



**Cincinnati Football Head Coach Scott Satterfield
Game 7 (Baylor) Postgame Press Conference Transcript**

Opening Statement

"First of all, very frustrated and disappointed. This is certainly not what Cincinnati football is all about, I promise you that, and this is not what we're going to be about. We're going to play better football, so we can go out there and get these wins. This one was certainly there for us to go get and we didn't do it, and that starts here with me. There were some calls we could have done differently in the game. It's very frustrating, again we made some mistakes today. Giving them a touchdown on the kickoff return, nothing they did there except for us just giving it to them and we gave up a huge punt return in the game. I think offensively a couple of times on fourth down we went for it. The first drive we would've had a touchdown, but we dropped the snap exchange, Payten [Singletary]'s wide open in the flat. It was going to be an easy touchdown. Late in the game, we went for it on fourth down. We were down 12 I think at that point trying to get a touchdown on board, but we didn't convert that fourth down. On a positive note, which was different than last week, once we got down in the second half our guys didn't hang their heads. They continued to play, and we had an opportunity to come back and win the game on the last drive. So, I'm proud of our guys for that. There was great energy on the sideline today throughout the whole game, which we talked about last week how there was none. We wanted to come in and establish the run, we were able to do that. I thought our running backs ran hard today; we had some explosive runs in the running game. We have not seen that this year like we had today. That's a definite positive. I thought Corey [Kiner] and Myles [Montgomery] ran very hard. They did some great things in the running game. The guy's up-front blocked well today. We put our defense in some bad positions, and we held them to field goals, which was a great job by our defense. The kicking game was huge. When you think about the punt return, you think about us giving them a touchdown on a kickoff return, and their field goal kicker was knocking down those long field goals. But again, the difference was us losing the turnover margin again, one to nothing. We didn't create any turnovers and we didn't give our defense a chance to stop them, so they got a touchdown. There are certainly some things we can build off of, but certainly, extremely disappointed in not finishing the game there, particularly on that last drive."

On the decision not to go for field goals

"I think the first round we thought we had a great play call set up for that, that particular one. It was there, we executed it all week in practice knowing that's we're going to do. It was there and we didn't execute today on that particular series. Hindsight 20/20 on the other one down here in this red zone, I think it was fourth and four or five, roughly in that range. We throw it out, the receiver broke in, hit later on in the game a bunch across the half. He had tried to be aggressive in that particular point because we're down 12. In the second half, they will get some long drives, how many more possessions are we going to be able to get, so that that was kind of decision making."

On how to get the special teams back on track

"Last year our punt team *was* great, and today was really good except for that. That was a rolled punt. You're supposed to put the ball on this side and punt the ball more to the middle of the field. Our guys really more

running this way ended up pinning our guys and he took him right up the middle. Now we have pushups in that particular sense right there on that point. That was good execution on them. Now the one is unacceptable totally, is the phone. It should have been a fair catch. We were fair catching today, unless they gave us a kick that was really short. I think that one was maybe around the three-yard line, so it should have been a fair catch on that particular one. He's [Braden Smith] a veteran player, plays a lot of football. He has to take care of business."

On how to make his special teams more comfortable

"We certainly emphasize taking care of the ball offensively. We did a much better job with that today. I thought we had a better plan of what we're trying to do. It gave us an opportunity to chance during the second half, to be able to come back into the game with some big conversions. In the second half, we started converting to third downs, the first half, not as much. and so, I thought we did much better with Justin. We made a halftime comeback in the second half and be able to throw the football and get back in the game. And we were able to do that. We certainly emphasize that, and I think trying to move them around it's certainly a valid point not to sit in the pocket. On the right, we'll have about two sides and then really just sit right in the pocket. Scenarios to get them out of pocket, let's try to get some movement on the outside so they just can't tee off in the pocket."

On if the amount of energy was purposeful

"Absolutely. It was awful last week, we mentioned that in here. To the team's credit, they saw it and felt it. They felt 'Hey, listen, we're coming out and we're going to have a lot on the sideline, a lot of energy.' You saw that the whole game. And I think it was really helpful. We came back and got into the game here at the end and had a chance to go and try to win. I also saw today guys have each other's back; I think that is incredibly important. There is a lot of new within this team. This team, these coaches, and that with everybody trying to blend, we're learning a lot this year. But what we have to continue to learn is to play for each other and continue to have each other's back. I saw that today, maybe for the first time this year. That is a great sign of a team that is continuing to fight, continuing to play for each other. That's what we have to have. I'm very disappointed but I mean, if I'm going to take a positive out; that is positive, and we can help build off that as we move forward."

