



Cincinnati Football Head Coach Scott Satterfield
Game 7 (Arizona State) Postgame Press Conference Transcript

Opening Statement

"First of all, just want to give a huge shout out to our fans, man, they came out. It was awesome to see when we busted onto the field, you see red everywhere in the stadium. Our guys look good in their uniforms, and the fans look great sitting up in the stands. It was loud today. It was a great atmosphere, great college football, perfect weather for Homecoming. When you look up what you think a game may be in college football, this is it right here. It doesn't get any better than this. We appreciate them and thank them for coming out. It was a hard-fought win for our guys today. It was a dogfight. We knew it was going to be that way. They pride themselves in being a physical team, as do we, and we wanted to be that way. We started out in the hole but after that, we woke up offensively and defensively and played a great first half. Everything was great. We missed out on a field goal, that's the fourth one that we've missed right before half. The offense did a great job of getting down there again, missed the field goal, but we still went to the half with the great lead, and they know we're going to get a great fight in the second half out of them. The defense did a great job. Again, I'm really proud of how we keep getting more comfortable playing our defense, and we always want to take some time. It's a new scheme. You have guys in new positions, and they're really coming through and understanding what we're trying to do. Tremendous amount of respect for [Cam] Skattebo, he's a load and to hold him to 75 yards, that is a great feat by our defense. On the other side of that, we have a pretty good running back as well, Corey [Kiner], rushed right at 100 yards, broke a lot of tackles, and I'm extremely proud of him. I want to mention Antwan Peek [Jr.] man, another caused fumble. He has a knack for the ball, and he did a great job today, tackling the ball carrier. He's a very physical player. That a huge turnover at the time and we converted that to a touchdown. So, when you convert turnovers in touchdowns, it gives you a great chance to win games."

On the defense playing well, led by the linebackers

"I mentioned that maybe a week or two ago, but with our linebackers play, figuring out how to fit the defense, and that's really when it comes down to. [Jake] Golday, as I mentioned, he's gotten better each and every week. JT [Jonathan Thompson] is a phenomenal player out there as well compared to last year. He is playing at another level. [Jared] Bartlett, this is a new position for him, so we knew it was going to take some time and he's done some great things, he's gotten some sacks, I feel like, every week, at opportune times. [Jack] Dingle, he's a warrior out there. Simeon [Coleman] comes in, Montay Weedon comes in. So, we have some guys that are that are really settling in at the linebacker room. The last two weeks with [Antwan] Peek [Jr.] at the star has done some great things, coming down and stopping the run. That's three games in a row we've played outstanding running backs, some of the best in the country, and to

be able to do what we did last week and this week, hold that team (UCF) to 13 and this team to 14, that's monumental for the defense."

On the success in creating turnovers

"It gives us a chance, right? Turnovers put the offense right back out there on the field. It says that we're playing physical football. So, if you cause a fumble, you have to be physical, because you have to hit those guys. We're doing a really good job at times of getting our punch at the ball. I think that obviously helps. We have not gotten many picks, I think we have three maybe on the season, but we are leading the league in forced. So, that's a testament to how hard our guys are playing on that side of the ball."

On the run game performance

"It's a good one-two punch that we were able to get back today. This team coming in was giving up 101 yards rushing a game. Another good rush defense that we played this week. Central Florida was giving up 80 yards rushing. You know of course we lost Corey [Kiner] in that Texas Tech game. But it was a good one-two punch today and Corey had some great, tough runs. We talk about their back as far as making tackles, Corey can break some tackles too. I mean he's one of the best guys in the country at extending plays, and we needed that today. There were times where to get that first down, he was able to break a tackle and get past the sticks. Then [Evan] Pryor comes in and shows his speed and being able to burst one. Those big plays are obviously needed, but man, Corey, what a warrior. That's a great way to describe him."

On return of Dartanyan [Tinsley] and his factor in the game

"It definitely helps having him back. He plays with great poise and awareness, and he is a very cerebral guy in the interior. Now you're looking at Gavin [Gerhardt] at center, who's smart, you have Luke [Kandra] and Dartanyan on that side, and then John [Williams] at the left. Now that lets us play Deondre [Buford] and Phillip [Wilder] on the right side and it just makes us a better unit up front. We have really missed him the last couple weeks. I believe it is probably not a coincidence that our rush numbers were up today with him back and playing left guard."

On the passing game opening up in the middle of the field

"They were doing a good job on the outside with their corners. We tried them early and took some shots, but it wasn't there. They did a really nice job with that. We needed to work more on the inside and interior to hit some of those plays there and I thought Brendan [Sorsby] was very efficient again today. We had some trouble getting some balls down the field, like the deep ones, but we were very efficient underneath in getting some chunk plays and some first downs and kept plays alive. Offensively, the most disappointing thing was the 15-play drive that we had, and we didn't score but we did melt a lot of the clock off and kept their offense off the field. Although we didn't score, we still pinned them all the way down inside the five-yard line, so it was a valuable drive to have a 15-play drive, but obviously you want to end it in a score. We were up ten at the time and the field goal really wouldn't have helped as much. The field goal would have made it a 13-point game so we felt like, let's try to go for the touchdown and see if we can score there to make it a two-touchdown game."

