



2017 CINCINNATI BEARCATS FOOTBALL POSTGAME QUOTES

// CINCINNATI 26, AUSTIN PEAY 14

AUG. 31, 2017 | 7 P.M. | CINCINNATI, OHIO | NIPPERT STADIUM

ATTENDANCE: 30,831

// CINCINNATI HEAD COACH LUKE FICKELL

"I'll just start off by saying the most important thing is getting that win. It has been a while coming for these guys and for myself. You know seven and a half, eight months kind of grinding through a lot of things and talking to them about the process and kind of really emphasizing the journey that we have been on to come out tonight and ultimately, you know have some ups and downs, but ultimately to get the win, to have the success. I told them up in the locker room, it's not easy to win, and I don't care what level, I don't care who you are playing, it's not, and to come away with a win, to do the things we did, to have the adversity, I think that's probably as we look back at this and we go to evaluate this night, the ability to have some adversity, to see what we are really made of is what I think we are really going to grow from.

"There were a lot of really good things, you know three touchdown passes, some goal line stands, some big stops defensively. There are some really, really, good things that we can build on but I think the biggest thing that we will build on is our ability as a team to handle some adversity, to have that even flow, to have that emotions. I try to tell them all the time that the game is about chaos and there was some chaos. I think that they at times kind of dropped their head and that's what you can kind of see and our ability to pick our head back up and take care of business when business needed to be taken care of so we got the win. We came away with a lot about ourselves tonight and I think that is going to give us the opportunity to grow, have our greatest growth between game one and game two."

On Hayden Moore's performance:

"I think that some of the things that we kind of saw a little bit through camp and in the start is something we got to work on and getting him into a rhythm. I think that first two series was a little bit tough on him, but just kind of get in that rhythm, get in some easy ones here, run the football a little bit, but he really picked it back up. I saw some of those qualities that really came out in the summer and ability for guys to rally behind him when things really didn't go well at the start. That's what I told him. I told the other guys in the locker room that if you thought this was going to be easy. I don't care whatever game it is, if you thought this was going to be easy than you're in the wrong place. It's not, since the day we walked in this door here eight months ago, we tried to make everything difficult, everything chaotic, everything a struggle because that's what a game is like and I think he did a really good job of handling it."

On the level of disappointment when Austin Peay pushed UC defense around:

"The total rushing yards is what bothers you. I think the real thing, and no excuse, but when you look at the time of possession, we've got to do a better job and I think that you saw them tire out a little bit. We have got to make sure now that this is unique and it's a unique time to have this Thursday night game and to come right out of camp. Normally, out of camp you kind of have a 48 hour period where you give those guys off out of camp. Because of how things worked out, having the Thursday game, having some different things, not that they know that they didn't get that time off and we might have been maybe a bit sluggish and not as fresh maybe and that would be on me but there at the end you are right when those things start to go you see guys start to cramp up, you start to see that line displaced and that is not what we are looking for."

On what he felt running onto the field:

"Again, a lot of emotion and the first one might have been exactly like okay now where am I headed because I am so used to doing one thing and so engrained in your mindset of what you are doing and to switch your mindset over and to look at it as a whole and really kind of not just that but in control your emotion so you, just like the kids, aren't drained because they do. Our team needs us, they needed me and our coaches, all of us, we need one another and that is a part of the game. There were a lot of emotions, trying to hold that back a little bit just to make sure that we could withstand the whole night."

On Tuesday being like Christmas and what it is like to open his presents:

"I feel good, I mean I'm more excited about us having some adversity. There are a lot of things I know we can get a lot better at. There are a lot of things that we can fix, a lot of things we haven't seen that we saw tonight. Our ability to adjust and there were a lot of things we learned about us as coaches and how we work together and the ability for us to make some changes and things in the midst of the game. Most of all, we learned a lot about our kids and when it comes down to it that they love this place, they got some fight to them, even though they might have been like you said got a little tired, got a little pushed

around there at the end when they run the football when it came down to it when we needed them the most they stepped up. That's what I am most proud of and that's what I wanted to see. My bigger fear was if all of a sudden we came out here and didn't have a challenge and it wasn't something, we didn't find a whole lot about the character of our team and the strength of our bonds with one another. I think that we really got tested and you have got to give them a lot of credit for that but we got tested tonight and we learned a lot and we will learn a lot about ourselves."

// CINCINNATI RB MIKE BOONE

On how the team played:

"You know there's always kinks in the first game."

On the rhythm of the game:

"As the game went on we got into a groove. We were making small runs. Hayden (Moore) began making some good passes. As the game goes on we just start flowing."

On the number of times he had an opportunity to gain yards tonight:

"I give credit to the offensive line. I've never had the opportunity to do that. It was always on rotation. This first time was great."

// CINCINNATI QB HAYDEN MOORE

On the slow start in the beginning of the game:

"It felt similar to last year's game against Tennessee-Martin. I definitely had a slow start. I missed some throws, but as we settled down and I started making some easy throws, everybody started to do their job. That's what coach always talks about, if everybody does their job we'll be good."

On his performance including two touchdowns with zero interceptions:

"Far from perfect, but we took care of the ball. No interceptions and everybody really took care of the ball. The three touchdowns were great routes by the receivers. Tyler Cogswell had a really good route in the end zone. We could have done a lot better. But from what had happened, the no interceptions and no turnovers was a good start."

// AUSTIN PEAY HEAD COACH WILL HEALY

On how we thought the game went:

"I saw a resilient group and I saw a really competitive game. I think that we learned a lot about turnovers and penalties and things like that. I felt great for a long time. We have a great group that has bought into this culture and that is excited about what's going on. We have definitely improved in a lot of areas. Offense needs to throw the ball more efficiently than we did tonight. I've known the potential of this team and now it's time for the public to see."

On what his message was to his team postgame:

"I think it is the same as it always is. It doesn't matter whether you get the result you expect or the result you think you deserve, it does not change what this culture is. I feel like these guys are doing a great job and they have to stick together. They can't worry about turnovers, carries, tackles, touchdowns or whatever it may be, we have to still work together."

On if he thinks his team will win games in the future:

"Absolutely. We expect to win games here and there are many victories to come. We had a shot to win tonight and didn't pull it off but we can learn from it and come back stronger next week."