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**PLAYOFF
SEMIFINAL**



@LSUfootball

NO. 4 OKLAHOMA VS. NO. 1 LSU • 2019 CHICK-FIL-A PEACH BOWL POSTGAME NOTES

A Game of Firsts

- This is the first College Football Playoff Semifinal for LSU and Oklahoma's first-ever appearance in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, as well as the Sooners' first game in both Atlanta and Mercedes-Benz Stadium.
- With the victory, LSU secures the program's first-ever College Football Playoff Semifinal victory, as well as its first National Championship Game berth in the CFP era.
- In terms of quarterbacks, Jalen Hurts is the first-ever quarterback to start for two different teams in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl (Alabama in 2016 and Oklahoma in 2019). LSU's Joe Burrow is the first-ever Heisman Trophy winner to play in the Bowl during his Heisman season, and this also marks the first time that two Heisman Trophy finalists played in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl.

Battle-Tested Bowl Programs

- Both teams have combined for 104 all-time bowl appearances, including today's game. Oklahoma now ranks fourth in all-time appearances (53), while LSU is eighth with 51.
- The Sooners are fourth among all schools in bowl victories with 29 and the Tigers' 27 wins rank ninth among all schools nationally.
- Oklahoma holds a 29-22-1 bowl record, while LSU owns a 27-23-1 mark all-time in bowl games.
- Both programs are currently third and fourth respectively in longest active bowl streaks. This will be Oklahoma's 21st consecutive bowl appearance and LSU's 20th.
- Today marks Oklahoma's 38th appearance in a New Year's Six bowl, and LSU's 31st. The Sooners have posted a 22-15 record in New Year's Six games, while the Tigers hold a 18-12-1 mark.
- LSU is 4-1 all-time vs. the Big 12 in bowl games and 5-5 in bowl games against current Big 12 teams. Meanwhile, the Sooners are 6-10-1 against the SEC in bowl games and 7-11-1 against current SEC programs.
- LSU's Ed Orgeron is 3-1 as a head coach in bowl games (Citrus Bowl win over Louisville, 2016 season; Citrus Bowl loss vs. Notre Dame, 2017 season; Fiesta Bowl win over UCF, 2018 season; Peach Bowl win over Oklahoma, 2019 season) and Oklahoma's Lincoln Riley is 0-3 as a head coach in bowl games (Rose Bowl loss vs. Georgia, 2017 season; Orange Bowl loss vs. Alabama, 2018 season; Peach Bowl loss vs. LSU, 2019 season).

SECond to None: LSU and SEC back in the Bowl

- LSU is now tied for second in all-time Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl appearances (seven) and holds the record for most all-time wins in the Bowl (six). LSU holds a 6-1 all-time record in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, and this year's game marks the program's first appearance since 2012 when the Tigers faced Clemson.
- The Big 12 has a 1-1 all-time record in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl compared to the SEC which holds a 20-16-1 mark. Current Big 12 teams are 5-3-1 in the game, while current SEC programs have a 20-17-1 record in the Bowl.
- The SEC's 20 wins in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl lead all other conferences.
- LSU represents the third-straight year an SEC team has appeared in the game and the 25th appearance by the conference in the last 26 years.
- This is only the second appearance for the Big 12 conference in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, and the first since 2014.



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(TCU). This is also only the second SEC-Big 12 matchup in the Bowl's history, with the Big 12 currently posting a 1-1 record after TCU defeated Ole Miss in the Bowl's 2014 game.

College Football Playoff History

- No. 1 seeds are now 4-2 all-time in the College Football Playoff Semifinals vs. No. 4 seeds.
- The Sooners are 0-4 all-time in the Semifinals, 0-3 as the No. 4 seed and 0-3 vs. the SEC. LSU is now 1-0 in College Football Playoff Semifinals.
- The SEC is 6-1 in Semifinal games and is 8-4 all-time in the College Football Playoff, while the Big 12 is 0-4 all-time in the Semifinals.

Third Time's the Charm

- The Tigers improve to 2-1 against the Sooners (Oklahoma defeated LSU 35-0 in 1950, LSU won 21-14 over Oklahoma in 2004 and LSU won 63-28 over Oklahoma in 2019).

A Game for the Record Books

LSU

- LSU's 28 points in the second quarter set a CFP Semifinal record for most points in a quarter, previously set by Oregon in the 2015 Rose Bowl (27). The total also ties a Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl record set by LSU in 1971 and a New Year's Six record set by Penn State in the 2017 Rose Bowl.
- The Tigers' 49 points at the half trumps a Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl (38), New Year's Six (41) and CFP Semifinal record (41).
- With 63 points, LSU breaks the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl (52) and CFP Semifinal (59) record for points scored.
- With 493 net passing yards, LSU break the CFP Semifinal record set by Florida State in the 2015 Rose Bowl (348).
- The Tiger's seven passing touchdowns sets a Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl (4), New Year's Six (5) and CFP Semifinal (4) record.
- LSU's 20 passing first downs ties the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl record and sets the CFP Semifinal record (17).
- The Tigers' 31 first downs sets the CFP Semifinal record previously held by Oregon from the 2015 Rose Bowl (30).
- With 692 yards of total offense, LSU breaks the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl (661), New Years' Six and CFP Semifinal record for most net yards total offense.

Justin Jefferson

- Jefferson's 24 points sets a Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl record in most points scored and ties the New Year's Six and CFP Semifinal record.
- With four touchdown receptions, Jefferson breaks the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl record (3) and matches the New Year's Six and CFP Semifinal record.
- Jefferson's 227 receiving yards trumps the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl (201), New Year's Six (201) and CFP Semifinal



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(165) record.

- With 14 catches, Jefferson breaks the CFP Semifinal record for most catches set by Ohio State's Curtis Samuel in the 2016 Fiesta Bowl (9).
- Jefferson breaks a Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl (3), New Year's Six (2) and CFP (1) record for most touchdown passes caught with four. This mark also ties the record for all bowl games.

