

RV/RV MIAMI (4-1, 3-0 ACC) 44, NR/NR NC STATE (3-2, 0-1 ACC) 37

SUN LIFE STADIUM • MIAMI GARDENS, FLA.

SEPT. 29, 2012 • ATTENDANCE: 38,510

MIAMI COACH AL GOLDEN QUOTES

On the outcome of the game

I've accepted a long time ago that's who we are this year. We're going to have a no excuses mentality. We're not going to listen to anyone say we're too young to do this. We're not dominant in any one phase yet, it's just survive and advance. We're staying together, which is important.

On taking the next step, every game

That's all we've talked about. We told them to pay attention to detail, which is in the end going to trump complacency. I thought we had good focus. We started fast. We threw an interception on the two, missed two field goals, having a tennis ball to you and hit it in the stands. We stayed together. But again I think that's a good team over there. They're all tough in the ACC. I'm proud of our guys that they just stayed in it.

On the progression of the passing offense

Stephen is throwing it better, giving his teammates a better chance to run underneath it. Phillip is getting behind him. Rashawn's done a nice job early. DJ, all those guys. The bottom line is we're protecting better than we were early in the year, and Stephen is stepping up and throwing. He's using his feet right now, He's using his feet, staying alive and having vision down the field.

On the 4th quarter late game situation

We wanted to score. I think we were around the 40 with two timeouts. I know we didn't get any yards on second down, we used a timeout there. Clearly when we use a timeout there, we want to win it now. I know both teams were really tired. We had a lot of guys cramping up, and so did they.

On responding to adversity

I'm real proud of them. Whether it's to be down by 17 last week or be down by 14 or to have them come back roaring and tie it up, you have to be mentally tough. You have to have unity and you have to be in condition to respond and I think our team did. Again those three elements, I don't think you win any three and we got all three. Clearly we have another big one coming up.

On not being able to capitalize on turnovers

There's no question we have to capitalize better when we get those opportunities. We're not a perfect team. We're not. That's a veteran team over there with eight starters on one side, seven on the other coming back. I think we have nine first-time starters on offense. We're not going to be a perfect team. If we can just get past that, and keep competing, and scratching and clawing and staying together, we'll have a chance to continue to win.

Is it difficult to accept the resilient and fighting mentality?

It is, absolutely. Every play we're not perfect. We're not positioned right. If you have a veteran team, you're eliminating a lot of those plays. To give up a bomb when you go up 10 with six or seven minutes left in the game, that's not good football. We don't point the finger and we don't give up. We just have to keep continuing to improve. We played a tough schedule to this point. At the end of the day, we're 4-1. We'll try to get them to heal up, regroup, and continue to improve. I think we're improving as of right now.

On Stephen's maturity

I think he trusts his receivers right now. The offensive line is protecting well, as are the backs. I think the biggest difference is that Stephen is staying alive, keeping his feet going and throwing the ball well.

On the play of the defense

We have to be that type of team on defense right now. We have to be opportunistic. It's unlike us not to be able to convert. Jake, too. It's important for him to let this one go. That's not Jake Wieclaw, I promise you. We have to get that operation back, go to work on it, and make sure he feels comfortable about it. You never know about how those things impact a kicker. Dalton was out all week, and he's the holder. Maybe we weren't as sharp as we needed to be. I have to look at that to see if I should have made a change there.

On Dalton Botts health and play in the game

He told me he felt great in pregame. He did not practice at all. Kicked a little bit on Thursday afternoon, but wasn't even close on Tuesday. He got six treatments a day. The training staff did a great job. For him to tell me today he felt great, I'm happy for him. It wasn't his best, but you need a veteran like him. He and Jake will bounce back next week.

On Stephen and the receivers' individual statistical performances

I just look at the wins. Wins and losses. We have a long way to go. We left a lot of points on the field on offense today. We'll look back and get that cleaned up. Obviously we missed a couple field goals, but no I don't really look at that. Are we executing, and did we win?

Receivers performance against the cornerbacks

They look like they did well. I thought we had a good scheme. I thought Jedd called a really good game, and got us downfield. I thought we protected well. What can you say about Stephen? He's growing up before our eyes.

