



**Postgame Quotes**  
**Cincinnati vs. Navy**  
**Nov. 5, 2022 | Nippert Stadium**

**Head Coach Luke Fickell**

***Opening Statement***

“Well as always, when you play a triple option team, I start with giving a shout-out to that entire crew that came out on Sunday and started their preparation to give us a great look in Will Adams [senior backup safety] was our quarterback along with Kyle Bolden [former student assistant coach]. We've done it for so long, it's such a unique thing to time things up and prepare you. You go out and play the way you did, especially for us defensively; It's not just because of the scheme, it's not just because of the players, it's because of the preparation, and those guys did a phenomenal job. So, the most important thing to me is to shout out to those guys because we wouldn't be where we are, and we wouldn't have been able to do what we did here tonight without the preparation those guys gave us, so kudos to those guys. Obviously a tough one, it always is a hard-fought game. I don't think we've ever played, maybe one time, that it didn't feel like it was a battle coming down to the wire. It's a good [team], it always gives us their best and it's difficult to appreciate what those guys do. There's a fight in that crew that never quits. I'm proud of our guys because they are the same, they've had their backs against the wall over this past week, taking a gut punch. What we went through last week, which I think everybody goes through, we, fortunately, didn't go through it as much, and you find out a lot more about who you are, what your seniors are like, and what your leadership's like, you have weeks like that. We'll find out what it's like again because we've got another one gunning for us, and it will be a quick turnaround.”

***On using the scout team to prepare for the game***

“Well, we know those guys and attention to detail what we have them, and sometimes they jump back over like, Will Adams, I'd have to go from quarterback, we switch up a little bit he'd have to go, you'd have to go and play some free safety for us. So, he was kind of like the third free safety. We'd have to roll some guys in there and give him an opportunity on the other side, but there are a few guys that would play the slots for us. They're in there in the film room watching the little pinpoint things. There's a lot of credit to go around. We find a way to give us

the best look possible and that's why we've I think we've been well prepared to play this game the last few years."

***On taking advantage of limited opportunities***

"Ben (Bryant) did a phenomenal job. They do a great job of chalking things up and really making it difficult to run the football. They make it difficult with their ability to all-out pressure you and challenge you, and he answered the bell with everything today. He made some really huge throws. He held on to that ball and then let things become open, then the fourth down touchdown to Tyler Scott was a gutsy throw. I'm not sure I would tell him to do that by any means, but he saw what he saw and made a heck of a play on that. He's done a really, really good job and in a difficult situation, meaning you're not going to get as many opportunities at it and they are going to really challenge you by trying to run the football."

***On scoring and blocking the field goal early***

"All that stuff is momentum. We got some red zone stops tonight, defensively that were really big for us. Early on the blocked field goal and making them kick the field goal, those were critical. I almost added a third one down there with the fourth and goal. Some say that the ball came out, but you can't see anything in there. There was a scrum. Let's set that big for us. I tell (Ryan) Coe he's found his rhythm. I think he's found his confidence and you know he's a weapon for him. Again, we don't want to put him out there as many times we don't want to kick 47-yard field goals. For now, he's doing a great job there he's doing a great job awesome kickoff."

***On weather affecting the team's preparation***

"It was off and on and trying to make decisions of what you do. I know the last day and a half it caused a lot of anxiety, not just to me, I'm sure it affected the rest of the crew not really knowing exactly what it was going to be like. You watch some of those games a little bit earlier and you see some of the weather that was coming. Is that what we are going to get, how are we going to adjust for that? Fortunately for us, it kind of calmed down a little bit. There were gusts in the first half, and then a little bit in the second half. But for the most part we were fortunate."

***On the defensive line controlling the dive***

"It's always difficult. I don't know how many yards they had on the dive play, but I know Dontay Corleone had like 11 tackles. [Jowon] Briggs and [Justin] Watley and Dontay [Corleone], that is such an unselfish position. I didn't know the guy's going get 11 tackles. So it's not as unselfish because he's getting some notoriety on that. It is a constant battle. That's what gives us a chance to do what to do especially against the run."

***On responding this week***

"It's an interesting one to respond to as well, because it's so unique. That's what had me a little bit on ease this week. Not that they wouldn't respond, not that they don't go out there and scratch and claw and fight. They had a great week, but the uniqueness of what it is that we had

to face, offensively and the limited possessions, everything matters. The defense with the unique triple option, that's what kind of got me as those guys worked at it, just their mindset on how they were going to handle this because it is methodical. You can't get bored doing the things you want to do. That's what kind of had me lying awake a little bit is not how they would respond but how they would handle the environment of what we had to do to win a football game tonight."

#### ***On Dontay Corleone stepping up***

"No, he is. He's done a great job and it's great to have Jowon Briggs in that room with them because he's older and a great leader for those guys. I don't know if it goes unnoticed yet, but those other guys will have the ability to roll in there as unique too. We were able to play four guys in there and be able to put Justin Wodtly and Dominique Perry in there, just like at the end spots when you get back to being able to play legitimately eight guys. I think what you see sometimes later in the fourth quarter, we had the chance to take over."

