



2014 @MIAMIHURRICANES FOOTBALL

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GAME 3 - POSTGAME QUOTES

AI Golden

Arkansas State – Sept. 13, 2014

On the explosiveness of the offense...

"It was good to see. I think Brad [Kaaya] obviously benefited from this week of practice. I thought his timing was better, his rhythm was better, I thought our precision on the routes was better. Obviously we gave him enough time to throw."

On if the longer week of practice helped quarterback Brad Kaaya...

"No question. We had four days where we threw, and I think he benefited from it greatly and obviously I think the receivers did a nice job too. We were very precise all week."

On where he saw the most improvements...

"I thought we mixed it up well. We were aggressive on first down, and that's coming with Brad [Kaaya]. Brad hits the quick out that Phillip [Dorsett] ends up taking. That's all him. The other check that we ended up scoring on, the run, [it was] the same thing there. That was all him on the line of scrimmage. I think he felt more comfortable, I think he executed well, but we played better around him in this game."

On the way wide receiver Phillip Dorsett is playing...

"I think the biggest difference in Phillip Dorsett right now is his overall game. He's in and out of breaks better, he's catching in-cuts. He's always been fast, but he's a lot more quick and his lateral agility is good right now. He worked really hard this week. I told him before the game I thought he was going to have a big one. No one could have seen that big, but that's the way he's practicing right now. Good for him."

On how much it means to see Phillip Dorsett excelling after injuries in 2013...

"That's fun to see. That was difficult last year, because really for the last three games – Virginia, Pitt and the bowl game - he tried to go. He tried to be in there. That was torturous for him because he couldn't go. He comes out this summer and had an unbelievable summer. He's practicing really well right now, he has great stamina, we're happy for him. He's catching the ball really well."

On the challenge of facing an up-tempo offense like Arkansas State...

"It was exactly what we thought it was. I just told the team that. What makes Arkansas State good is they execute. I thought they executed really well, but I thought we made some really big plays on defense. I thought we were tight in the redzone, I didn't know what it ended up being, but obviously we were pretty good on money downs against them – it looks like 10-of-24 on third and fourth down. And then we had two redzone stops which was big."

"I don't know all the stats...but too many plays [allowed], we need to convert more on offense, get off the field little better on defense. That's a team that executes at a high level, and we were able to keep them to 329 on 89 plays. I can't do that math, but that's pretty good."

On his feelings regarding the team's focus on the Red Wolves and not next week against Nebraska...

"We've been trying to make it 12 one-game missions, and I think they did that. I don't think we let anything on the outside creep in. I thought they were focused all week. I got a real good feeling all week by just how we practiced. No interruptions, good focus, and everybody concentrating on what we need to get done. They came out here and executed today."

On watching different players stepping up on defense every week...

"It's good. I think you look out there today, I thought we were physical. There's always going to be stuff that you clean up, but that's a triple champion in their conference and a lot of guys that have won a lot of games over there. We told them exactly what they were going to be, and they were that. You could see it early on. I thought Arkansas State played fast, executed really well, and their quarterback made plays. Their quarterback made some plays where you're [saying], 'I can't believe he just did that,' and a lot of them moved the sticks. But it was really good - I thought we played physical, I thought our safeties were physical and active, and obviously we had some guys come through pretty big for us."

On what the performance says about the maturity of the team...

"I hope we're more mature. I think we're growing. I thought we got better this week. We're not a finished product, not where we want to be yet, but I thought we got better. I thought it showed out here today. If we were looking ahead and weren't focused, we wouldn't have thrown it around the way we did...even the second and third efforts we got from the running backs were excellent, in addition to what we saw on defense."



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GAME 3 - POSTGAME QUOTES

Duke Johnson, Miami RB

On Brad Kaaya:

"I can say that Brad grew. The offense grew as a whole. That is something that we wanted to do. Coming from the first two weeks and making sure we really protect him and get a chance to throw the ball."

On Phillip Dorsett's big game:

"I can say he deserved it. His work ethic is second to none. He is the first guy in and last guy to leave. During the summer, he worked very hard on catching the ball, finishing after he catches it and on his routes. I expected him to have one of these days, just didn't know it was going to be today, but I am glad it was."

On passing Willis McGahee on Miami's All-Time Rushing List:

"I wasn't really thinking about it. Just to think of the guys that played before me and the guys that made everything possible for me now. It is amazing just to be in the same name as these guys."

