

# University of Texas at San Antonio Football Media Conference

Saturday, November 18, 2023  
San Antonio, Texas, USA

## Coach Jeff Traylor Press Conference



UTSA 49, South Florida 21

JEFF TRAYLOR: Proud of our defense once we got adjusted to the speed that they were snapping it. We settled down a little bit, played a lot better.

Just it's pretty much typical of what we've done here for four straight years. Gritty kids, man. They won't go away. We were down and looked like we were never going to stop them. All of a sudden they just figured it out, man.

They're great kids. We put ourself in position now where we get to play Tulane, and that'll be -- nobody will think we can win, and we'll be the underdog on the road.

Looking forward to that.

**Q. It was an all-time performance by your quarterback tonight. Did you know he had that in him considering all the struggles he has been through this season?**

JEFF TRAYLOR: Yeah, he has been getting a little bit more healthy and we've been really calling the games to take care of him, and we just made the decision tonight to let him go out in style. We needed to know what he had for Tulane, and looked like the old Frank Harris for me.

Thrilled for him. He even had ball security once, like when he scored. He went old school. When in trouble, double.

Might be the first time I've ever seen him protect the football in four years. I've threatened to bench him for four years but haven't done it yet.

**Q. The Roadrunners are going to play for a chance to go to the AAC title game. Been a long road to get to this point. How does that feel to get here?**

JEFF TRAYLOR: I think it's more special just because how frustrating September was for everybody.

Probably more proud of this team than any of them. They're all different, right? This one had just so much negatively towards them.

I would really like to go back and look at what everybody said after that Houston game about Frank Harris right now and see what they say tonight.

**Q. Coach, you guys as a team set a new school record with total offense with 643 yards. What do you think was the biggest factor in setting that record tonight?**

JEFF TRAYLOR: It's always players. Always has been, always will be. Starts with our line up front, protecting him. They did a heck of a job. McCuin had a heck of a night. Amador really came on. Tykee made plays. Cephus was amazing. Robert Henry was right out of the backfield. And then the straw that stirs the drink, man, old O. Rocko had a heck of a play. Two-minute drive right before halftime. It's just our kids. It's just what they do.

Ya'll been watching them. Ya'll know. You ask me to describe it. You're just as in awe as I am. They do it all the time. Some of those catches were phenomenal. And they're freshman. Future is bright, man. Amador, McCuin, it's exciting.

**Q. What does it say about Frank's personality that on such an emotional night he could deliver this kind of performance on the field?**

JEFF TRAYLOR: We really talked about it. Heck, he practiced it too. Half of them did this last year. I said, hey, man, we should know how to behave now. We all did Senior Night last night and we all cried, and here you are back again.

We really worked hard this week trying to enjoy the Spirit Walk, trying to enjoy every detail, but not be so emotionally spent that we got off to a terrible start.

I don't know if it worked or not, but I know we were very intentional to not be so exhausted. I did not want to be behind 24-nothing like last year. We've never lost a Senior



Night, but we always start out rough. Tonight we got down, I'm thinking, here we go again.

I thought the third and 14 where we hit the dig in they were in two deep zone where McCuin laid out on the opening drive, was probably one of the biggest plays of the game. It got us that first touchdown to get us back 7-7.

**Q. 18 seniors recognized tonight. Can you put into work what that group has meant not only to this program, but to you?**

JEFF TRAYLOR: Yeah, it was tough, maybe. Team meeting was tough. Frank and Rashad always sitting around the front and they always wait until the very end, you know, they always hug my neck, and I thanked them. I did. Not only do very few kids stay four years anymore, you can't find kids that stay one year anymore.

Our kids have been here the entire time. I've got to coach this entire group the entire time. It's been a Cinderella story. I mean it, I'm grateful. I'm grateful and I thanked them for letting me coach them, man. It's a blast.

**Q. Jeff, I think from the moment the schedule was released a lot of people looked at this game at Tulane coming up as a potential kind of conference championship playoff, if you will. What does that mean that you've done what you needed to do get there, and now have that big game on the national stage?**

JEFF TRAYLOR: Guess what? For once I'm going to answer your question about Tulane, because they're next on the schedule.

So you're right. I might unmute Greg and J.J. and go back see what they really said after September. If they really thought we were going to be here or not.

No, that's what makes it more special, again, how far they've come and just his story, again. You heard what he said. He's had like 12 surgeries, or 10. It's ridiculous. And he is as low he's ever been in the month of May, which that just blows my mind.