#### ***On the return of Lorenz Metz***

"He's helping. It was maybe a week ago, he came in and was asking hey, when can I get another opportunity? He had been nursing and battling his ankle and a lot of other things. It's been difficult for him. So, we had the opportunity, this week, to maybe get him in there a little bit more. We were rolling those guys and I think he played most of the game. Jeremy Cooper was struggling a little bit, but I think just being able to stay in there with injuries and just the nagging stuff. So, it gave Metz an opportunity this week to fill in a little bit as Cooper was dinged up a little bit. I'm happy and proud of him. He had a look on his face in there and I told him I was going to punch him. I really wouldn't because he's 330 pounds. He said 'I got a lot to clean up.' I'm like, 'I'm just so happy that you're out there and playing.' So that could be a big deal for us too."

#### ***On Tyler Scott's performance***

"I don't know that we got the opportunity for him to take the top off. That's the thing that Tyler has grown so much in, and his ability to not just be the 'take the top off guy' which we all know that he can do. He's running those intermediate rounds. He's running the comebacks and the out routes and making plays on it, just like the touchdown one. He's recognizing the coverage, settling down and then Ben (Bryant) throwing it back. His ability to continue to grow to not just be a track speed guy gives us a lot of options. It's going to make him play this game for a long time."

#### ***On Navy's attack in deep territory***

"It's not exactly something you prepare a lot for. He threw two dimes. He threw a dime on fourth and five to wide receiver down the middle of the field and then he throws the dime coming out situation to a seam route that is a heck of a throw. What I'm proud about is that we didn't panic. In some situations, even before the ball moves, there's a little bit of a panic, and we didn't. We settled down and just continued to play and I think that's the difference."

#### ***On the run game comparison***

"Yeah, we also have to do what people will give us. We need to get back to football. We know that. We need to have that balance. We need to be physical. We need to grind some things out. That's where we got to make sure we're getting our stuff back, but it doesn't take away from the other things we can do really well too."

#### ***On getting their groove back***

"I think we started off pretty good. The thing is that's sometimes the thing that we've struggled with sometimes. We've gotten into a groove and last week, we were in a pretty good groove defensively at halftime and even the third quarter, and then things just happen. That's where we just kept saying you can't relax, you can't relax, you can't relax. They are going to make some plays at some point in time. That's what they do, but we can't relax, we can't panic when things like that happen. I think that's where we took a step."

#### ***On locking in on defense***

"I always say that when you go into play Navy, especially when you prepare for it, it makes you go back to the basics. Not saying we're going to try and schedule them as we switch leagues and things like that with the triple option. I do and will miss some of those things that say hey, what we're going to do in spring ball, we're spending a day on triple option. Why? Because it gets you the fundamentals of what you do and how you have to be physical. In fall camp, every third night doing the trip option because it's so critical. Is it triple option? Yes, but is it really just a focus on the little things, the fundamentals of not getting bored doing those things."

#### ***On the return of Nippert at Night***

"It will be awesome. We have a quick turnaround for a team that's playing really, really well. I think they will have 13 days off before they play us. It's kind of unique, you play on Saturday and then have a Friday game. It is what it is. We go back to work excited about the opportunity."

### **Redshirt Freshman Defensive Lineman Dontay Corleone**

#### ***On the discipline required to play against the triple option***

"When we prepare, we have a lot of respect for them. We work as hard as we can. We try to stay disciplined but sometimes we get loose. We had to play with a lot of discipline this week."

#### ***Being from Colerain and seeing the triple option***

"It's awesome. I have a big advantage over it because I went against it my whole high school career, so it was a big week for me."

#### ***On playing with Jowon Briggs***

"It's awesome. I love playing with [Jowon] Briggs. It was one of the best games I've ever played, and it was because of [Jowon] Briggs. It relieved all the double teams from me."

#### ***On Navy's long drives***

"It's not that draining because of our scout team. Will Adams and Ben Blevins, our scout guys, helped us a lot. So, it wasn't a huge difference."

## **Redshirt Senior Quarterback Ben Bryant**

### ***On what he saw before going to Tyler Scott for the first touchdown***

"I knew they were going to pressure that side [of the field], the play call we had on obviously wasn't the greatest for that look, and I set my eyes [on Scott] and we connected for the touchdown, so we're looking at defense not Tyler on that one."

### ***On bouncing back from the loss last week***

"Definitely, like I said last week in the press conference, you really find out about a team by the way they bounce back from a loss, and I think we did a good job this week. Going on their heads and we got back to work and did what we needed to do."

## **Junior Wide Receiver Tyler Scott**

### ***On Improving from last week***

"Last week, it was rough depending on what I was doing. Couple of times where it was a little rough to move. It was definitely better this week than it was last week. Last week there was a lot of press coverage, I had to move more laterally and put more stress on my ankle. Other than that it felt pretty good."

### ***On his first touchdown of the game***

"They went cover 2. It was supposed to be an out route to Will Pauling, a short down and distance call. My receiver coach was behind me yelling, "cover 2, cover 2" so I had to be alert for a shot between the corner and safety and that's just how it worked out."

### ***On his Relationship with Quarterback Ben Bryant***

"Yeah, it's huge. You need to make plays like that, short down and distance type of play and we're trying to win a game. Making sure we're on the same page in all situations in the game so you can connect. There was a pass where we misconnected, we were going tempo, they play cover 2 and I ran a dig route. He (Ben) was expecting me to be in the first window and I was in the second window. Plays like that where you have to be on the same page. Especially when you're playing Navy every play/drive is meaningful because you have to have meaningful possessions."