On ball security and four fumbles

"We will have to go back and watch the film. I don't think it's self-inflicted. We have talked about holding the ball high and tight, especially in traffic. These defenses do a great job of hitting you and trying to knock the ball out with the helmet beforehand. They also do a good job of swiping at the ball. There was one time that Corey [Kiner] had a first down, but then he fumbled the ball back and we fell on it and then we had to punt. That was an unfortunate bounce, but you have to hold on to the ball right there. I feel like we've worked on ball security a lot and not creating those fumbles. Emory [Jones] also fumbled on a fourth down on an exchange with the running back when we were trying to convert. These types of things are frustrating because this has not happened in practice, and we play clean. I hate that it happened right there when we needed it."

On last two plays and no penalties called

"We hit Braden [Smith] on the sideline when he is trying to run an out route. He can't run the route because he is getting restricted, and the ball is thrown right in front of him. I am not sure what we are supposed to do there in that situation. On the last play on fourth down, the defender was all over Chamon [Metayer]. We need to be able to make the play, but it is extremely difficult to convert in that situation. I will say this, defenses will go as hard as you allow them to go in those type of situations. We have had our share of defensive pass interferences in the season and it's just not consistent."

On big plays from the running backs

"They had great explosive runs today and that is what I have missed in the beginning. Myles [Montgomery] and Corey [Kiner] really ran hard today and it starts up front with our offensive line clearing space for them. One of the big plays was on third down when Myles [Montgomery] broke a tackle and hit the sideline and scored a touchdown. Corey [Kiner] also had a big 40 yard run as well. Both of them did some great things in the run game today."

On issues against the pass and deep plays

"We don't have much depth in the secondary. The guys that are playing are the guys that we have to play. Sometimes we get nosy with our eyes and are trying to go stop the run and then, we're supposed to be in the back and drop out in the secondary. That's a struggle, but it hasn't been a point of emphasis to try to get better, we are good at stopping the run. Not giving up those big pass plays. One was almost a trick play that they hit down the sideline. One was one on one; we were doubled cover. We had to double cover number 11 on the sideline for 55-yard fumble. We have to stay on top and make that be an incompleteness especially if you're getting double covered. So, those are things we have to get better at because teams are going to see those things. They see it on film, and so when we come in here on Saturdays and they're going to attack them and try to throw the ball. Teams have done that and had success and so we have to stay on it."

On Chamon Metayer's improvement

"We have been starting to utilize him over the last three weeks and he's a big target, big catch radius, big guy in the middle. To me, he's a hard guy to cover, even if it's managed. He's kind of boxing those guys out over the middle. So he had a big third down catch today. I say this every week, he's getting better and better and he can do a lot better. I think he's certainly good to have when you're riding midfield."

On Deshawn Pace's performance today

"He's a fast player. When he's in the right spot, he can make plays. To be able to have him coming off that edge today to cause some problems and make those huge plays that he was able to make. We have to utilize his speed. This guy is a quick-twitch guy. He had a big-time game today. We obviously need that from him to be able to put pressure on the quarterback and I thought he did some good things. Coming from Deshawn and the D line, it was good to be able to cause a little havoc and getting to the quarterback so that was good to see."

Wide Receiver Evan Prater***On how much he trusts the coaching staff***

"I trust the coaching staff 110%, these guys want the best for us. Like Jawon [Briggs] said, it's one of those things where we are beating ourselves out there. We are putting ourselves in positions to win games, but at the same time there are a couple plays here and there that are driving towards these losses. I trust this coaching staff; they believe in us 100% and you can tell they are here for our best interest, and we want to do the same for them. Moving forward I do not think there is any trust issues between the players and them, we are just trying to get on the right track."

On helping Emory Jones over the past few weeks.

"Emory [Jones] and I have a great relationship. It started in the spring, and in moments like these he knows I am a guy that he can talk to, we can relate. He is a leader on this team and has great experience. I know he has

been in moments like these, but it is going to hurt every time. In the locker room right now, Emory is one of those guys that is trying to keep everyone up and holding their heads high. Telling people don't be down on yourself, there is still a lot of the season left yet to be played. Having a guy like that with the experience and knowledge, it is something special not only to me but everyone on this team."