On steps to take to control entire game and widen the scoring margin

“Well, if we continue to win, I think we’re good where we are at. Now, we all want to make it where it’s not close at the end. I believe we needed to score inside the five when we had an opportunity, and we also had a bad snap on the last drive. Brendan was going to run for a first down and we had it blocked up. We were disappointed, because the snap was way over his head and had it been here, we had it blocked up. The guys did a nice job up front, and we would have taken a knee. We would have been up ten and it’s not even close. We wouldn’t have to worry, and my mom wouldn’t have to worry as much when she’s watching the game, and she tells me don’t make it so close. We would love to be able to do that, but it just really comes down to the little plays here and there, where you have opportunities to knock the field goal down before halftime. So those opportunities that we’ve given ourselves, we have to take full advantage of that. I think it’s going to continue to get tougher for us as we keep going on because Colorado’s a great team. After that we have Iowa State, Kansas State and West Virginia and those are three really good teams. We’re going to have to continue to find ways to get better in all three phases. We had a great punt by Mason [Fletcher] where the ball was right on the goal line, but it barely got into the end zone. That’s a huge play now for them to get the ball on the 20-yard line as opposed to having to go 99 yards. It is those little things right there; I think where we can get better.”

On recruiting Jake Golday out of the transfer portal

“We saw a guy whose physical stature is exactly what you want, 6-3 and 238 pounds. We saw a guy that can run. We also saw a guy that had not played much at linebacker. We thought he had a huge upside, because he had been a tight end in high school, a defensive end his first year there [Central Arkansas]. They just him moved into linebacker. The game we watched; I think it really just turned our heads was where they played Oklahoma State. I think he had 11 tackles, and we’re like, ‘if he can do this, if you can tackle that, against Oklahoma State that’s going to be a good guy for us’. Because we played Oklahoma State, and we couldn’t stop their running back. So, we got him here. He’s a phenomenal human being and everything we thought, it’s just a matter of him getting comfortable in what we’re asking him to do. He is probably one of the more improved guys on our football team from game one to where we’re at right now.”

On being in the thick of the Big 12 race

“Yeah, we’ve been thinking about it since the season started. That’s been our goal, to win and compete for the Big 12 Championship. Our guys have done a great job of just taking it one week at a time. For us, we told them a long time ago these are 12 one-week seasons. So, truly, what have we done in the past, we’re like, forget about everything, and all focus this week is going to be on Colorado and we’re playing for a Big 12 Championship. We’ve been saying that every week. I think it starts on our practice days, on Sunday, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and our guys have really bought into that and accepted that. We have great and exceptional leadership on this team. I think as long as they continue to lead the way they are, they’re going to give us a chance to win these games, there’s no question.”

On the usage of Xzavier Henderson

"Last week we felt, going into the game, that we could hit the balls in between the hashes. I think that's why our tight end had the most catches because of how they were playing their defense. We know we have to get X [Xzavier Henderson] more involved. He's a great player. He's one of the better players on our team. We were trying to find some ways to get him the ball today. There were a couple times we put him in the slot since he was on a safety, so again, attacking the inside, maybe not the outside. I thought our coaches did a great job of scheming up some ways to get him the ball and get him involved."

On switching up the offensive linemen lineup

"I think we need to do it. It's a long season, and the guys up front are putting their hand in the dirt. It's nasty in the trenches. You're going to take some licks; you're going to get some dings. The more depth that we have, the more we are able to rotate guys. It was great to have DT [Dartanyan Tinsley] back. We felt like getting Evan [Tengesdahl] in there will kind of spell him a little bit, keep him fresh. I just talked to DT, and he said he feels great after the game. For him to be out there, it was tremendous for our guys. That's a good rotation on the right side, but with [Phillip] Wilder and [Deondre] Buford. We'd love to have that rotation as we move forward throughout the rest of the season."

On being able to stop Arizona State's run game

"We know what they are, they want to run football. When they're getting that run game going, that's when they're hard to stop. So, it was critical for us to stop that run game. We did that when we got the lead. We felt a little bit better about it. The last drive there, we're giving them everything underneath. A couple quarterback scrambles, as you guys saw, once we got a little bit tighter down in the red zone, things tightened back up. We held them to a field goal, and they played someone that missed the field goals today. He missed two, so that was good to see for us. We haven't seen that all year I don't think."

On Arizona State changing their quarterback and how it affected preparation

"It didn't really change much. They're going to do what they do, and I thought he played pretty good today. He did what they asked him to do, the knock on him is kind of in his turnovers. I thought he did a good job taking care of the ball. I thought he threw it really good today, and that's what they want to do is run the ball and they utilized him to run. I thought he picked up some great first downs, running the queue outside zones and third downs. I thought that was good by them, which the other quarterback that had to run too. Really, for us defensively, there really wasn't much of a change, even though we heard about it early in the week, as opposed to pregame. I think that their skill sets are very similar."

On today's kicking performance

"We won that battle there. We've talked about it every week and it's tough. We nailed one of them, and then right before half, we didn't. We have something against making a kick right before half. I've never seen that. It's four times this year that we've done a great job to get down there, and just for whatever reason, not made those kicks. I think we're due, so maybe if

we get it again, we'll knock it down. I anticipated him to knock it down today. I think he had a really good week this week, kicking the ball. He was very solid, he bounced back and had great confidence. So, we felt good about going into the game today.”