



Cincinnati Football Head Coach Scott Satterfield
Game 6 (Iowa State) Postgame Press Conference Transcript

Opening Statement

"Tough one today. I give credit to Matt [Campbell], his staff and his team. They came out and played a really good game. It was third and five for us on our first drive and we had [Dee] Wiggins running free, wide open. We have to connect, that's the bottom line. That was the first drive and that had significance in this game because now you're up seven nothing and then you can dictate more of the game with that. Then we come back and throw a pick, now we put our defense in a bind on the short field. Our defense did a great job of holding them to a field goal at that point in the game. You just can't have that offensively. We battled back in there and we got that touchdown from Chamon [Metayer], which was good. So now you're right back in it, but then defensively we gave up fourth down, we held them to a field goal, but they faked it and they got a first down. We held them on third down in the redzone, but we hit the quarterback and they got another first down. So just shooting ourselves in the foot and when you play a good quality team, it's going to be hard to overcome that. You can't allow those things to happen on those types of plays. We call them hidden yardage plays, you're not really lining up to play ball, you're doing some different things with that. All those things combined didn't give us a chance in the second half. I thought their coverage there in the fourth quarter, we never got free, our guys couldn't get open and we struggled to get first downs after that point. So, we really couldn't get back in the game, but credit to Iowa State and their team. I think they've gotten a lot better and they've grown over the season. They're a tough team to beat when making the mistakes we made today."

On the mistakes made in the past four games

"We have keep working on it. It's guys doing their job, and what they are supposed to do. We need to keep working and keep practicing. The 75-yard completion, we were in Cover-2, so the safety should have been deep over the top. We were not, so they ran a double-move and got behind us. We need to do a better job of communicating on what we need to do and where we need to be. The guys have to make the plays. We talked about that this week coming into this game, you have to make the play. If it's a first or third down, we have to make the throw or the catch. It's there to be made, and those games are coming down and you only have a few of those times where guys are going to be free and you to hit him. We've had it in every game, we have to be able to get those plays on offense. On defense, we have to line up correctly. We have to get to our drops where we're supposed to be and do what we are supposed to do. The only way to correct those is to continue to work, continue to coach, continue to get better, and then not repeat those same mistakes."

On the offense's performance

"It's not just on Emory [Jones]. It was all of them, it was everyone. Some guys up front let guys get free today, so now the quarterback can't just stand there. He has to move and do some different things. Iowa State does a good job with their drop eight coverage and playing the man-to-man coverage and getting pressure with three, and when you go to move, they have a spot there for the quarterback. We have to block the three guys so he can sit there. That happened a couple of times today. Our running backs, we couldn't get them loose

early in the game, in the whole game really. I thought that quarterbacks run game was good on the edges. Emory ran hard and kept us in the game early. It's a little bit everyone. It's not just the quarterback. If they are playing man-to-man and I'm a receiver, I have to get open. Someone has to win. And if they don't win, you have nowhere to throw it. That happened several times today, particularly in the second half, where the quarterback is back there and just has nowhere to throw it. He ended up throwing it away or scrambling. Everyone is to blame. It's not just one particular position."

On the loss of rhythm and momentum throughout the game

"We had one drive that I thought was good. We got a field goal on that drive. We had a holding penalty on that particular drive, but I thought we had some good rhythm on that drive. What I thought that really hurt us, was in our running game, we couldn't keep it on track. Because of that, we were staying within the sticks. When we got in third and long situations, we didn't have any success against their defense because of the man-to-man coverage and drop eight. I think it really happens in the early downs. In the first and second downs, if you miss a hit on one, now you are second and 10. That made it a lot more difficult for us to be able to get those plays. For three drives today, we felt like we were in rhythm, and we were hitting some plays. There weren't very many plays where we had this momentum. Historically, if you go back and look at their defense, they do an outstanding job with that. You don't want to play behind with these guys. If you play behind them, you're playing into their hands. They can do a lot of things on that side of the ball defensively, to keep you from scoring. That's what happened with us today. That first drive was very critical for them not to hit that touchdown, and to get us on top and to have that momentum."

On [Xzavier] Henderson being taken out of the game

"One of the things they did differently was no matter what covers they were playing, they were pressing on the outside. They kept him from getting started right off the bat. I thought they did a good job with that. All day they had a safety over top of him. So now you have a guy underneath and a guy on top that makes it a lot more difficult to get him the ball. I thought Braden [Smith] and some of these other guys were trying to work a little bit more with them and trying to get them the ball. We weren't good enough to get open and make those throws and get those completions."

On the lack of rushing and passing yards

"You need to hit some of those plays downfield. Every offense is going to include them. Every offense is going to hit today. They're going to hit the little five-yard plays and the eight-yard plays. We need to hit the 75 and more yard plays and we didn't hit that. We had it on the first drive, you only have one or two opportunities in the game to hit some of those balls when they're there. You need to make sure that you make the play and we were not able to do that. In the second half, they started playing the defense we talked about where it is more man coverage and two deep so there is nothing in the secondary. You're not going to be able to make those passes and be able to make the big plays to get those stats like you're talking about. The game snowballed from us and didn't help us in the second half."

On how he handles tough times

"Yeah, it's tough. I just told the players, you're going to go through something like this. You really find out what you're made of. You find out as an individual what you're made of, and as a team, that's football. Now we're sitting here at the halfway point. We had an opportunity to go out here and continue to compete and get better while keep working. How much pride do you have? I think we have guys in that room that will do that. They'll come back wanting to work. It's easy to get down on yourself. We can't look at our wreck, we have to look at, how can we get better today? Having been through some of this over my career, that's all you can do. Then when you come out on the other side and start winning, you have a better appreciation for the

wins and appreciation for how you got there. You can't just show up and expect wins. There are some outstanding teams, and outstanding coaches in this day and age in college football, we're seeing that now. Last night was a 29-lead in the Colorado game, and they ended up losing. You have to play every single play the whole game until it's over. That's the way practice has to be too, so we have to continue to work hard and continue to get better. It takes everybody, it's not just one coach and not just one player. It's everybody in the building."

On the team's approach mentally

"We'll go back and watch the film and see. I think we just made too many mistakes today. I believe after you make a few, you start hanging your head a little bit and we don't want to do that. We want to keep playing the next play and keep going. The only time I ever sensed this was in the last five minutes of the game. I think the mistakes just continued to pile up all the way into the fourth quarter."

On getting a speedy player to pressure the quarterback

"Yes, I would agree that we are missing a quick player. We are getting good pressure, but we need a little bit more speed to really get to the quarterback. If we can get there quicker, we will have more pressure on them and get more sacks. Our defensive line is doing a really good job getting a good push and, with more help from the linebackers, we can get more pressure on the quarterback ultimately."