On Phillip Dorsett

It's hard to find anyone that works harder than Dorsett. He's as starter on punt return and kick return. He's not selfish, not trying to tap out on those. He had the winning block last week against Georgia Tech. He takes care of business in the classroom and off the field. What can you say about him? It's a blessing for us to have him, we're thankful to have him.

On the game plan in the last minute in the fourth

I told Jedd we have two time outs, and we need the 32-yard line. I would have gone right back to Jake but we ended up with a big play.

On playing Notre Dame next weekend

For our guys, it has to be business as usual. I just want to see us improve, take care of business every day. Trust the process. We have to get healed up. This will be our fourth road game in six weeks. We have to get healed up and healthy, and get ready for a great team in Chicago.

Where would you place the ability to bounce back from adversity?

We have incredible human beings on the team. Stephen Morris, Brandon McGee, Linder, Mike James, Allen Hurns. The leadership they're providing when things aren't going well. It went all the way back to June that they made a commitment - they weren't going to do what we did a year ago and that would be not being in the proper condition that you need to be in to win these games. The proof is in the pudding. When they came back on August 4th or 5th or whatever it was, they all made the conditioning test. They work on their unity constantly.

MIAMI PLAYER QUOTES

Dalton Botts

What were you thinking when they called for that fake?

I was ready for it. It presented an opportunity for us, so Jake and I were both ready. I could have pitched it but I was lucky enough to get the first down.

You had an option to pitch it?

Yes.

So when you told him that you were good to go today did he mention he would use you for a trick play or something?

No. When I told him I was good to go, he said "ok" and the defense was lined up in a certain formation, he called the play and we were ready to go.

Was it called because you thought NC State wasn't expecting it because of your injury?

It could be. Jake and I are pretty tight. We're pretty close. We work together all the time, so we have a bond, I trust him and he trusts me.

Last time you ran the ball during a game?

Oh gosh, like two years ago in junior college.

Did you realize you carried a guy for 4,5 yards?

No, I just remember getting hit and was like, "I can't go down. I have to get the first down."

How does your ankle feel?

It's good.

Did you talk to Jake after his tough game?

He's fine, everyone has a bad day and no one's perfect, but good thing where his teammate, he was down and we picked him back up.

Do you think on Tuesday that if we would have talked to you, you would have said you're able to go?

Yes, I was confident I was going to go. I was in the rehab room six hours a day. If I wasn't in class, I was there.

Allen Hurns

You guys are so mature this year winning close games, you didn't do that at all last year what's the secret?

I think it's more unity. We never get too down on ourselves when we get down or when things get tough, we come together.

How was that unity formed?

During the offseason we kept pushing each other more and we hung out with each other more.

The last few weeks Dorsett has been pretty phenomenal, what have you seen from him the last two weeks that maybe we didn't see?

He's stepped up, he has a lot of speed so we implemented that in our offense and he stepped up and made every play he had to make.

You have three games now that you guys have scored 40 points or more, is it almost like you're getting used to these chaotic, crazy ACC games?

We just push ourselves to get better every week.

Stephen seems to be on another level right now, did you notice anything about him today that was different?
He's the same every week, focused. He felt very comfortable with the play calling, so I knew he was going to represent.

How'd you have so much success going vertical today?
The safeties played kind of low so we had to take shots at them.

Thomas Finnie

The interception at the end, the receiver and quarterback had a miscommunication and it was all about you?
Yeah it was, he tried to do an out and up and I just stayed on top and made a play on the ball.

Things didn't always go great for you guys today, talk about how you guys were hanging in there throughout the entire ball game through the ups and downs every week?
We just keep playing until the clock says 00:00

The six turnovers you forced today, it seemed like even though you were giving up yards when you needed a big play you got the pick or fumble, coach just said that's way you guys have to be as a defense?
We just had to out play their defense they kept stopping us so we just had to out play them

Can you talk about the play Brandon made?
We always work on getting the ball out so he took his practice to the game.

