

Postgame Press Conference
Miami vs. USF
Nov. 17, 2012

Miami Head Coach Al Golden

On his team's win... We knew they were going to bring a lot of energy - the game means a lot to both teams. I was nervous with them coming off a bye week. We did whatever we could to get them fresh this week. We didn't go in pads very much, and the kids responded today. I was very pleased with the effort, and obviously the amount of kids that stepped up - most particularly at wideout, to answer the call, because we had some injuries at that spot.

On the performance of the wide receivers... Obviously we really believe Herb [Waters] is going to be a really good player for us. Philip [Dorsett] grew up tonight. I was so proud of Kendal [Thompkins], the plays he made, the blocks he made, the unselfishness he showed out there - he really deserved to go out that way. I'm very happy for Kendal.

On the performance of Clive Walford... Our biggest thing with Clive, and what we keep saying to him, is we have to keep pushing you to five, six, seven catches a game. He has that ability. If he didn't have that in his talent zone, we wouldn't push him. We have to get him out of his comfort zone and into his talent zone. We think he's a six-, seven-, eight-catch [guy], he's in that range. We haven't got there yet with him. He's getting better. Sometimes you look out there and you forget he doesn't have a long lineage in the game. He's a sophomore. I'm pleased with the direction he's going and how he's working.

On being bowl eligible...

It's nice. Obviously we lost by five points to the two ACC Coastal teams, which is disappointing. We've had a tough road to get to this point. I just stay focused on moving the team forward. When I look out there and see Herb Waters doing what he did today, and some of the other guys respond the way they did, the young guys, it's really exciting for the future.

On the performance of Stephen Morris... They were pressuring us a lot. They hit Stephen a lot on plays he shouldn't have been hit early on. I think the offensive line responded in the third quarter, they obviously protected him better. I think Stephen shook it off, and that third-quarter drive was as good as any drive we've had. We've stalled a couple times in the third quarter when we've gotten the ball. Stephen had a good look, we protected, we had a good mix of run and pass there - that was excellent. I'm excited about Stephen Morris. I look out there and you take Mike James off the field, and everyone else back. I'm excited about the direction that that's going, and how those guys are maturing. To see Stephen step up like that is great.

On self-imposing a bowl ban... I'm not in that loop. I have complete confidence in our president, our legal counsel and our Athletic Director Blake James. The way I look at it is this - we have the best president in the country. A president that oversaw a 600 million dollar budget when she was in the cabinet. She was in rooms where they made decisions as to whether they are going to overthrow heads of state, whether we were going to commit troops. I think she can handle this one. I have complete confidence she can handle this one. I'm just happy for the guys. I'm happy for the win today. I'm happy to have the opportunity to go to Durham next week and play for the Coastal.

On his role in the bowl decision-making...

I'm not part of it, and most of that is to protect me from the legal side of it, to be quite honest. I'm not privy to what the president is privy to. I don't know what the president knows, or our legal counsel, or what Blake James knows, and I'm not a part of that. I'm sure there will be some discussions tonight and tomorrow and we'll go from there.

On addressing the bowl eligibility with the team... I lamented the fact that I didn't address it before Virginia. For all the things we didn't do well in the game, I wish I had said, 'hey guys, I'm getting so many questions about it, if we are we going to do this or do that, so I know you must be seeing it or hearing it.' I think the kids did an awesome job this week of just listening to what I was saying and what the staff was saying. Just live in a vision. Go out and play. Enjoy it. Don't let anyone get you down, talking about what you don't have, because it can become a self-fulfilling prophecy. I thought our kids enjoyed it tonight. Our kids played hard. We have to do the same thing next week. We have to block out the circumstances. Don't make any excuses, we're responsible for what we can control. The rest will take care of itself - I have faith in that.