He was in it, and now J.T. is going through it. So that's what makes it so special, is just all we've overcome, and we're a shell of ourselves but still fighting, still in there. I know you heard me say it a million times, healthy teams don't win championships, tough ones do. Willie is like legendary in our profession. As good a human you'll have be around, good a coach, he's about the right stuff.

So I'm looking forward to this matchup because the respect

I have for Willie Fritz. Look where he's always done it. He's taken tough jobs and always won. He's always had character.

The game needs a ton more of Willie Fritz in it. That's why I'm most excited, to go against the true legends in our profession.

**Q. Can you speak to the play of the defenses tonight? I think six or seven possessions between the second and third quarter where the defense just shutdown...**

JEFF TRAYLOR: Yeah, got -- very similar to how we gave up an out route on third and 12. We both took the fly and nobody jumped down the out and just turned their best receiver loose. Coach Loepp didn't appreciate it, but I tried to make him feel better. I said, look, they gave up third and 14; we gave up third and 12. They are just as frustrated as we are.

I won't tell you what he said back to me. Once we got through that little phase we calmed down. I believe we gave up 14 the first half, and those were all in the first quarter.

Then the second half we got beat on the skinny and our safety in there, that was disappointing. The other drive got going right on us and we had good coverage on it. We just missed the dang tackle. Excited about my defense battling. It's tough. They snap it so fast.

Proud of them.

**Q. I have to ask you, there was a report last night about an interview with Texas A&M. Did you interview with Texas A&M?**

JEFF TRAYLOR: We had 18 seniors play tonight, and it's a shame really that that's what everybody talked about. Any second someone was talking about Jeff Traylor and not Frank Harris is a travesty towards those 18 seniors.

**Q. What have the emotions been like for you this week?**

JEFF TRAYLOR: Because of my seniors, it's been tough, especially with this particular group, because I'm so grateful for those two zeros and a lot of single digits that I'm losing.

COVID, took on a high school football coach that probably nobody wanted and we won a lot together. It's been fun.

**Q. 13-1 now in November. I'm curious what it takes to play your best football late in the season?**



JEFF TRAYLOR: I wish you wouldn't have brought that one up, but I appreciate the 13. It's corny. You're not going to like it. They like coming to practice still. It matters. I mean, we get better every day. We get just a little bit better every day.

They take coaching. They allow me to coach them. That's really it. There is no other thing to it. It's because we pour into them, we love them, we coach them hard, but we love them harder.

They're really good players. You can't win all those games without great players.

**Q. Coach, Owen Pewee's seven tackles, one tackle for a loss tonight. How nice has it been to see his progression and be a nice role player for the defense?**

JEFF TRAYLOR: Yeah, another young player that is really coming on. We are going to be good against next year. I mean, we are. I know everybody is tired of hearing that, but we're going to be good again.

He's a good one. Hard to replace those kids, but we got some more ready to go.

**Q. Jeff, is this team a championship caliber team in your mind?**

JEFF TRAYLOR: We play Tulane Friday at 2:30. We'll learn a lot then.

Thank ya'll. God bless. Birds Up.

Fastscripts by ASAP Sports...

# University of Texas at San Antonio Football Media Conference

Saturday, November 18, 2023

San Antonio, Texas, USA

## Frank Harris

Press Conference



UTSA 49, South Florida 21

**Q. Frank, what are you feeling right now? What are the emotions?**

FRANK HARRIS: Honestly hasn't hit me yet. Probably hit me when the season is over with. Or maybe later on. I couldn't really tell you. I mean, I'm just excited I went out there and got a win for the seniors.

Still undefeated, and excited to go against Tulane. Great atmosphere and a great test for us.

**Q. This was, I think when you look back at it, an all-time performance by you tonight. Did you feel something different coming into this game?**

FRANK HARRIS: I just give credit to God. I felt like he wanted me to play my last game Alamodome and go out that way, and it couldn't have been any better for me, and God gets the credit for that.

I really don't know what else to say besides Him getting all the glory.

**Q. You know how basketball players talk about the hoop getting bigger when they're hot. Is there something similar like that for quarterbacks? How early in a game do you realize oh, we're in flow and this is going to be a big one for us?**

FRANK HARRIS: I think Coach does a great job letting the game come to me, calling plays to get me going, and then eventually calling the big plays, letting me get in a rhythm. Just credit to the coaching staff and my teammates for going throughout and executing and making me look way better than I actually am.

Credit to those guys.

**Q. You told us during the week you thought you would cry in the Senior Day ceremony. What was that moment like?**

FRANK HARRIS: I didn't cry, but I did cry giving my senior speech. I did cry with that. I couldn't talk. I just started crying.