Joe Burrow

- Burrow becomes the first player in FBS history to be responsible for eight touchdowns in a bowl game.
- Burrow's 493 yards through the air breaks a CFP Semifinal record previously set by Florida State's Jameis Winston in the 2015 Rose Bowl (348).
- With seven touchdown passes, Burrow shatters the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl (4), New Year's Six (5) and CFP Semifinal (4) record. The mark also ties the most in any bowl game's history.
- Burrow's 29 completed passes tied the CFP Semifinal record set by Florida State's Jameis Winston in the 2015 Rose Bowl.
- Burrow's 62-yard pass to Thaddeus Moss breaks Marcus Mariota's longest completed pass in the 2015 Rose Bowl (56).
- With 515 yards of net offense, Burrow topples the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl (469), New Year's Six (514) and CFP Semifinal (417) record.

Cade York

- York's nine PAT conversions sets the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl (7), New Year's Six (6) and CFP Semifinal (6) record.

Attendance

- Today's announced attendance is 78,347, which is a new Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl and Mercedes-Benz Stadium record.

Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl: LSU vs Oklahoma

Saturday, December 28, 2019

Lincoln Riley

Jalen Hurts

Neville Gallimore

Oklahoma Sooners

LSU - 63, Oklahoma - 28

THE MODERATOR: Coach, we'll take a short opening statement, and then we'll go right into questions.

LINCOLN RILEY: Offer, first, congratulations to LSU, Coach Orgeron. Tremendous football team. Played very well, very deserving. They're impressive.

It's a disappointing locker room right now. What can you say? I thought the game, we traded blows early. They went on the run there at the end of the first half. We got a little frantic and just didn't play our best.

And give them credit. They certainly made plays, but we gave them a lot of plays with our mistakes. It's probably the most disappointing -- most disappointing there at the end of the half. And, obviously, they made the big run and got some separation.

It's been a great year. This team, I told them in there, it's been an absolute joy to coach. A lot of adversity this team's had to deal with, some on the outside, some that the outside doesn't know about that they've -- they've been a joy. They really have.

Had to fight through a lot just to get here, and it's kind of the disappointment -- you balance right now the disappointment of not winning and accomplishing your ultimate goal here. On top of that, just not playing our best.

It's hard to describe that disappointment. But you balance that with the sense of pride of what this group's been able to accomplish in an era of -- you know, the championships, all that stuff are great. But, shoot in an era where a lot of guys don't even want to play in their own bowl game. I've got two guys next to me right here that will play in the NFL next year and will be high draft picks that were both injured, both had things going on, both could have easily come out of the game and both begging to stay in the game, even in the last couple minutes.



That's the culture we've built and guys like these two are very much responsible for that.

Proud of these guys. It hurts right now, but it won't diminish all they've been able to accomplish. Just I love this team. That's it.

Q. Lincoln, is today an example of just a bad day at Black Rock, or is it an example of how much farther you need to go to get over this hurdle you want to get over?

LINCOLN RILEY: LSU's a good team, like I said. They're a good enough team that you're going to trade blows with them no matter what. We made some uncharacteristic mistakes in the second quarter, end of the first quarter, second quarter, that we haven't made, some, all year. And you can't give a team like that any help.

Then, certainly, not having a few of the guys certainly Bookie getting ejected on the targeting was a huge, huge play in the game. And we just lost our composure there a little bit, lost our sense of focus, and it hurt us. LSU capitalized on it.

So give them credit. Certainly didn't play our best. Where that is in the big picture, I honestly don't really care.

Q. Coach, this is the second year in a row of slow starts, putting yourself behind and just having too big of a gulf to catch up. Can you put your finger on anything? Is it tenseness? Can you point to anything?

LINCOLN RILEY: This one's different. Bama last year jumped up, it was 28-0 before you could even blink. We weren't really playing good on any of the sides. I thought we kind of steadied after we hit the big play to CeeDee and then Kennedy scored the first touchdown. I thought we were going to steady there. We traded blows early. It was just that run there.

What it is, I mean, you play really good teams in this playoff. And when you don't play your best ball, good teams are going to take advantage of it. And LSU took advantage of us not playing our best ball there.

And then there were just some pivotal big third -- like

there's going to be in these games, but some pivotal third downs they made, a couple of unbelievable plays, a couple that we made a couple boneheaded plays. Several opportunities offensively that were just that far away, but in games like this, that's the margin of error.

Q. Lincoln, when Bookie got ejected, you had to go to an inexperienced player. He's a talented guy. How much did that put you in the eight-ball, knowing the injuries and things you had back there?

LINCOLN RILEY: It was challenging. Broiles is our primary replacement for Turner-Yell getting hurt and so Broiles, we had to crash-course him at safety over the last week to get him ready. All of a sudden now he's got to play nickel.

So those guys are going to continue to be good players, yeah. You'd love to have gone in with the other ones. That wasn't the hand we were dealt. They've got some good players. Was that a factor in the game? Yes. Was it a deciding factor? No.

Some of our mistakes and inability to play our very best was the deciding factor.

Q. Bob used to say, when these things got sideways sometimes, and even when they didn't, that the other team that you're playing against, a championship team in these big game settings, they're awful good, and that makes the difference. Did that happen tonight, where this thing got going sideways, partially because they were awful good, and then they kept it going that way because they were so good? In other words, the other team's talent?

LINCOLN RILEY: Oh, they're a good team, no question about it. You look at their quality wins this year. They're a good football team. Give them credit. I thought they played well and I thought we -- again, the disappointing thing is we helped them play well way too much.

I felt like if we played well, we would be able to stand in there and trade blows with them. I really did. And we did early. But when you start making mistakes, combination of that and a talented team playing well, they go on a run like they do.

Q. Neville and Jalen, I want to ask for your perspective on what LSU did that was so effective. Neville, if you could talk about what they did offensively that was effective, especially maybe even surprisingly so. Jalen, if you could say the same about LSU's defense.

