and chemistry with Henderson making the game easier

"That someone that I have been throwing to for years now. The connection and chemistry that we have now is one of the best and it showed today. He has worked his tail off since he got here and put himself in a position to go make plays like he did today."

On what his first Historic Nippert Stadium Experience like

"It was awesome. This was the first time I was actually a little nervous. I'm in the front of the tunnel and I can see the whole whiteout. It was fun and it was loud. We just wanted to give the fans a show and that is what we did. We wanted to have fun, play ball and execute."

On his throwing performance against ECU

"It felt good about it. That's just the results of the work we have been putting and all the work I have been putting in since I got here. The offensive line did a really good job today. The receivers did a good job and made me look really good today, I'm proud of them."