But I didn't cry during Senior Night. I just think because we have some more games left. The job is not done yet. It's bittersweet not to play in the Alamodome no more. I have lots of emotion when I think about the Alamodome. I was blessed to play couple games here in high school and to play my whole college career here.

Definitely going to miss is. I will miss some Alamodome cookies. Every home game I get Alamodome cookies and they're the best, so going to miss those. Have to find a way to get those still.

Just a blessing to come out here and play the game I love with my teammates, and definitely going to soak it up.

**Q. You set a new school record for individual total offense with 513 yards. What does it mean to you that your last game in the Alamodome was historic like that?**

FRANK HARRIS: Yeah, just a testament to God once again, battling through all the injuries this off-season alone, start of the season, missing two games, all these things, to end it the way I ended it was -- I mean, you couldn't have wrote it any better.

Just credit to my teammates for believing in me, never giving up on me, and the coaching staff as well, and the fans and everybody else. Just a bittersweet moment and I appreciate everybody.

**Q. You guys have won seven in a row, and next week going to play for a chance to get to the championship game. Just what does that mean to you to, especially the way the season started?**

FRANK HARRIS: It means a lot, especially battling



adversity the first couple games and everybody writing us off, to now we've always believed we had the culture. We never turned on one another. Coach Traylor did a great job of just having faith in us and making sure we still have you faith in one another, not turn on one another.

He just kept saying, one game at time and we'll be okay, and sure enough we are. We are excited to go play against Tulane, a great team, a new conference, and we're going to maybe be able to play for a conference championship and that means a lot and just a testament to Coach Traylor.

**Q. Go back to last April or May when you were going through what Drew went through with the surgery and the infection. Did you think you would get back to this point?**

FRANK HARRIS: Honestly, I didn't think I would be able to walk again. I was in the wheelchair. My parents lived with me for two, three weeks. I couldn't do anything alone. Couldn't sleep at night. I was in a dark stage. I lost like 20 points. I looked terrible.

I told Coach Traylor I was done with football; I wanted to medically retire. It was too much on my mental. Told me if it didn't get any better they might have to amputate my leg. Once you hear that it's like, I don't even want to play football, I don't know if I can walk again.

It's real life, hit me, like football is not on my mind right now. I just want to be able to walk me.

That was definitely a dark stage for me, but God is everything for a reason. I'm reaping the benefits now and I wouldn't be the person I am if I didn't go through those injuries, and just a testament to my teammates and the coaching staff for believing in me. They were with me through the whole thing, my family.

I'm just blessed to be out here being able to walk, and play football is just a cherry on top. I don't take it for granted at all and I wouldn't change it for the world.

**Q. I want to talk about the way you closed the first half and opened up the second half of the game. Both times you made a rushing touchdown. Those are quick game-time decisions. What was your decision to make that yourself?**

FRANK HARRIS: I didn't know I did that honestly. Coach talks about the middle eight all the time. The last four minutes of first half and the first four minutes of the second half. He always says that's the most important part of the game to get momentum and just get everything going.

Went out and executed right before halftime and came out and got the ball first and executed. I did not know I had those two touchdowns. I think the play calling was perfectly designed and everybody executed and did their 1/11th, and just so happened I had the ball in my hands and I was the one with the touchdown.

Definitely a team effort. Without those guys I wouldn't have got in the end zone.

**Q. Among all that you accomplished in your career, where do you think a night like tonight will rank?**

FRANK HARRIS: I don't really look at my accolades, to be honest. I'm going to remember this moment because it was my last game in the Alamodome with my teammates, coaching staff, and all the fans.

So I'm not going to look at it about my performance and stats. I'm going to look at it that we won and it was my last time playing at the Alamodome, and going to cherish it, and definitely means a lot.

**Q. This is the first time in your career I believe you've had three rushing touchdowns and three passing touchdowns in the same game. What does it mean that this deep in your career you can still do things you've never done before?**

FRANK HARRIS: You know, I didn't realize I had that until somebody told me on the sideline. Like I said, just take what the defense gives, let the game come to you. There were a lot of runs that I had to pull the ball and try to make something happen.

I just went out there and scored. It wasn't nothing that I did that was spectacular. It was kind of wide open and I just kind of ran. Receivers did a great job just going out there and making plays. O-line protecting me, hats off to those guys. They are not getting the credit they rightfully deserve. I'm going to get all the credit, but without those guys I wouldn't be here right now, so credit to those guys.