You got the win but gave up a lot of yards on defense is that something to be concerned about?
It doesn't matter the amount of yards we gave up, a win's a win. We outplayed their defense. We kept playing and didn't give up and still won.

Phillip Dorsett

Talk about the last play.
The last play the ball wasn't even supposed to go to me it was designed to go to Allen. I just ran my route and tried to clear out the safeties for him, then I saw Stephen scramble so I went with him, then I saw him throw the ball and I was like "Oh snap, I have got to catch this." I saw the corner couldn't get to us so I tried my best to get into the endzone.

Did you stumble a little bit before that catch, it seemed like it caught you off guard?
Yeah I did a little bit. I just tried my best to catch the ball. Stephen threw an amazing pass and threw it far. It was probably one of the greatest plays of my life.

As soon as you saw the lane you had, did you know it was going to be six?
Yeah because I saw I was behind everybody so I had faith in Stephen that he was going to be able to throw the ball that far, so I knew.

Where you surprised you were so open?
Not really. I got behind everybody and I knew they were keying on somebody else. I just tried to get past everybody and that's just what happened.

Was it like a sandlot play?
Yeah basically

As crazy as the game was, is that a close fitting finish for how this day went?

Yeah basically, it was like last week back and forth back and forth. I don't think anything could top last week, last week was an ACC Coastal game this is an ACC game but last week meant more and we are just looking forward to getting ready for Notre Dame this week.

How far has Stephen come?

Stephen has come a far way. I know playing behind Jacory was tough and he came into his own self during the offseason. He basically is the biggest leader on the team.

How fun is it to be a receiver in this offense right now the way you are throwing the ball?

I feel like we get a lot of rest because other receivers are great receivers too. When we go in, we rotate very well, so we won't be tired throughout the whole game. That's good about this offense.

How much momentum will you take into Chicago?

Obviously we have a lot of momentum winning these last two ACC games. We just have to go back to the drawing boards and be ready for practice on Monday.

How big is Miami vs. Notre Dame?

A lot of tradition going in. I've been following this team ever since I was born. My dad's a big UM fan and so is my whole family. As a team, we are just looking forward to it. We have to get ready for practice on Monday.

How do you feel about breaking records the past two weeks?

I'm not really worried about that. As an offense we just tried to come together as one, and I feel like we've been coming together, but we still had a lot of missed opportunities out there so we feel like we can be a great offense if we eliminate those plays.

Rashawn Scott

How did you guys get to this point of the deep ball?

I feel like we practice it a lot in practice we just go deep, go deep, go deep no back shoulders. We try to eliminate all our back shoulders so we just have to trust Morris and his arm and he has to trust us that we will get in front of the DB's.

Can you talk about your second touchdown did you know the ball went off the defenders face?

I noticed it. Morris has a strong arm and sometimes in practice the ball goes through our hands and it looks the same. We would do it in practice so it was kind of shocking that it went to my arms but I wasn't really worried about it I just concentrated on the ball and caught it.

Stephen Morris

Take us through that last pass.

I don't really know what to say about it. It was kind of a freakish thing to happen but I just rolled out to the right, I was trying to buy time and I saw Rashawn I didn't want to go to overtime. I saw Phillip running, I didn't want to go to overtime so I said "Here goes nothing," so I just threw it up to him and he did a great job of making a play.

You broke the ACC and school record. How does it feel to do that at a place they call quarterback U?

It's huge. I can't really just stay on that. I'm just still trying to get better I left too many things out there.

NC STATE HEAD COACH TOM O'BRIEN QUOTES

Thought process at the end of the game

Once we got the football we tried to see if we could make something happen. You can't just kick the field goal and get the ball across midfield without taking a shot. We had an opportunity at the end and it got intercepted. At the end of the day if you contain the quarterback they can't win the game.

On communication problems

No, there's not. We have to be much better at secondary. The first thing is we have to contain the quarterback. That's where it all starts, because when he gets out of the pocket and runs around, coverage breaks down, which we have to do a better job at coverage. It starts with the pass rush, getting the quarterback, keeping him locked in from there and not out running around. They probably had five big balls today.