On how big this win is for the young players, including Brad Kaaya:

"It is a very big confidence boost for Brad. Brad's first two games were kinda shaky. As a freshman, that is going to come with the territory. Being a freshman coming in, with this game, we wanted to see him and the team and the offense move forward from the last two weeks."

On what Brad Kaaya's performance means for the team heading into Nebraska week:

"Oh it's very comfortable, just knowing he knows his reads and he knows when it gets tough. The main thing I say about Brad is that he is a tough kid. He takes a lot of shots and he doesn't complain. He doesn't come to the sidelines and say anything. He just goes out there on the next drive and makes things happen."

On the fact that now teams have to prepare for the deep ball:

"It should help a lot, just because you have to respect the guys that line up out wide, especially Phillip Dorsett. With Brad making the throws and the offensive line protecting him, that is just something you have to look out for."

Phillip Dorsett, Miami WR

On the 201-yard performance today:

"It's a lot more comfortable, I just have got to keep working harder in practice like I have been and keep doing the little things right and keep my faith in God and hopefully things can get better from now on."

On getting a big play early in the game:

"When my number is called, just execute that what I work on. I know what plays are coming to me and I work on those plays a lot in practice."

On how fun it is opening up the offense with the deep ball:

"It's a lot of fun. I mean deep balls, I mean big deep balls are a lot of fun but we have got to do all of the little things right. We played well offensively, but I feel like we can play a little better so we have got to take the momentum and bring it into Nebraska next week."

On team improvement since the opener:

"I would say it comes with the offense. I feel like we came together today and we had a good game. The defense has been playing their butt off again, and I take my hat off to them."

On how long it took to get timing down with Brad Kaaya:

"I feel like we have always had this timing down. We hadn't really opened the playbook up like we did today. I know he was a great quarterback. I knew he was going to be able to get the ball down the field. He has a great arm and great accuracy but I wasn't really worried about the timing because I knew that was going to be there."



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Brad Kaaya, Miami QB

On his feelings on getting that first touchdown:

"It's just awesome to start the game off with a deep, 60-yard touchdown. That's always feels good. That's a ride."

On feeling more confident in the upcoming Nebraska Game:

"We already played a big away game (Louisville). With Nebraska, it is a bigger stadium and bigger crowd. Experiencing (Louisville), that first week, will help me and others on this team as well."

On Dorsett's performance:

"I feel like we have an awesome player. I think he's one of the fastest players in college football. With his speed, I don't see how anyone could cover him on a post-run or a go route. I could throw it as hard as I possibly can and I probably couldn't overthrow him."

On his performance tonight and remaining calm during games:

"It feels good. We got the win. I'm not a big emotion guy. I can't be as a quarterback. I have got to stay calm at all times. A game can go good like today or it can go south too in a hurry. You always have to be emotionless in it."

Denzel Perryman, Miami LB

On Brad Kaaya:

"From camp up until now, his confidence has shown."

On how amped up the defense was heading into the game:

"We were very amped for the game. It was real physical. I kind of hurt myself out there, but going into next week we are going to get iced up, watch film, and get prepared."

On Nebraska:

"I'm real excited to go into the Red Sea and see all the fans with the corns on their heads."

On the loudness of Nebraska's stadium:

"That's fine. That's why we communicate and signal."

On the physical nature of the game one after another guys were just laying each other out:

"One of the guys on the sideline said that he felt like we were playing like the old U, like he was watching a highlight tape out there. Guys were out there flying around hitting one after another."

Deon Bush, Miami DB

On how the team performed:

"We played a pretty good team and we came out with the W. We have a lot of plays that we have to capitalize on, and a lot of little errors. I think we played well as a unit."

How good that sack felt

"It felt good it was a joint effort by the defensive line running an incredible stunt and I came free on the play; it was just a good call by Coach D'Onofrio and I executed."

On how the defense has performed in the first few games:

"We're just improving each week. We're trusting the staff and they're doing a great job by putting us in the right position to make plays. We're just executing good. We just got to keep preparing for the next week."

On if the defense needed more time because of the quick scoring drives from the offense:

"It is better than a 3-and-out. Getting touchdowns early from quick passes, with the more points we put on the board, the better we support the offense. It is kind of tiring playing against a fast-paced offense, but at the end of the day, it feels good getting the points on the board."

It was obviously a lot of aggressiveness out there today was that kind of a point of contention, coming out being aggressive?

"That's what we try to pride ourselves on as a defense being the aggressor and being a tough defense and that's just a standard we have."