NEVILLE GALLIMORE: Again, they're a solid ball club, and they're able to make plays. They took advantage of the opportunities that they had just like a good football

team should.

There was opportunities for us to kind of make plays and, you know, it didn't happen. But that's a credit to them and the work they put in. Again, you know, they've got a solid group of guys up front.

They got a QB who can make plays and is effective. It's a credit to them.

THE MODERATOR: Jalen?

JALEN HURTS: Just talk about the missed opportunities we had, leaving money on the table, going out there and taking advantage of every opportunity we have against teams like this. I mean, games like this, you've got to maximize it.

We failed to do that.

Q. Jalen, talk about what their defensive line, excellent front seven, just being able to keep you in the pocket and limit your running abilities.

JALEN HURTS: Yeah, just kind of what I said last time. They got great players, really athletic players. They're fast, they play strong. They rally to the ball.

But when you play this game, you talk about the controllables, what you can control. We didn't take advantage of our opportunities, and that's something that we can control. They play really good defense, but we were too inconsistent to come out on top of this game, and I think that's the blunt reality of it.

Q. Jalen, you talked a lot about your college football career being unprecedented. Take me through how do you hope OU fans in this program just remember your time here at Oklahoma, being here only 12 months.

JALEN HURTS: It's hard to just sit here and reflect on four years, a whole year with my brothers this year, all of that right now. It hurts me. You talk about how much it means to you and the team. It's supposed to hurt. This is not a good feeling. This is a feeling I've never felt before.

It hurts me in my heart, you know. When I decided to come to this school, I told Coach Riley, I'm going to go win you a National Championship, and I failed to do that.

Moving forward, I definitely hope -- I've already told them, I hope that you guys learn from this. I hope everybody learns from this. It hurts me the most because usually, when you come up short in something, you can come back and you can fix it. I can't come back and fix it. I'll never play college football

again.

Q. Lincoln, what were some of the things maybe you saw as the game was going on that allowed Joe Burrow to be so successful throwing against you guys?

LINCOLN RILEY: We had a hard time, obviously, corraling him back there. We're certainly not the only ones that have. They've got a good offensive line. We had a couple opportunities to get him on the ground that we didn't. They made a couple of plays and scrambled, a couple pretty good coverage, competitive plays.

Those are going to happen from time to time. The biggest disappointment to me was the busts we had defensively. That's something all year we've done a tremendous job of.

For being in year one of a system, we've had remarkably few busts throughout the year, and it's been a big key to why we've done some of the things we've been able to do defensively and made such huge strides like we have.

We gave him a few there that are probably the most disappointing. He's a good player. He's got good players around him. They made some tremendous plays. The ones I'll be most disappointed about are the ones that, like I said, we busted and just gift-wrapped for them.

Q. Including Bookie's ejection, how much -- you mentioned the guys earlier, the three missing players. How much did that actually, do you think, contribute? When you look at the final score, you're thinking wow, could three players have made that much of a difference? Ultimately, what were those three guys' impact? Them being gone, what was their impact?

LINCOLN RILEY: I don't know how you measure that. Certainly, of course, you love to go into these games with every single player healthy and every player feeling good and available and all that. Of course you'd want to, especially when you're playing another great team.

That wasn't the hand we were dealt. Honestly, that hasn't been the hand we've been dealt all year. It's been one of those years here. And despite all that, we were able to win a fifth straight Big 12 Championship, able to get back here to the College Football Playoff, and so, you know, I'll be happy to talk about the guys that did play, though.

Q. Jalen, you've played against LSU before. What's

different about this LSU team than the ones you played when you were at Alabama?

JALEN HURTS: I think the obvious difference is they're scoring 50-something points. I think they've always had a really good defense, and they have this year. They've always had great players. They have a hell of an offense. It's all a credit to how efficient they've been. A lot of respect for them.

Q. Lincoln, you said last year, after the Orange Bowl, you guys were agonizingly close as a program to winning a National Championship. You guys are back at the playoff. Obviously not the result you wanted. How close is this program to reaching that?

LINCOLN RILEY: We're continuing to make strides. There's no doubt about it. I mean, just putting yourself here four times in five years is -- I mean, that's so hard to do, man. I mean, it's so hard to do.

So I think we've made some great improvements with the program. I'm excited about where we're heading defensively. I think we've just scratched the surface about how good we can get on that side.

This program has championship DNA. We kind of find a way, and we'll be back.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, gentlemen.



Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl Quotes

Postgame Locker Room Quotes

OKLAHOMA PLAYER QUOTES

Pg. 1

Creed Humphrey, Offensive Line, 56

On if anything caught them off guard...

"No. We were prepared for everything they did."

On next man up mentality...

"You just have to play the next man up. Stuff happens. You just have to go through it. That's the nature of the game. People are going to get injured. Things happen. People have to miss games and stuff. You just have to play the next man up. We were confident in those guys."

On where things went wrong...

"I just feel like LSU executed better than we did. They did their jobs better than we did."

On frustration of another playoff loss...

"It's incredibly frustrating. All of the hard work that we've all put in this whole season starting in January."

On the ups and downs of the season...

"I'm incredibly proud of this team. They fought through a lot of hard stuff this year and did a really good job. I love everybody on this team. I wouldn't trade this team for anything."

On moving into off-season...

"We're just going to look back at it and know that we don't want to be in this position again. You're going to do whatever it takes to stay out of this position."



Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl Quotes

Postgame Locker Room Quotes

OKLAHOMA PLAYER QUOTES

Pg. 2

On Jalen Hurts...

"I'm incredibly proud of Jalen. He did a great job for us. He was a great leader for us. I'm really happy I got to be a part of his football journey. He was a part of mine. It takes a really extraordinary person to do that. He is an extraordinary person. I'm really happy that he came and spent this year with us.

Parnell Motley, Defensive Back, 11

On the game...