Do you take a lot of pride in the penalties and the turnovers?

When we lose it's on me. When we don't do our job it starts with me. It's the same guys doing the same thing over and over again.

The penalties – it's not your usual thing. Was it something about the cadence with Morris?

It's not with the cadence. You can make one mistake, but you can't make five and continue to make the same mistake over and over again. And, once again, that's on me. You've got to get it right.

You made a million errors but still found a way to tie the game and had a chance to win.

Yes, and on the road against a good football team. It's hard for me to be positive about anything after the way we finished, but we fought back. The first half was almost Tennessee déjà vu all over again. It was the same score, a comedy of errors. We fought, came back, started playing really good and got back in the game. And then we almost got over it. Snap the ball fast on an extra point and miss the extra point, and we're up by one. In 38 years I haven't seen a football team make this many mistakes and that comes back to me. That's me.

To what extent was this game about bad plays and which team could survive their own mistakes as much as it was about the other team making mistakes.

It's usually about two teams that are trying to find their identity and can't seem to quite find it. They got ahead, they went on the road and won two games. It's just to their credit. We've gone on the road and only won one game. We've got to find a way to go on the road and win, find a way to win football games. It was hot and humid, we knew that. We tried to play a lot of people to keep from cramping and tiring out. Especially at the end of the game when it comes down to the end zone and we had a chance, but we couldn't run their quarterback down. We just couldn't get there. It's like we were running in sand.

How hard is this game to swallow, knowing you made as many mistakes as they made plays?

It's awful to swallow. And on top of that we have to get ready for Florida State. So hopefully that'll catch their attention and catch the coaches' attentions. We're going to have to circle the wagons, find out who's healthy and put a football team together and go play a good game next Saturday night.

NC STATE PLAYER QUOTES

Safety Brandon Bishop

On miscommunications in the secondary

It was embarrassing, the way that they threw over our head today. Big plays killed us, missed opportunities killed us. It's just the most poor performance I've ever been a part of here.

On a ball that deflected caught for a Miami touchdown

It went right between my hands and I didn't squeeze it.

On similarities between today and their season opener against Tennessee

In some respects. I mean, we just got... we got ran by today. We got guys that are turning around and, you know, you're supposed to be covering a guy! You can't just let him run by you and do it over and over and over again. It's frustrating, man. It's really, really frustrating. Big plays, big plays early, missed opportunities... it's frustrating.

Quarterback Mike Glennon

On feeling like playing catch-up the entire game

I mean, we realized we had to catch up but at the same time I feel like we were just not being ourselves. If we executed what we were supposed to do, made a move on the ball, I mean I don't think we punted... I don't know how many times but it couldn't have been many. So we knew we just had to handle our business and play like we've played, play the way we've been taught, and that's what we did the second half. Got back in the game, just bad mistakes at the end.

On the team's frustration level

I have to say this was one where I felt like we just stopped ourselves. It isn't about them, it's about us. We let the game get out of hand. And it's just tough.

On bouncing back from a tough loss

We realize we have a long season ahead of us. Obviously we would've liked to start off in the ACC better, and we know it's not going to get any easier with Florida State next week, but at the same time these are the games we came here for. It's primetime against the, what, number four team in the country, and that's why we came here so we're looking forward to that opportunity.

Running back Tony Creecy

On playing with confidence

Yes sir. When we came in we knew we wanted to be physical, we wanted to run the ball and that's what we came out doing.

On playing catch-up

Yes I felt like that, but then once we came back in the game we started running the ball again. It all starts with the running game, and then the passing game opens up. We were running the ball strong and physical. We were moving the ball pretty well. And our passing game opened up.

On what to take from this game looking back

Cover your eyes and throw the popcorn away. We played – we did not play Wolfpack football. Coach O'Brien pitches Wolfpack football, getting big plays, and we did the total opposite. We didn't play Coach O'Brien football, Wolfpack football. And as a result we lost against a good team. Miami – you cannot have three or four turnovers,

and I think we had more than four, I think we had like five or six. You can't have that many turnovers in an ACC game, a good opponent, and you're on the road.