



**Postgame Press Conference Quotes
Cincinnati vs. Pittsburgh
Sept. 7, 2024**

Head Coach Scott Satterfield

Opening Statement

"First of all, I am very disappointed in the outcome of the game today. I thought for three and a half quarters, our guys played outstanding and did some really good things. We had a 20-point lead late in the third quarter, and then we didn't play well and didn't finish. It was in all three phases of the ball, and we can pinpoint some things. We had a nice drive right before the half and we got down by the goal line and missed the field goal. We missed a 25-yard field goal. We have to knock that down. After that, they went down the field and I thought the first half was over, but they put one second back on the clock. They knocked their field goal down and that is a six-point swing right before the half. That is obviously disappointing. In the fourth quarter, they hit a couple big plays and got their running back isolated on one of our linebackers. They hit a pass play that went to the house. Obviously, we don't want to put our kids in those type of situations. Offensively, we gave up a sack and a pressure in the last two drives. We thought about potentially going for it on the fourth and three there. Instead, we thought we should pin them back and make them have to drive most of the field and try to kick a field goal. Everything was going according to that plan until the fourth and four when they called a penalty on one of our defensive linemen and said that he was calling a cadence or whatever they call it. You can't hear a defensive lineman, because our stadium was extremely loud on that fourth and four... I thought Pitt did enough to win the game. I believe offensively, we had the ball for 36 and a half minutes and tried to keep their offense off the field. I thought we did a good job with that, and we were good on third down conversions. We were pretty solid for the most part throughout the game. I thought Brendan [Sorsby] handled their pressure well. They pressured us a lot today. We got rid of the football most of the time, except toward the end of the game. Corey [Kiner] ran his butt off today, and this is back-to-back years that he has ran hard against Pitt's defense, which is really good. I thought Mason [Fletcher] punted the ball good today and had another great day. I am very disappointed in this and upset as well. I told our guys in the locker room to learn from this and get ready for Miami this week."

An explanation on Dontay Corleone's helmet coming off during a play

"I didn't hear anything on that."

On choosing running back personnel late

"I think it was an RPO right there. So that could have been a run over past on that particular play. And for the most part, he was really good towards me, really good at that. And there in the fourth quarter we missed two of those that whatever decision we made should make the other one. But, of course, in the game you got to make the right decisions. But obviously, Corey Kiner, he's a male cow. We got to continue to get him ball and let him go to work, because he did. He played a great game, broke a lot of tackles today, and had some big, long runs."

On turning the page to the next opponent

"We have to. I mean, we played a really good game up until the last 10 minutes, eight minutes. And their kicker is really good. He knocked all his field goals down today. And they were solid, but we have to learn from the things that we didn't do well. I mean there was a few plays out there, as I mentioned earlier, that they probably ended up costing us the game. We got to learn how not to make those mistakes and get better with them. Get the win, get over the top. We gotta learn how to finish these games. You can't let this game continue to affect us. This group right here, they were great in the locker room right there. With our leadership and this team, they're doing the right things. We'll continue to come together and come out and play much better next week."

On cleaning things up before Miami (Ohio)

"Well, we just have to knock down the field goals. I mean, it was basically an extra point. And he knocked down with a 50-some-yarder, which is a great operation. And it's not always on the kicker. The short field goal the snap was a little bit off, and the hold was off, and the laces were right where he was kicking. So, it's not just a kicker. I don't want to knock on him, throw him under the bus. There's a total operation there when you got snap, hold, and kick. But we got to clean that up because we've missed two in the first two games and then the penalties. I mean, obviously, we don't want any penalties. I think we're playing pretty solid in the penalty game, but that was obviously a costly one at fourth and four. Again, that's a huge moment to be calling that particular penalty, in my opinion."