"They kept their foot on the pedal and we took some plays off out there. That really hurt us. At the end of the day, I got my boys. We played a great game overall, we kept fighting, but we came up too short."

On LSU's offense...

"They have a great offense. It's more than I expected. More 'live' in person, but it's nothing we haven't seen on film. We just had to make plays. They're doing simple inside fade routes and stuff like that. Stuff we've seen all year. We just had to do our job and we didn't cut it loose."

Kenneth Murray, Linebacker, 9

On Jalen Hurts...

"I think he [Jalen Hurts] was huge for us. He came in and helped us tremendously, not just as a quarterback, but like you said, as a leader. It just sucks to come up short."



Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl Quotes

Postgame Locker Room Quotes

OKLAHOMA PLAYER QUOTES

Pg. 3

On what he wants younger players to take from season...

"I think there's a lot of valuable lessons going throughout the season, as a defense, that we're able to learn from, and even on offense. I know for defense that it's time to keep climbing. We took some strides this year, but it's time to keep climbing and reach that elite status. I think it's going to take a lot, but we're headed in the right direction."

On keeping the fight...

"I just wasn't raised to stop fighting. That's what I did. That's what we did. We just didn't play well enough. I'm not going to sit in front of these cameras and make any excuses. It's extremely frustrating."

On his legacy...

"I think I've grown a lot. I've put my heart and my soul into this defense. I think that's all that matters."

On what Linebackers Coach Brian Odom [DC] means to him...

"That guy is the best coach I've ever had. He's the greatest Linebacker Coach in the country. He's family to me. He got me to become what I am today. It doesn't get any better than coach Odom. The way he coaches, the way he approaches the day-to-day. I love him to death."

CeeDee Lamb, Wide Receiver, 2

On whether the team felt prepared coming into the game...

"Yes, I feel like we were prepared. We just didn't start out how we wanted to."



Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl Quotes

Postgame Locker Room Quotes

OKLAHOMA PLAYER QUOTES

Pg. 4

On what needed to be better in today's game...

"All three phases of the ball needed to be better. They did an excellent job of executing their plays, they were just a better team."

On the pain felt following today's loss...

"It doesn't really go away honestly. You have to live with this one, I have to go to sleep with the loss. It's going to be a hard one."

On this team's remarkable season...

"Despite the loss, we had a great season with a great team. All the accomplishments, all the brotherly love that we had together in the locker room. You can't take away the friendships. All of the guys keep building bonds with everyone, and I'm grateful for the opportunity."



OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

OU POSTGAME NOTES

No. 1/1/1 LSU 63, No. 4/4/4 OKLAHOMA 28 • DEC. 28, 2019

GENERAL NOTES

- Oklahoma finished the season 12-2 for the third consecutive season. This is the ninth season in which the Sooners have won at least 12 games, all since 2000.
- The Sooners fell to 29-23-1 (.557) all-time in 53 bowl games. This was OU's first appearance in the Peach Bowl.
- Oklahoma finished with a season-low 322 total yards and 97 rushing yards. It was the first time since 2016 the Sooners have rushed for fewer than 100 yards in a game (70 vs. Houston).

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

QB JALEN HURTS

- Scored two rushing touchdowns (2 and 12 yards) to raise his season total to 20, tying Jack Mildren (1971) for the OU single season record by a quarterback.
- Set the OU single season record for rushing yards by a quarterback (1,298), surpassing the previous mark of 1,289 by Mildren in 1971.
- Completed 15 of 31 passes for 217 yards and rushed 14 times for 43 yards and two TD, totaling 260 yards of offense.
- Increased total yardage for the season to 5,149 yards, putting him second in school history only to Kyler Murray's total of 5,362 total yards last year. His 5,149 total yards also places him eighth in OU career total yardage.
- Ends the season with a 69.7 completion percentage. That figure ranks third in school history behind Baker Mayfield (70.9 in 2016 and 70.5 in 2017).
- Finishes the season with a 191.20 passing efficiency rating, which ranks fourth in OU single season history, and second in OU career history (minimum 200 attempts).
- Has accounted for 53 total touchdowns this season (20 rushing, 32 passing, 1 receiving). It is the third-most total TDs in a season by a Sooner. The only two OU QBs to account for more total touchdowns over a season are Heisman Trophy winners Sam Bradford (55 in 2008) and Kyler Murray (54 in 2018).

K GABE BRKIC

- Converted all four PATs in the game to improve to 52 for 52 this season. He ended the season a perfect 69 for 69 on combined place kicks (was 17 for 17 on field goal attempts), and is the only FBS kicker to make all of his field goal and extra-point attempts.
- The only OU kicker to ever end a season with a perfect 1.000 field goal percentage.

DB JUSTIN BROILES

- Recorded a career-high 11 tackles (six solo, five assists). His previous career high was 10 tackles at Iowa State in 2018.

RB KENNEDY BROOKS

- Scored his sixth rushing touchdown of the season on a 3-yard run in the first quarter. Finished with 10 rushes for 35 yards and a TD.

WR CEEDEE LAMB

- Lamb's 51-yard reception in the first quarter gave him 24 career catches of at least 40 yards, surpassing Ryan Broyles (2008-11) for the most in school history.
- Finished with four catches for 119 yards. It was his seventh 100-yard receiving game of the season and the 14th of his career.
- Moved into third place at OU in career receiving yards (3,292). He surpassed Mark Clayton (3,241 receiving yards from 2001-04) in the game. He trails only Ryan Broyles (4,586 yards from 2008-11) and Sterling Shepard (3,482 yards from 2012-15).
- Increased his career all-purpose yardage total to 3,799 yards, moving into 15th place in school history.

CB PARNELL MOTLEY

- Finished with six tackles (four solo, two assists) and was credited with two pass breakups and a forced fumble.
- Has a team-high five forced fumbles this season and six for his career.
- Ranks fifth in school history with 33 career pass breakups.