On playing for a spot in the ACC Championship Game next week... It's critical. It's critical for our seniors to weather what they have weathered, and to be able to have an opportunity to go out like that. If you look at it all the way down the line, if you're a freshman, and you're playing for that your freshman year, you become accustomed. You change the culture. They start to understand what it means to pack your bags and go on the road to Durham or wherever you have to go to win that game. We're going to have our hands full - we know that. All our Coastal Division games are hard to win. I hope our guys learned from the Virginia game on what we need to do. That's my focus. I have complete confidence in our leadership and the direction we're going with the program and what we need to do to move forward.

On the timetable for a decision... I'm here to coach the team and make them better. I'm here to move the program forward and move the team forward. I want to reiterate how proud I am of the guys. You can say whatever you want, come at me, bury me all you want. Attack me all you want. These kids who have stuck it out, who have stayed here, who have never gone one week in two years without hearing this nonsense, don't blame them. I appreciate all those kids that not only stayed here, but those guys that answered the bell, that answered the call to fix this. We will get it fixed.

On the performance of the team's defense...

Denzel [Perryman] and Eddie [Johnson] make a difference, I don't think there's any question, having guys back like that. Hopefully we'll get Deon [Bush] back. I think Corey King did a nice job. The presence of all three of those kids made a difference in the game. We played a lot of guys, we rotated, we got some takeaways which were huge. It was a good win.

On the defense holding USF offense to single digits... We were all disappointed with how we played last week and the circumstances we were dealing with. The three games leading up to Virginia, we showed marked improvement, and obviously we got back on track here tonight. You can't erase what happened last week, but obviously we all understand what goes into a game like that and an effort like that. I thought the guys responded today.

On blocking out distractions with a young team... It's tough. It's not just the kids, it's everybody. Everybody in the organization. I've never had a season where I wasn't answering for those questions, never been in a kid's home recruiting where I didn't have to answer those questions. I can't wait for that day. I thank the parents, and the players who stayed here to fight through this – those are the ones we should be honoring. Those seniors who stayed here to fight through this and didn't take the easy way out, and all the kids that joined us, that want to see the University of Miami back where it needs to be.

On the play of freshman safety Rayshawn Jenkins...

I think he's talented. That rookie class has really stepped up. I don't know if he's the ninth or 10th freshman who has started for us this year, but they've stepped up. They've really had to fill in. A lot of them were pressed into service before they were ready. They're competitors, they love football, and they love the University of Miami. I'm very pleased with Rayshawn.

RB Duke Johnson

On how the offense is starting to click

We've gained chemistry; in practice we know who's capable of what. What their strengths and weaknesses, you put that with the summer and the spring and we'll be all right.

On Herb Watters performance

Herb is a great receiver, he's one of those guys whose taken advantage of the opportunity given.

On the trick plays

Just ways to get me out flanked to the defense, so I can use my speed and vision.

On the win

It's nice just to win regardless of a big margin or small margin. The young guys came out and played well for the seniors, knowing it's their last game. We wanted to take them out with a bang.

On Kendal Thompkins

Kendall is one of those guys that work hard, and once given the opportunity he's going to give it his all.

On the fumble

When I got around the corner, I dove too high, I meant to go lower toward line and I was in the air too long and I got hit from the backside.

On playing for the Coastal title next week.

It shows the program is coming along, we take it step by step, as far as the bowls, it's not our concern we just go out there and give it everything we got.

Postgame Press Conference

Miami vs. USF

Nov. 17, 2012

WR Phillip Dorsett

On the receivers stepping up

We went into the game knowing this, they knew they couldn't throw the ball to Clive or me every play so they knew they had to step up and they did that.

On the win

It feels great, winning big against another in-state rival. It gives us momentum for next week going in to Duke playing for the Coastal title. It's a great feeling any time we win.

On playing Duke next week

Simply, if we win, we win. The loser goes home, if we win this game we go to the ACC Championship. Winning the Coastal is something this school has never done and it's something we're trying to do.

Getting a win for the seniors

It was great getting the win for them. They've been through so much the past four or five years, being here and all the hard work and dedication. It feels great, Kendal going out the way he did, I can't really explain it.