On the Pitt rivalry

"Yeah, it is a good rivalry where the two teams are not too far away, and they used to play every year. And it is a great rivalry. I mean, there's two evenly matched teams. I thought last year and this year. We recruit a lot of the same players. One's in the ACC, we're in the Big 12. So there's just a lot of rivalry back and forth with that. And I think it's a fun game. Our guys, our fans, I think our players, they get up for this game. It's a fun atmosphere, either here or there. So, it's one of these games that I think you remember back to some of the past history games of the game. But, we're moving forward, new league now, and moving on to the Big 12."

On why the offensive numbers were different in the first and second half

"We're trying to get some plays. They made some adjustments in the second half. As I mentioned earlier, the couple pressures that they brought. They got too much there in the last two drives. And they were planning different coverage behind which was different what they've done all day, and but we didn't have the right protections and really both of those third downs,

and that's on us. That's on our players. We got to get in the right protections in order to give our quarterback time to make the throw, because we got guys there. We just didn't have time."

On Pitt receiver Desmond Reid

"He's a good player. He's low to the ground. He's got great center of gravity. He'll make you miss, but he also has long speed. I think that's what makes him special, is the fact that he sometimes, when you get some low center gravity guys, they're quick right here. They don't have a long speed. He's got both. And he's got good hands too, he had 150 yards and right there was Corey with 149. The difference with him was really the long cut. He had that touchdown catch, the 56-yard touchdown. That, to me, was the big difference in the game. I thought for the way he played. We know we tackled him well and tried to hem him up, which you can give us yards. We don't mind giving up yards just holding them field goals, which I think we did a great job there until the fourth quarter."

On having All-American Dontay Corleone back on the field

"Dontay man, just first, a first-class individual. He's a great person with a big old heart. Does things right. He cares about people. He's the kind of person and player that Bearcat fans love because he does things that way. It's the kind of person that we want to have on a bunch of Dontay Corleone's on our team, just because the way he handles himself. But having him out there was outstanding, just for our players and for him too, and his psyche. He's worked hard to get to this point in his career, and to be able to have him to go out to play today was awesome. Obviously, we will go back and look see how he played, but certainly, he made some of an impact. He was getting some pressure, tackled a running back several times in the backfield. We love Dontay, and love having him out there."

On the approach of Pitt's offensive scheme

"I don't know if they really changed a whole lot. I think they pretty much do what they do with some inside zone stuff, some counter it's going fast and it's trying to throw the ball out and spread it out. I think they continue to try to do that. I thought for three quarters, we kept the ball away from them good, and kept them off the field. And we didn't do that in the fourth quarter, offensively. That was an issue. We again, we got off the third downs. We were doing good on third downs until that fourth quarter. That was a big part of the game, to stay in there. They're a talented offense, to be able to go fast, and they're completely different than what they have been the last few years."

Redshirt Sophomore Quarterback Brendan Sorsby

On the play calling

"At the end of the day, obviously we're moving the ball on through the air and on the ground, so I feel confident whatever Coach Satterfield wants to call, so if he wants to call a pass, I'm more than willing to throw it, but we're just trusting his play calling. I think we did a great job with that."

On being a leader on the team and how to handle the loss

“Especially when it's football, losses are going to come. We got to find a way to bounce back. And we got a game against Miami, another rival, next week, and we got to go to their place and take one from them, so just use it as fuel and bounce back from it.”

On the first-to-second half adjustments seen by the defense

“It's tough. Sometimes you never know. You try to undress it as much as possible. I thought they did a good job of disguising some stuff. And I like to have a couple of throws back. But overall, props to them for playing good defense in the second half and making some adjustments. And then, we got to figure some stuff out; I gotta definitely figure some stuff out.”

On handling a big lead and avoiding complacency

“You try your best not to shift in that mode. And you want to tell yourself, let's go, let's go, put one more on, and let's put the game away. But we weren't able to do that today, and we have to find a way going forward to be able to do that.”

On how he handles adversity in losses

“I like to think that I'm going to study the same regardless. Just obviously Coach Satterfield, myself, it was a little harder this week around obviously, didn't get the result that we wanted as a team. But, just find a way to improve. Improve on what I did today, and the mistakes that I made that could have changed the outcome of this game. So really, just correct those and find a way to not be the same ones.”