LB KENNETH MURRAY

- Finished with six tackles (four solo, two assists) and one tackle for loss. He leads the team with 17.0 tackles for loss this season.
- Now has 334 career tackles, which ranks 12th in school history.

DL JALEN REDMOND

- Recorded a sack, forcing a fumble, in the third quarter. He now has a team-high 6.5 sacks this season and ranks second on the team with 15.5 tackles for loss.

DB WOODI WASHINGTON

- True freshman recorded a career-high 10 tackles (three solo, seven assists).



Coach Orgeron, LSU

On-Field Quote

“What a tremendous job by everybody. One team, one heartbeat. Everybody in our organization. We got tremendous play by Joe Burrow and have a great coaching staff. Just getting there (New Orleans) is not our final destination. We’re looking to win it. I think our guys didn’t skip a beat. We had two great weeks of practice and a great game plan had a great game plan. It’s also about the offensive line and protection.”

Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl: LSU vs Oklahoma

Saturday, December 28, 2019

Ed Orgeron

Justin Jefferson

Joe Burrow

LSU Tigers

LSU - 63, Oklahoma - 28

THE MODERATOR: Coach, feel free to give us an opening comment and we'll go into Q and A.

ED ORGERON: I'd like to thank the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl for giving us an outstanding week. Giving us our time to prepare, giving us great facilities, great food, made us feel at home, great hospitality. But also in the sense it's a playoff game and they gave us all the time we needed to prepare. I'd thank to thank our football team for working so hard.

Also, Coach Ensminger. There was a tragedy that happened in Coach Ensminger's family today. I was the one that had to tell coach. I told him what happened, and here's what he said: Coach, we're going to get through this.

And, obviously, he was distraught, but he called a great game today. So just goes to show you the integrity and the grit and character of the men on our football team.

Proud of these two young men on the side of me. They're great players, great teammates. What a tremendous job. I thought we played -- for about three quarters, we played a complete game.

Give Oklahoma credit. They have great athletes. Coach Riley is great coach, and they've had a lot of success.

Q. Joe, describe kind of what you were thinking when you did the scramble and you kind of made the heave to Terrace Marshall and it was seemingly really similar to what you did here three weeks ago.

JOE BURROW: I trust my guys. I trust them enough to throw 50/50 balls up to them and they're going to be able to make a play for me. I've got great people around me, and that's why we've been so successful. We have trust in each other.

Q. Earlier in the week, you said you were able to



identify the defenses very quick. How quickly did you realize that what you guys have prepared for this game was going to be successful?

JOE BURROW: First series when we scored a touchdown. We go into every game thinking nobody can stop us. That's the way we think. We think we need to score every time we touch the ball. If we don't, then we're still kind of chasing that perfect game. It's always something to get better at, and today was a lot of fun, but still room to improve.

Q. Joe and Justin, you guys both set a lot of records today. Are you aware of them? Do any of them mean any more than others? They handed us a whole sheet of all the records you all set today.

JOE BURROW: January 13 is the record we're worried about.

THE MODERATOR: Justin?

JUSTIN JEFFERSON: Same.

(Laughter.)

JUSTIN JEFFERSON: That's the goal of the whole season, to win that National Championship. So we're not going to stop until we get that.

Q. Look, Ed, I know it was obviously a rough day for Steve. For you personally, dealing with this, how difficult would you describe it for you? Who knows how to handle something like that?

ED ORGERON: You know, being a head coach, stuff's going to happen. You don't know what is going to happen. You've got to be prepared. But you got great people around you, it makes it a lot better.

It was tough. It was tough. I didn't want the team to know. I didn't want it to affect the team, the mindset of the football team, the energy of the football team. Neither did Steve. We tried to keep it from them. I think they found out before the game. There was a little concern they might be a little low, but it sure wasn't the way we started. Give credit to your football players.

Q. Full disclosure, early on the radio today, I said you would win 28-16. So mea culpa for that. But this is for all three of you. Put this game and the season in perspective for you.

ED ORGERON: Go ahead, Joe.

JOE BURROW: I think that will be a question after January 13th. I'm not reflecting on anything right now. We're full steam ahead, getting back to work.

JUSTIN JEFFERSON: I mean, we're not done. We still have a lot of -- we have one more game left. We're going to go in these next two weeks focused, ready to go, and, I mean, dominate the next matchup that we face.

ED ORGERON: I'll give them some credit, but I'm going to enjoy the win tonight. Semifinal playoff game against a darn good football team. I don't know how many top ten wins these guys have had this year. I think it's more than anybody in a long time. So I'm going to enjoy this victory. Oklahoma is a good football team.

Then we're going to go through the process where we've got a couple days off, and we'll watch the game tonight and see who we're playing, then we'll start preparing.

Q. Two-part question. Coach, first of all, was it a difficult decision at all for Coach Ensminger to decide to work tonight?

ED ORGERON: There was no question. He didn't hesitate.

Q. And as far as the players, when did you guys find out about this, and how did it affect you?

JOE BURROW: I found out about it in the post-game interview. I didn't -- nobody said anything to me about it until then.

JUSTIN JEFFERSON: Same. I found out in the interview. Just the fact that he still stuck with the game and still called a great game, so that just means a lot for the players. I feel bad for him. I'm sorry for his loss. But, I mean, we're all with him.

Q. Joe, Ja'Marr had a lot of headlines this year, and deservedly so. He's had a fantastic season. Justin has been your guy for two years. Can you talk about this performance for him and what you think it means for the team?

JOE BURROW: I think he'll be the first to tell you that he could have had two more touchdowns, but I missed him down the sideline and on the right one. He made sure to let me know that one on the sideline.

Q. Coach Orgeron, what was it about Chris Curry that enabled him to play such a big role tonight?

ED ORGERON: The style of runs that we're running, his practice the last two weeks. Coaches came up to

me today and said Coach, we think Chris Curry ought to be the first back. Y'all believe him in, put him in. He played well.