On this game compared to the other games this season

I feel it was one of our best performances this season, with Stephen throwing for all those yards, and our defense not allowing a touchdown on the board. Obviously we got back two great players in Eddie Johnson and Denzel Perryman, and hopefully we can get Deon back next week.

Postgame Press Conference

Miami vs. USF

Nov. 17, 2012

WR Kendall Thompkins

On performance today

For it to be my senior game, it means a lot the way I came out and played, it something I've been waiting on, I had an opportunity and I think I was able to make the most of it.

On scoring a touchdown

For it to be senior day, it was real big, scoring my first touchdown of the season and for it to be today it was huge.

On his spectacular catch

I didn't think he was going to throw the ball because the defense jumped offside, I just ran the go route, when I looked back I saw the ball in the air, and I just said, I'm going to go get it, I reached out and it stuck to my hand.

On playing in front of family and friends

It felt real good. My mom was here, I dedicated this game to her.

On the thoughts going into the game

My years here have gone by really fast, but it has to come to an end one day, so you just try to make the most of it and make the best of the situation.

On playing for the Championship next week

It means a lot especially because I'm a senior, I don't expect it to be easy but we just have to go in prepared and focused.

QB Stephen Morris

On being short-handed at the receiver position

I guess we were, but my guys stepped up and made great plays. It's a credit to the offensive line, they brought a lot of blitzes but the receivers stepped up.

On the play of Herb Waters

I was waiting for him to have a breakout game, throughout practice this week, I was telling him he was going to have a big game, to just get his mind right, and stay focused.

On the 65-yard play to Clive Walford

I knew they were playing Tampa two the way the Mike (linebacker) opened up to the boundary side, they all rolled out and I looked to my check down, I pump faked and I saw Clive pop in my face and I just threw the ball to him.

On the play of Kendal Thompkins

I knew it being his senior year and it being senior night, and him catching his touchdown, I was just happy for him. This night was truly deserving of all the hard work he puts in.

On next week

We understand what's at stake, and we broke it down in the locker room and said this is something that has never been done at the University of Miami and we have a chance, it's time to get focused.

On the future following next week

I'm eager about it, I just follow what Coach Golden says and let all that other stuff handled by the other guys at the head of athletics, my biggest focus is I have 110 guys in that locker room that I have to get ready for Duke, and that's my sole focus.

On his 400-yard performances

I am truly blessed and it's just a testament to the coaching staff and all the changes being made.

Postgame Press Conference
Miami vs. USF
Nov. 17, 2012

USF Head Coach Skip Holtz

"It is certainly disappointing to play the way that we did tonight, to come out into a game that. I think that so much is built up when you talk about a rivalry game, and you come out here. And I thought we really had a good week of practice and to come out here and make some of the mistakes that we did as a football team, some of the uncontested balls we gave up defensively, and some of the turnovers we had tonight were frustrating. As a football coach, coming out here I felt like this was a game we could be competitive in. I thought this was a game we had an opportunity, a great opportunity, to maybe correct some things that went wrong earlier in the season or some of the close football games that we lost. We just weren't able to get it done as a football team. We came out here, I thought there were an awful lot of players that competed. I thought that Bobby and Matt, as two young guys coming into a football game, competed hard, but I don't think that we played very well around them on the offensive side as far as receivers and making some plays and picking up some of that burden that we talked about with BJ, some of the total yards BJ was walking out with. And I thought on defense our pass secondary was poor. I thought it was poor. I just thought there were way too many uncontested deep balls. It's one thing when the ball goes up and they jump up over you – the catch the young man made in the fourth quarter, the diving catch down on our sideline, I'll take those. I'll give up those deep balls. That was a great individual effort and a great play. But some of the other ones were just totally uncontested and totally uncalled for."

On quarterbacks...