**Q. You were honored with 17 other seniors tonight. Been here for a long time. What does that group mean to you?**

FRANK HARRIS: Yeah, just means a lot. I mean, I've been here so long nobody is in my class that's still here. They already graduated. So just seeing all those guys, like Tykee, Kelechi, Trumane, those guys are a grade younger than me so we been through it all together, and the grade younger, like Rashad and all those guys, just means a lot just seeing all these guys grow. Tykee, seeing him grow



as a person and a football player just means a lot. I'm just blessed to say I was a part of that process. Just seeing where we came from as little boys, 18 years old, 24, grown men, seeing how much we matured and changed as men just means a lot to see the progression and everything we went through to get where we are now.

Fastscripts by ASAP Sports...

**Q. Frank, what was the end of the game like for you when you walked off the field? I didn't see you. Did you go hide? Just describe that last time walking off the field.**

FRANK HARRIS: I went to go talk to the fans. I kind of took a lap. I took a very long time. Eventually my mom came over to get me because she said she hasn't seen me yet, so I had to go talk to my parents and siblings who came out to support me. I just took a lap talking to all the fans, thanking them for all the support over the years and signing autographs, whatever they wanted me to do, and just thanked them. It just means a lot that I have so much support and I don't take it for granted.

**Q. You had the opportunity to check out of the game there in the fourth quarter and wave to the fans. What was that experience like for you?**

FRANK HARRIS: Honestly, I didn't think I was going to go back in the game, but I think Coach Traylor did that intentionally so I could get that standing ovation. It just meant a lot, the love and support, like I said, that I received from the fans and my teammates. I cherish it for sure, and I just thank Coach Traylor for giving me an opportunity to go out in that fashion and get the ovation like that.

It's not a feeling that you can explain. Definitely don't take it for granted.

**Q. You mentioned the fans. This is possibly your last game in San Antonio. Do you have a message for the fans that come out game after game, supported you throughout your long career as you part for the final games?**

FRANK HARRIS: Yeah, like I said on social media, I just thank them for everything. Been a rocky career for me. Even when I wasn't playing they still showed love and support. Even when I had bad games, you know, they still showed love and support.

Just thank them for everything they've done for me and USTA as a whole. It means a lot to us and we cherish it. Without them we wouldn't be where we are today. We hope to see them in the near future and in the years to come and just keep growing this program. We feed off their momentum, and we just thank and love them forever.

 . . . when all is said, we're done.®

# University of Texas at San Antonio Football Media Conference

Saturday, November 18, 2023

San Antonio, Texas, USA

## Rashad Wisdom

Press Conference



UTSA 49, South Florida 21

**Q. Rashad, what are your emotions right now?**

RASHAD WISDOM: You know, definitely excited we got a win, especially with this being my last time playing here. I was telling some of the guys that I was fortunate enough to win my very first game here and very last one.

So definitely hoping that we can try to play one more here. I mean, regardless, I'm blessed to have had this last win and go out the way we did.

But at the end of the day we still got a lot more we got to go take care of. We got a good opponent, Tulane next week, and still got a bowl game to go play. Still a lot more on the table to go take care of. Regardless, happy with the result at the end of the day tonight.

**Q. What were the emotions like this week and last night, and of course Senior Night activities? What was it like for those guys and you?**

RASHAD WISDOM: For me personally, you know, things take a minute to settle in for me, so things didn't really start hitting me until Thursday morning. Sitting in my apartment I was like, dang, man, this thing is really coming to an end. Just coming to that realization.

But a lot of guys were emotional. Frank really started -- Frank started breaking down in his senior speech talking about all the stuff he's been through here and how far we have come. A lot of other guys were saying pretty much how grateful, thankful they were for the time here, regardless if this was their only season here or they been here the whole time since I've been here.

You know, we are all on the same page. We still got a lot more to go get done. I mean, I feel like that's the way it should be. I mean, definitely got to take this all in because

this is the last time for a lot of us.

At the end of the day, we still got work to get done. I mean, still got a lot more stuff to look forward to as well.

**Q. Frank had 500 yards by himself; the offense had 600.**

RASHAD WISDOM: He was a beast.

**Q. What was that like for you guys on the defense seeing the offense do that tonight?**

RASHAD WISDOM: It's always a good feeling seeing the opposite side of the ball doing what they're supposed to be doing. The way they were handling things tonight, airing it out, the way the receivers are attacking the ball, people were blocking, I get really excited watching good football, watching good football and watching -- you know what I mean, people doing their 1/11th, and sound off for teammates. It gets me excited watching good football.