He's proved -- Chris has come a long way and he's proved on a daily basis to his teammates and his coaches he's worthy of the game he played tonight. I'm excited about him. I'm excited about the other backs too. I'm really proud of Clyde. Clyde was hurt, but he wanted to play for the team. He played in some situations and did a good job.

Q. Ed, can you update Damien Lewis and Terrace Marshall, who left the game?

ED ORGERON: Yeah, Damien, somebody hit his ankle on the side, and he's going to be out for a little bit. I don't know the severity of it yet.

Terrace, I think, is going to be sore for a little bit, should be fine. DeVo is the one I don't know if he'll be able to practice in a week or so, we'll see.

Q. You always make a point to say this is for the state of Louisiana in your post-game press conferences. Now you're going to the National Championship game in the state of Louisiana. What does it mean to you?

ED ORGERON: Great story. Obviously, it's going to be a great day, going to be a purple and gold crowd in that Superdome. The state of Louisiana is going to be on fire.

But all those things doesn't win the football game for you. We have to prepare. We have to study. We have to be ready to play our best football game. Obviously, when you're playing in a National Championship game, you're going to be playing a very, very good football team. All those things on the perimeter are nice. Just like in a fight, when you get hit with the first punch, all that stuff goes out the window and you've got to play football.

So we're going to prepare, whoever it may be. Obviously, we feel it's going to be an advantage playing at home and we love that it is at home. But that's not going to win the game for you.

Q. Joe, you had that huge lead going into the second half. I'm just wondering, what did that do to you? Did you kind of take your foot off the gas or something? You still did well, but nothing like the first half.

JOE BURROW: No. We didn't take the foot off the gas. We went in at halftime, said it was 0-0, came out and scored on the first possession, then missed a field goal the second possession. So we were moving the ball. And I think those are my last two series, I believe.

Q. Did LSU adjust?

JOE BURROW: They were doing exactly what they were doing in the first half. We were still moving the ball, still scoring points.

Q. Joe and Justin, when the game plan is clicking like that, what's going through your mind? Anxious to get back on the field? What are you thinking when it seems like everything is working?

JOE BURROW: Yeah, let's get back out there on the field and keep executing. I'm just thinking about my read keys and what I have to do each individual play. So I'm hoping that -- obviously, I'm hoping the defense gets stops every time.

But every game, just going through read keys, going through what my coaches want on each particular play call and try to execute to the best of my ability.

Q. Congratulations, gentlemen. Coach, when and how did you learn about the plane accident, and how do you process that information to be able to disseminate that to Coach Ensminger?

ED ORGERON: It's funny, Derek Ponomsky and I -- we have a coaches' meeting at 12:30. We had finished walk-through at 11:30 so I was trying to write down things, the game plan we were going to discuss.

I looked at Derek, and I said Derek, you know what? Thank God we've gone through the whole week without any incidents. Usually, you go to a bowl, something happens. None of our guys were tested or suspended for anything. Nobody missed curfew. Almost a perfect week.

Then he got the text. And I had to go find Steve, and I told him. About 12:30.

Q. Coach, it's now 55 touchdown passes for Joe for the season. You're a student of the game. Do you think that anybody in college football has ever had a better year than Joe is having right now?

ED ORGERON: No. Not that I can remember. They had some guys running the football and stuff like that. But to see what those guys are doing out on the field, and me being a football fan, I'm kind of a fan. I'm like hey, go ahead, guys. Way to go, man. It's incredible what this coaching staff has done, what these players have done, the connection that they have with the receivers, the protection on the offensive line.

I've been a part of some good football teams, but I've never been part of an offense like this.

Q. Ed, it's another Joe question. You've seen an awful lot from him this year. I don't know where you

put seven touchdowns in a half. How do you process something like that?

ED ORGERON: I felt that we were going to do very, very well. And I felt, against Oklahoma, in order for us to get ahead, we had to score every possession. I had the utmost respect for Jalen Hurts and CeeDee Lamb, not to think that we wasn't going to stop them, but I thought we had to get the pedal to the metal and get a big lead, which we did.

So it doesn't surprise me they did the things they did. But it does surprise me they did it with the ease that they did.

Q. Justin and Joe. Justin, what is it like to be part of the receiving corps and have the success and have a guy who can get you the ball the way Joe does.

Joe, you have options, you're able to go to plans down the line. To get everyone involved, to have the level of success you have executing, do you ever think it's unusual?

JUSTIN JEFFERSON: To have this receiving corps and have Joe throwing it to us kind of makes our job easier. All we have to do is catch the ball. Going and practicing every day, working with each other, being competitive, just being our normal self, just being goofy, just laughing all practice. That's what we do. So just not being really, you know, so serious all the time. Just being our self and Joe just makes our job easier.

JOE BURROW: I think it's nice to have a couple goofy guys when I'm so serious all the time. So they keep me having fun on the football field. I wouldn't say it's unusual. I would say it's special. We've worked for this. We know the kind of team we have. We know the kind of guys we have, and I think it starts with the relationships that we've built between us and the coaching staff. We're such a close team, I think that's why we've had so much success.

Q. Justin, Thad told us that he came up to you after the fourth touchdown and said hey, share the wealth. What's the like playing in a game where you guys are having that much fun on the sideline?

JUSTIN JEFFERSON: When someone's hot, why not keep going to them. So Joe just kept finding me on the field, just making those big plays. Just like Coach said, on the big plays, feel the emotion. So just going out there, doing what I got to do.

Q. Ed, you've been a part of National Championship teams. This is the first for you as a head coach. Has that fact sunk in yet for you? How do you approach the next weeks, now that the moment is finally here?

ED ORGERON: It won't be any different. It will not be any different. We won't make it bigger than life. Obviously, we understand the magnitude of the football game, but we're going to focus on the task at hand, the fundamentals, get better. We have an excellent football team. We're going to study our game plan, and we're going to work like we've been and go through the process with confidence.