"We said we were going to let the quarterbacks compete during the course of the week. Bobby clearly won the competition during the week. I say "clearly," it was like, he had a higher completion percentage, put the ball in danger less, threw less interceptions, had less accuracies, made better reads. We let them compete for two weeks on the field. One of the reasons that I wanted those two both to compete to get ready like they were starting the game. We made the decision earlier that we would play the quarterback that would give us the best chance to win, and statistically and from a leadership and experience standpoint, we felt like that was Bobby Eveld coming in. I know it's easy to second-guess and look back, especially with what happened, and say it was wrong. I'm sick, I just absolutely hate it for Bobby. It's probably the worst case scenario you could've built when you made the decision. Not necessarily the win or the loss but him getting injured in this game is probably the worst case scenario that you could build and unfortunately it happened tonight. And as I told Bobby, we're not going to make this decision in hindsight. I think it's going to make it tonight once the game is over and seeing how things unfolded. But we made the decision we felt gave this football team the best opportunity to win coming in. I hate how it worked out for everyone, especially Bobby Eveld."

On Eveld's injury...

"It's a left shoulder. I don't know at this point the magnitude, the separation, one, two or three, but it's a left shoulder."

On disruption after the injury...

“Well that’s one of the reasons that I talked about both quarterbacks preparing for two weeks to get ready as the starter for this game. And Matt went in and I thought, outside of the one interception where he hit the linebacker in the sternum, and he threw a deep ball into the endzone for an interception, but other than that I thought he showed courage, I thought he showed toughness, I thought he stood in the pocket, I thought he threw the ball very well, and honestly I don’t think we got a whole lot of help. I don’t think he got a whole lot of help in receiving tonight. With his numbers being whatever they were, I think he got exactly what he was throwing for, because it’s not like we broke a lot of tackles tonight and made extra yards. Most of that, he earned.”

On kicking field goals and the end of the half...

“My thought process at the end of the half was to tempo them. One of the things going to the line real quick and running the play. We went up there and we had 22 seconds left to run the play which wasn’t what I had in mind. I mean we were trying to call the play, go to the line and snap it real quick so we didn’t have to go to a goal line or a big set, and also not give them the opportunity to dial up the blitzes they were doing. As soon as Matt went back in the game they started coming hard and blitzing after us, and I was trying to go tempo. And that’s why I didn’t call a time out. Looking at it, I looked up, there’s 22 seconds, I thought we could run the play, have a chance to call a time out and run another play and kick a field goal. In hindsight, that one’s on me, I take responsibility and blame. At the end of the half I should’ve called time out. With a young quarterback in play, that’s what I should’ve done. I don’t think that was the difference in the game. But that one’s on me. I knew we had three time outs, but I also didn’t want to give them the chance to dial up some of the things they were bringing to the young quarterback.”

“At the end of the game I was kicking field goals because I think, in the fourth quarter, this game was pretty much out of reach at that point, even though we were driving down the field and getting some chunks of yardage. And I think we needed to build on some successes, and I think it was really important for this young football team full of sophomores and freshmen – you’re talking about, on the offensive line, I believe there were two seniors that really played tonight a significant amount – but with all the sophomores and freshmen on this team I felt it was really important that we got something positive out of the last couple of drives. I thought going for fourth and seven and dragging our tails off the field with no points and a lot of yards to show for it was not the answer. I think what we were doing in the fourth quarter was building a lot of young players for Cincinnati next week and Pittsburgh the week after that, and trying to build some confidence in a football team that obviously didn’t have a lot of other reason to have it tonight. And that’s why I felt it was really important that we were able to get points and not walk off the field fourth and seven. Fourth and one? I went for it. Fourth and seven? I didn’t. I felt like the field goals were important.”

Is this back to where things were before Connecticut?

“I thought our front seven really actually did a pretty good job against the run. When you look at the explosiveness they have in the running game, I thought the defensive front seven really played pretty well. And even going into halftime, we had three turnovers at halftime and you’re down points, but the total yards were 208 to 195. It’s a very balanced football game at halftime even with three mistakes and you’re down, and I felt like we had a chance going into the second half until we jumped offside and played three deep and they run an uncontested deep ball for 89 yards. I felt like it was a pretty evenly played football game even though the points were a little bit swayed because of the turnovers. I felt like we were still very competitive. From there it certainly went south in the pass defense.”

