



2013 @MIAMIHURRICANES FOOTBALL

University of Miami Athletic Communications • 5821 San Amaro Drive • Coral Gables, FL 33146 • HurricaneSports.com
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GAME 9

POSTGAME QUOTES

VIRGINIA TECH (7-3, 4-2) 42, 14/14/11 MIAMI (7-2, 3-2) 24
SUN LIFE STADIUM • MIAMI GARDENS, FLA. • NOV. 9, 2013 • 49,267

MIAMI HEAD COACH AL GOLDEN

On the difficulties in fighting uphill after falling behind early...

"Huge. You can't spot them 21 points like that. At the end of the day, we executed the punt return and kick-off return exactly what we wanted - one was 30 [yards], one was 50 [yards], and we fumbled both of them. Just inexcusable. We had a low snap and gave them a short field there, and now you're playing uphill the whole time. They're basically playing keep-away at that moment. We didn't get off the field well enough on third down. We didn't convert enough plays on offense. Just really disappointed in those mistakes."

On lopsided time of possession in the first quarter affecting chances of success...

"There isn't any question about it. We had two fumbles and basically what amounted to a fumble on the low snap that we were down on. To start out the game like that, I don't think there's anybody in this business that would see that coming. There's just no way that should happen. I'm really disappointed there."

On the general issues that he sees with his team's defense...

"We didn't get off the field enough on third down. We missed too many tackles - too many egregious third downs that they converted. Really against the odds plays for them that they converted, and we didn't stop them enough in the red zone. Even with the mistakes that we aided them [with] in the half, I think we were still only in the 30's going into halftime play-wise. Not that that's great, but it's not like it was 40 or 50 plays. Again, just really disappointed. We didn't deserve to win. We didn't protect the ball, a low snap, three big blunders to start the game, and as I just said to them, don't let anyone say we weren't ready, we weren't focused. If everyone is blocking who they're supposed to be and we return it 50 yards, we're ready to play. We fumbled the ball. We had a good scheme and we fumbled the ball. We score early on a screen, we're ready to play. Just really disappointing. It's impossible to overcome those odds."

On how the weather affected his team's gameplan...

"None. Zero. Don't let anyone say the rain affected those fumbles. They started to get in traffic, you have to cover that up, and the ball should be higher. Something we work on constantly. The ball was just too low, the point was down. I'm embarrassed by it, to be honest with you."

On any systemic issues he sees with the defense...

"We need to help them on special teams and on offense. There are a lot of things we need to fix. We had too many guys open, we didn't tackle well enough, we didn't get off the field, we didn't get a red-zone stop, and we didn't get enough pressure on the quarterback."

On if the same issues that plagued the defense last week were recurring against Virginia Tech...

"The numbers would say yes. There were too many third-and-longs, too many against-the-odds third downs they converted. It was the function of two things: we blew a coverage - a man got free or cut a guy loose - lost leverage in the zone, or we didn't tackle real well."

On the play of the Virginia Tech wide receivers...

"We had some guys running free. We got out-leveraged a couple of times. As I said, we didn't tackle. There's no excuse. It has to be better, it wasn't good enough, and it's my responsibility to get it fixed."

On what his team needs to do better offensively...

"We needed to get the ball. Obviously on the two occasions that we fumbled it, those two possessions certainly could help. We're not good enough right now on third down. We're not converting enough on third down with enough consistency, and obviously that's an excellent defense we're playing [against]. [When] you spot them 21 points, you're fighting an uphill battle. It gets skewed when you make those kind of mistakes. It's really tough. We didn't convert enough of our shots down the field."

On if he anticipates making any changes to his defensive scheme...

"We have to look at it. It would be premature to say we have to change things when we really had too many unforced errors, to be honest with you."

On if the cushion for Virginia Tech wide receivers on third down was the product of mental errors...

"I know twice we got rubbed off and didn't stay on our man, the other one we missed a tackle. We're playing man [coverage] a couple of times, so it wasn't like we weren't being aggressive. We didn't get it done. There's no excuse. We'll examine it, look at it, from top to bottom."

On the Coastal Division race...

"We're going to go to work tomorrow, like I just told the team. I'm going to be in there, getting back to work. They have to decide which direction they want to go - there's a lot of football left. They have to get their minds right and move on."

I don't want to hear anything about last week's game affecting this week's game. We were ready to play. We did not take care of the football, and it really was the equivalent of three turnovers early in that game when you look at the two kick plays and the knee down. We didn't tackle well enough, we didn't get out of the field well enough, we didn't get a red zone stop on defense. On offense, we didn't run the ball well enough, we didn't convert on third down, we didn't hit the shots when we had them down the field, and we dropped a few [passes], to be honest with you."

On the differences he sees from his team's win against Florida to the loss against Virginia Tech...

"Whatever I say is an excuse. At the end of the day, we have to fix it. We have to go back to work and fix it. I'm not even going to go down that path. We're all responsible for it, I'm responsible for it, and we're going to go to work tomorrow on getting it fixed and getting this thing right, and do all the little things right to move forward and move the program forward. That's what we have to all get going tomorrow."