Q. Coach Orgeron, did you know Carley at all? Did you ever interact with her?
ED ORGERON: Sure.

Q. What are your memories?

ED ORGERON: All the time. Knew her. We'd go to McNeese games. She interviewed me and Kelly. Saw her all the time. Saw her at the state championship game. In fact, I can't go to the state championship game. We watched it, and we watched her work from early morning until late at night. Me and my wife complimented her and obviously we're friends with the Ensmingers. We saw her around all the time. An outstanding young lady with a bright future. It's a shame it happened.

Q. Ed, with an offensive day like that, it's obviously going to get a lot of attention. You mentioned the defense getting stops to build a lead. Three of the first four possessions were three and out. What worked so well, also with K'Lavon, the MVP.

ED ORGERON: We had pressure on the quarterback. We felt we could win the one on ones with them. We stopped the run game. Coach Aranda had a tremendous game plan. The counter read, I haven't seen anybody stop it. The key was Jalen Hurts not beating us with his feet. We did a great job with that.

We thought CeeDee Lamb would be hard to cover but we didn't think he would drop back and throw the football on us to beat us. Coach made them one-dimensional. We had a great pass rush. Very proud of Coach Aranda and the whole defensive staff. They worked very hard this week.

Q. (No microphone)

ED ORGERON: No, I think K'Lavon had one of his best games. K'Lavon had his best week of practice. We named him team captain. I told him that last night, and he's coming on to his own.

Q. Talking about the defense, first play of the game, y'all go get a sack on Jalen. How much did that set the tone for LSU?

ED ORGERON: When you have an offense like we have, and you win the toss, human nature wants you to take the ball. But I want to show our defense I had confidence in them, and we deferred, and then it

worked out perfect.

They came out on fire. They wanted to go out on defense first and stop them. Went three and out, they had a short punt and we scored. I think it set the tone for the football game.

Q. Joe, you had a performance tonight that very few have. What is it like to be in that kind of a rhythm?

JOE BURROW: To be honest, it wasn't my sharpest game. This guy was bailing me out on a couple throws that I had missed. Guys like Terrace and Ja'Marr were bailing me out on misreads and being late with the football. I'm excited to get back to practice and tune those things up. That's the kind of team we have.

Someone doesn't have their best game, the other guys step up.

Q. Joe, you were saying that you were still in search of the perfect game. In the late game right now, Ohio State has an early lead. Would that be a perfect ending for your college career?

JOE BURROW: I'm excited to play in the national title game.

THE MODERATOR: I think that's a good spot to end it, gentlemen. Thank you very much.



Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl Quotes

Postgame Locker Room Quotes

LSU PLAYER QUOTES

Pg. 1

Terrace Marshall Jr., Wide Receiver, 6

On anticipating the wide margin of victory...

"I knew my teammates would go out there and dominate them in the first half. We would just do what we had to do."

On when [Marshall] knew this would be a blowout...

"From the start. Every one of my teammates and I, everyone in the building, had it on their mind."

On playing for the National Championship in New Orleans...

"It feels great to be able to go back to your home state, your home crowd, and play for a title."

Thaddeus Moss, Tight End, 81

On Justin Jefferson's performance...

"I'm just so happy for him. I know that these last few weeks Ja'Marr [Chase] has been in the limelight. Justin [Jefferson] was the man the first half of the season. I'm so happy he was able to go out there and break records for the Peach Bowl. He had four touchdowns in the first half. It's funny, I told him 'Hey, can you spread some of the wealth?' and on the next drive I scored."

On playing for a National Championship...

"We've been talking about this national championship for the whole offseason. We've been taking it week-by-week and now it's finally here. But we're going to approach that game like we've approached every game this season. We're going to enjoy this win, get in, watch the film and make corrections."



Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl Quotes

Postgame Locker Room Quotes

LSU PLAYER QUOTES

Pg. 2

On Coach Steve Ensminger's ability to fight adversity and coach the game...

"It says a lot about [Coach Ensminger]. It shows how much he cares about the team. How much he cares about us. He was talking to Coach [Orgeron] and the first thing he said is 'We're going to get through this'."

Lloyd Cushenberry III, Offensive Line, 79

On tonight's win...

"We're not satisfied. We've got one more to go."

On the team's overall performance this evening...

"I guess that you could say the message is that we're going to come out and do what we do. We know what kind of talent we have and what kind of points we can put up."

On reacting after hearing the news of the tragedy about the death of Coach Steve Ensminger's daughter-in-law...

"I know it's a tough time for him and his family, but he still competed. It shows what type of guy he is and the love he has for us."



Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl Quotes

Postgame Locker Room Quotes

LSU PLAYER QUOTES

Pg. 3

Breiden Fehoko, Defensive Lineman, 91

On not getting ahead of themselves...

"We just didn't want to talk about it and look too far ahead. That's the great thing about our coaching staff. Nobody gets too far ahead of themselves. We focused on the job at hand."

On [Fehoko's] bowl experience...

"It's crazy. My first year, I was playing in the Texas Bowl. My second year, I didn't make the bowl game. Third, I was redshirting and didn't get to travel to the Citrus Bowl. My last year, I'm playing for a National Championship. God works in mysterious ways and I couldn't be any more grateful."