Loss because of two inexperienced quarterbacks?

"I don't think those two quarterbacks lost it. I would certainly like to tell you, if this was a 28-26 game and we threw the interception backed up late in the first half and that got points, then yeah, that could've been the difference, the inexperienced quarterback. But I don't think it was the inexperience at quarterback that lost this game. I don't. I made the comment that everybody was going to have to pick it up a little bit asking these young guys, inexperienced quarterbacks to step in there. You know, we have a turnover on the punt return and give them field position there, and then we have the uncontested balls that we did in the secondary on defense. So I think it was more of a storyline. Miami executed the plays that they needed to execute to win this game, but I think it was much more of a story that we didn't play well enough around them. But I do not think the inexperienced quarterbacks lost this game."

On being officially out of a bowl...

"We didn't just play these games just for a bowl. There's a group of seniors in there that have given an awful lot to this team. There's a lot of pride on this football team, and they're going to continue to compete. They'll continue to compete, they'll continue to work. Like I said, there's a lot of youth and I think this game was not just about a bowl game. It's as much about the future as it is about tonight or six wins. It's as much about the future with a young quarterback getting the amount of plays that he did, a lot of young offensive linemen, some of the young wide receivers. I think this was as much building for the future as it was just trying to get to six."

Postgame Press Conference
Miami vs. USF
Nov. 17, 2012

Matt Floyd- QB

Overall what are your thoughts?

First I want to thank the Lord for the opportunity and blessing. I thought we didn't play the way we should have played. I feel like Miami is a great team and they played well and they did what they had to do to in order to win. This is a game we can build off of, learn some things from the mistakes and just move forward.

Talk about your own performance?

I made a couple of mistakes on the first couple of drives. Then I began to settle down, get more comfortable. There are things I could have done a lot better. There were some reads I could have made better and some throws, but overall I thought it was a pretty good performance. I have to give all the thanks to the line, the backs and the receivers. They did a great job to help us move the football.

What went through your mind when starting QB went down?

I hope he's ok. He took a big hit. I was a backup all year long, so I was always one play away. So just like it was every single game, one play away - get ready. When he went down, get ready to go in.

Do you have some things to build on moving forward?

Of course. You're never done getting better, I feel like every single play is something to build on for the next play or every game it's the next game to build on. I think we should all go back to Tampa, practice tomorrow and get some things fixed and prepare for Cincinnati.

Demetris Murray-Rb

Coach Holtz felt there wasn't enough players making plays for the Qb do you feel like that was the case?

Yes, I think we didn't make the plays when they needed to be made. Offensively, defensively, receivers, running backs. We just didn't make the plays when they needed to be made and I think that's what showed today. When there's a new quarterback you have to make plays for him, magical plays, wild plays, you have to make those with a new quarterback and we didn't do that today.

What did you think of Matt's (QB) performance?

I think he did well. He came in kind of shaky a little bit, but once he got acclimated with the game he did well. He put the ball where it needed to be. He drove us down on the 2-minute drive before the half. He did a great job.

Before you were using motivation as being able to go to a bowl now what are you going to use?

You have to have heart. You have to have pride. You have to be raised that way to have pride in everything you do. If you're not raised to have pride in everything you do, you would give up now and say forget it, our season is over and just worry about next year. So you have to have pride in what you do. That's how I've been raised and I am going to continue to work the way I work and I'm pretty sure the guys in the locker room are going to do the same.

Kayvon Webster- CB

What do you think happen that let them (Miami) get so many down-field passes?

They did a good job of capitalizing on our mistakes.

Why do you think guys took a step back in the pass defense after playing so well against UConn?

We had a lot of missed assignments. We just didn't do our job, Miami did a good job capitalizing on our mistakes.

Without possibility of playing for a bowl what are using for motivation?

We have to finish the season. Still get better every week. Nothing has changed. We must come to practice every day and still work hard.

How do you think the game got away at the start of the second half?

Miami did a great job capitalizing on our mistakes. They did their job and did what they had to do.