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ALLEN HURNS

On the turnovers to start the game...

Turnovers are never good for a football game. There were a lot of things that were leading up to it. It wasn't just the turnovers, it was also people not executing.

On how to turn it around for next week...

We know our goals aren't over with. We're going to come in and chase our dreams.

On the leader he has to be to Stacy Coley and Herb Waters...

I talk to them a lot. I'm going to start talking to them even more. I am going to watch film with them more. I'm going to teach them the different coverages, how to react, and what routes to run according to the coverage. I have to tell them to calm down even if they make a mistake, I tell them that they can't focus on what they did last time, but focus on the positives.

SHAYON GREEN

On third down problems...

We had a lot of unforced errors. We need to do a better job of keeping our eyes on our keys. That's pretty much it.

On the last two losses...

It's something that we have to overcome. We have to get in Monday morning and fix it.

On the leadership and the focus of the team...

As a senior, it's my job to lead the team. I think that we have guys with unbelievable leadership, like the guy right beside me, Justin Renfrow, also Stephen Morris, the guy that just left Allen Hurns. They're doing a great job of keep the focus, and keep this thing going.

JUSTIN RENFROW

On some third and longs that were converted...

We're just focused on doing our job. People are going to try and say we did different things. For me personally, I got to get to the passer, and that is my fault. Everyone's got to do their job. There is no frustration, we just got to buckle down and do it the next play.

MARK D'ONOFRIO

On past game defensive similarities...

I think we need to step up and we need to make stops. Every score that they [Virginia Tech] had today was attributed to one or two things; we either had bad coverage or missed a tackle and that's disappointing. We had opportunities to get off the field, and we didn't do it.

On Florida game defense vs. current defense...

I don't know if that a fair thing to say from just that game. I think they've done a lot of good things throughout the year, won seven-straight games. We won a lot of games in the 4th quarter, and come back on the road. Our problem tonight was missed tackles and cutting someone loose.

On fixing defensive issues...

We just keep drilling and get the guys to respond, and go over the tape. I try to reserve judgment until I watch tape but I am aware of the big plays that we missed and those things are fixable. However, to give up a few touchdowns because of poor tackling is disappointing cause I thought we were moving forward from that.

STACY COLEY

On the touchdown ...

We worked on that throughout practice. The offensive line came out with a great block, Malcolm Lewis with a great block. I took a crease and just went to the endzone.

STEPHEN MORRIS

On the overall outcome...

I'm not worried. This is a resilient team, a tough team. We've been through a lot. You win some and you lose some, unfortunately, but that's the game of football. I was telling the team that we have a lot to do and a lot to still work for.

Morris on the attitude of the team...

I don't think this team has to get mad. I think we need to stay in the bunker and do everything that we've been doing. We just need to do it better and execute.



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VIRGINIA TECH HEAD COACH FRANK BEAMER

"This has been a heck of a couple days here for the Hokies. To come down here and beat, I think, a really good football team, an explosive football team, and then for our soccer team to beat Virginia, that was No. 1 in the country, now playing for the ACC Championship. I think it's Florida State that they play. It's been a good roll here. I'm proud of our players, I'm proud of our coaches. It's been a couple tough weeks here, but it's so good to see kids hang in there and keep fighting, keep playing relentless. Then come down here and play a great football game."

"I'm proud of our football team. I thought this was a great win for us against a good team."

On Logan Thomas and the offense...

"I thought Logan was exceptional. He was exceptional last week, except for about two plays. He had a tremendous performance and I thought he was fantastic. I thought we ran the ball really hard. Had some holes there to run them in. It was a really, really solid offensive performance. One of our better offensive performances we've had in awhile."

On if this is what he envisioned, offensively...

"I thought we did a great job of keeping it mixed up. I thought we kept motioning. I thought we kept changing formations and I think we got them on their heels a little bit. And then I thought we ran the ball really hard. I thought our running backs really stuck it in there. But they had a little hole, and that means the offensive line, we got a little something. We're not getting stopped. We got a little something going. It's just a great team win."



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VIRGINIA TECH PLAYER

Logan Thomas- QB

On how it feels to play a great game after so much criticism ...

"It feels great. Didn't turn the ball over like in the past weeks or else it would have been the same outcome those times. I'm just thrilled the way we played, offensively. We were able to run the ball, able to throw the ball. We did a great job after the catch and the offensive line did a great job. I'm extremely proud of everybody."

On the coach taking a timeout after his helmet fell off...

"I don't think it's because they don't have faith in Leal but I think it was because it was a pivotal point in the game and, you know, they want their starter in the game, that's been playing well the entire game. I appreciate it, obviously, but I wouldn't have it any other way."

On what it is that's special about playing Miami...

"Those colors bring out the best in a player. You know the tradition and the legacy that those guys have got. That's all you hear about from the bigs these days. They're kind of one of our biggest rivals. You always have to bring your 'A' game against them. They have athletes at every part of the field. I think that's what brings up our intensity level. It's not just me doing it, it's everybody."