LSU FOOTBALL POSTGAME NOTES

#1 LSU vs. #4 Oklahoma, Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl

December 28, 2019 - Mercedes Benz Stadium (Atlanta, Georgia)

1. The LSU Captains were WR **Justin Jefferson**, C **Lloyd Cushenberry**, TE **Thaddeus Moss**, DL **Rashard Lawrence**
2. LSU won the coin toss and deferred to the second half. Oklahoma received the opening kick and LSU defended the east end zone in the first quarter.
3. LSU is now 1-0 in College Football Playoff games since the CFP's birth in 2014
 - a. With the win, LSU earned a spot in the College Football Playoff National Championship for the first time since the birth of the CFP in 2014
4. LSU improved to 14-0 for the first time in school history.
 - a. The Tigers have won 15 consecutive games dating back to last season
 - i. It is the third longest active winning-streak in the nation behind Clemson (28) and Ohio State (19)
5. Saturday marked LSU's 51st Bowl Appearance. The Tigers are 27-23-1 all-time in bowl games
6. LSU continued its success in the Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl, improving to 6-1 at the game
 - a. LSU has won the Chick-Fil-A Peach bowl in 1968 vs. Florida State, 1996 vs. Clemson, 2000 vs Georgia Tech, 2005 vs. Miami and 2008 vs. Georgia Tech
7. The Tigers are 5-0 this season in games against Top-10 teams
 - a. LSU has won 10 of its last 11 games against Top-10 teams, including seven in a row
 - b. LSU's six games against Top-10 opponents in 2019 is the most in school history
8. LSU improved to 2-1 all-time against Oklahoma
 - a. The last time LSU and Oklahoma faced each other was in the 2004 BCS National Championship
 - b. Saturday marked LSU's 10th consecutive win against non-conference foes
9. In 41st overall appearance in a domed stadium, LSU advanced to 32-8 all-time
 - a. LSU also played in Mercedes Benz Stadium earlier this month in a 37-10 victory over then #4 Georgia in the SEC Championship
10. In games played as the #1 team in either the AP Poll, Coaches Poll or both, LSU is 30-4
11. National Coach of the Year Ed Orgeron improved to 39-9 as LSU's head coach
 - a. Under Coach O, LSU has won 30 games by double-figures
 - b. Saturday marked Coach O's 10th victory against a Top-10 opponent and 16th against teams ranked in the Top-25
 - c. When LSU has scored at least 20 points under Orgeron, the Tigers are 37-2
12. Counting Saturday, LSU has only trailed 4 times all season
 - a. The Tigers have gone 25 consecutive quarters without trailing in a game
 - i. The last time LSU trailed in a game was in the third quarter against Auburn on October 26
 - b. LSU hasn't trailed in the fourth quarter all season
13. With 63 points, LSU extended its record for points in a season to 684
 - a. LSU's 63 points in the game set College Football Playoff and New Year's Six Games Records
 - b. The Tigers have scored 40+ points a school record 11 times this season
 - c. LSU has scored points in 53-56 quarters this season
14. RB Chris Curry made his first career start
15. FB **Tory Carter** sat out in the first half for LSU after being called for targeting in the SEC Championship
16. LSU is the first college football team of all-time to feature a 5,000-yard passer (Joe Burrow), 1,000-yard rusher (Clyde Edwards-Helaire) and two 1,000-yard receivers (Ja'Marr Chase and Justin Jefferson)

Offense

1. QB **Joe Burrow** finished the day going 28-39 for 493 yards and seven touchdowns. He also ran the ball five times for 22 yards and a touchdown
 - a. Burrow's seven first half touchdown passes tied a NCAA FBS record with four others, most recently Bryan Moniz from Hawaii against UC Davis in 2011
 - b. Burrow now has 71 career touchdown passes breaking Tommy Hodson's LSU career record of 69. Hodson played for LSU from 1986-89.
 - c. Burrow's 493 yards set a record in the College Football Playoff
 - d. He is the first player in FBS history to be responsible for 8 touchdowns in a bowl game
 - e. His seven passing touchdowns in a game ties an SEC Record, most recently set by Drew Lock of Missouri in 2017 against Missouri State
 - f. Burrow became the first quarterback from the SEC to pass for 5,000 yards and 50 touchdowns in the same season. No other SEC quarterback has ever passed for 4,000 yards and 40 touchdowns in a season.
 - i. The Heisman winner now has 5,208 yards on the season and 55 touchdowns, both SEC records
 - ii. Burrow is just the 17th player in NCAA history to pass for 5,000 yards in a season
 1. Only four other quarterbacks have passed for 5,000 yards and 50 TDs in the same season; BJ Simmons (Texas Tech, 2003), Colt Brennan (Hawaii, 2006), Dave Klinger (Houston 1990), Derek Carr (Fresno State, 2013)
 - g. Burrow continued to hold pace for the NCAA record for completion percentage, improving to 371-478 on the season for a staggering 77.6-percent
 - h. Burrow recorded his 17th straight game with 20+ completions, extending his LSU record
 - i. Burrow recorded his 12th 300-yard passing game this season
2. WR **Justin Jefferson** recorded 14 catches for 227 yards and four touchdowns
 - a. His four touchdown catches are the most in the Peach Bowl, New Year's Six and in a CFP Semi-Finals
 - b. Jefferson has 18 touchdown receptions this year. He is now tied with Ja'Marr Chase for the team lead this year and the LSU all-time record for touchdowns in a season.
 - i. Jefferson and Chase are tied for the SEC touchdown receptions records with Florida's Reidel Anthony who had 18 in 1996
 - c. Four touchdown receptions tie the record for all bowl games.
 - d. His 227 yards set a Peach Bowl, New Year's Six and College Football Playoff records and are the sixth most in LSU history
 - e. Jefferson's 14 receptions are tied for the second most in LSU history
 - i. Josh Reed had 14 vs. Illinois in 2001 and Wendell Davis had 14 vs. Ole Miss in 1986
 - f. Jefferson surpassed 100 catches on the season, becoming the third receiver in SEC history with 100 catches (Amari Cooper, Alabama, 124 in 2014 and Jordan Matthews, Vanderbilt 112 in 2013)
3. TE **Thaddeus Moss** had four catches for 99 yards and a touchdown
 - a. Moss, already holding the LSU record for receptions by a tight end in a season, set the LSU record for receiving yards by a tight end in a season
 - i. The record was previously held by David LaFleur who had 439 receiving yards in 1996
 - b. Moss set the record for longest reception by a tight end (since 1958) in the second quarter when he had a 62-yard touchdown pass from Burrow

Defense

1. LB **Jacob Phillips** and LB Patrick Queen led LSU with 8 tackles a piece.

- ## Special Teams

- ## Special Teams