I'm just glad we were able to go do that tonight, send the seniors out right. I remember just last year and the years prior just being the younger guy like, man, I want to send the seniors out right. That's kind of what I told the younger guys tonight, man, because when it's their time they're going to want the same thing.

Make sure we do what we got to do and finish this thing off right, and we did just that.

**Q. Their offense ran 25 plays in the first three drives and then only 30 in the next eight. Curious what changed for the defense after the first couple series?**

RASHAD WISDOM: I think we just settled into their tempo finally. I was saying on the radio show that regardless, the first drive of every game is always difficult. Always feel winded. Got to get acclimated to it.

But especially going against a tempo team, man, you just got to get a feel for the tempo, how fast they're going, what they're trying to do.



With a lot of tempo teams their plays can't be too complex. That's why they're able to go so fast.

So being able to get a feel for what they're trying to do and get acclimated to their tempo, and I feel like after about the first, like you said, first two, three drives of that, and finally able to settle down and be able to play our brand of ball.

Coaches did a great job getting us prepared this week. They showed us a ridiculous tempo in practice that we probably would never ever see. That's just part of it. Practice needs to be harder than the game so the game can be simpler and more slowed down.

So like I said, we just finally were able to settle in and go play our ball.

**Q. What was your message like when you gave your senior speech?**

RASHAD WISDOM: I didn't say everything I wanted to say. I started saying a lot of stuff, forgetting a lot of stuff. I was like, all right, well, thank ya'll. (Laughing.)

I just remember coming up here, getting up here and I was 17, and now I'm leaving at 22. It's crazy. Time really flies. I was talking about how I remember watching my dog, Carl Austin, going up and giving his senior speech and I was sitting there like, man, I'm going to be up there, and now it's here. The whole thing just got me.

My family isn't originally from here. Originally from New York, and of all the places we could've landed in, we ended up moving to Converse, Texas.

I remember coming up to the Dome actually for the UTSA camps, and me and Bryce, coach were taking a picture with him, and going through my recruitment then I ended up here.

So I just think it's crazy just the whole path of me getting here and being able to play and everything that we've accomplished here.

It's been a great ride, a great journey. Like I said, we still got a lot more to get done. Couple things that still haven't been done here yet like with the bowl game. That is definitely something I would like to check off here before it's all said and done.

**Q. What does it mean now that you've got to this point in the season undefeated in conference and you have this huge showdown with Tulane coming up?**

RASHAD WISDOM: It's exciting for sure. Going to be a

great football game. Two great teams playing against each other in primetime on Black Friday, and it's going to be exciting for sure.

I am looking forward to the matchup. You know, this one is for all the marbles. It's for whoever goes to conference from our side. Pretty much may the best man win, so go out there and just be us at the end of the day.

**Q. You had a season high eight tackles. How much of that performance was fueled by the emotions of Senior Night?**

RASHAD WISDOM: I would probably say a little bit of it. I mean, just knowing that this is probably my last time here, just want to go out with a bang. Definitely wish I could have got a pick, but it's all good, man.

I'm happy with the win. That was the biggest thing, just make sure we went out in the right way. Didn't want to walk off the field thinking I could have gave more. I left it all out there tonight, and I am satisfied with what I was able to do, to say the least.

Really proud of the way the team played. We went out there, like I said, had to settle in at first, but once we did that things really started getting fun and just playing us, being us.

We are really a goofy team if you watch how we do after plays. But, yeah, playing with my guys is fun. Like I said, I'm just happy the way we went out for this last one.

**Q. I know you've been through a lot here. I was just thinking about everything you've been through. How often do you think about Bryce, and did you have him on your mind tonight?**

RASHAD WISDOM: You know, it's crazy because I have him on my mind a lot. Not having him here tonight was a little something, but I don't know if ya'll really seen, but all the other people around me I feel like kind of filled that spot.

I don't have any sisters, but I had two little girls out there with me -- I won't say not little -- I had two girls out there with me and I called them my sisters. One of them was Bryce's girlfriend while he was still here and the other one is her little sister.

I'm just fortunate enough, because without Bryce, being in their lives and them being in Bryce's lives, I would've never known them and know what it feels like to have a sister.

So they really -- I feel like they really filled that void tonight,





and it was a special time for sure. I just remember Bryce being here on the sideline with us, and I think he actually had a coin toss here with us one time, too.

I mean, like I said, you go through things for a reason, and I feel like that situation kind of just molded me into who I am today. You know, like I said, it was a special moment tonight. Definitely would've liked to have him here. I'm blessed to have a lot of other people around me and love me and want to see me do great things.

Fastscripts by ASAP Sports...