



2023 MISSOURI FOOTBALL

POSTGAME QUOTES vs. TENNESSEE – NOV. 11, 2023

MISSOURI HEAD COACH ELIAH DRINKWITZ

Opening Statement

"I just want to start off by thanking the fans for another unbelievable environment. Their energy was contagious for our football team and they fed off each other all four quarters and we missed that field goal for our fans to be going crazy like that at the end was really special and I really appreciate them. And I'm asking them to do it one more time. Why stop now?"

Drinkwitz on owning the State of Tennessee...

"And then lastly, you know we are the Tennessee state champs, you know we beat Vandy, Tennessee, Middle Tennessee, and Memphis this season. So, we'll go ahead and take that on."

Drinkwitz talking about Cody Schrader...

"I thought the play of Cody Schrader was unbelievable for him to put us on his shoulders the way he did. Incredible. I mean, I don't know that there's more impressive performance than to rush for 205 yards and to receive 116 yards out of the backfield. What an incredible day that little superman had for us. I had to, I can't call him the Smurf anymore. He's risen to a new level."

Drinkwitz talking about the team's motivation and resilience...

"Can't kill us, we've already been killed. We've been at the bottom. We were in hell last year. You know, you lose some of those games the way we did. It doesn't get much worse than that, and so this team just said, Hey, you can't kill us. We're gonna fight our way out. We're gonna fight for each other."

Drinkwitz talking about the special teams...

"Some good, some of the things we got to work on. It's why we went back with me this but really proud proud of our kickoff coverage."

Drinkwitz talking about the team's leaders...

"Whether we're talking about Cody Schrader or Brady Cook or Armand Membou or Javon Foster or Tyrone Hopper or Chuck Hicks. These guys just showed up every day to compete and their ascension has been pretty special."

MISSOURI DL DARIUS ROBINSON

On adjustments in John's part being a step too slow in this game.....

"I mean personally, I don't believe so. But I think that as a defense, we just have to go out there and be able to make the plays when they are given to us. You know, I think we beat ourselves sometimes."

On why they couldn't play like how they did against Kentucky....

"I think that they just moved around a little bit. Got us out of our gaps and we were fundamentally sound and when you're not fundamentally sound, the results are going to show that."

MISSOURI DB JC CARLIES

On Missouri's defense

"Just trusting this game to Coach Baker and defensive coaches came in with a great game we executed to the best that we could and it showed up on the scoreboard."

On his teammates

"Everybody was having fun with it. You know, like you said, just having a veteran group so that means there's just a lot of leadership going in on the defense side of the ball. Just everybody communicating and talking to having fun at the same time. It just makes a lot of fun and for the season that we've been having fun."

MISSOURI OL JAVON FOSTER

On how meaningful the game was...

"It meant so much. We've been trying to focus on being one to notice. Even though last week we couldn't get it done, we just put it past. We just focus on being one to notice and we got the job done."

On Xavier Delgado...

"We're roommates. We've been together here for so long. I know he just wants to be calm and think about what he has to do. I'm the same way so we just learn to play off each other like that."

On the season so far...

"It is a blessing. This is what I came back for. I wanted to win and I knew we had the team. So, I just knew all we needed to do was put it all together and it's coming together. We just got to keep going."

MISSOURI RB CODY SCHRADER

On defining the win

"I think a team victory, and I'm not looking at individual stats I've never had it's never been my motivation. I think from looking at the defense, you know, I think they, you know, put a really good offense down early and you know, really shut him down. I think offensively played really well. I think today you saw complimentary football in all three phases."

On the durability of the offense

"I think something that the O line and myself probably pride ourselves in is that we're okay with those two yard gains, but you know, they're going to happen, but what teams can last four quarters against us? Because eventually one either they are going to fold or we are going to fold and we're finding ourselves just getting stronger, stronger as the game goes on."

On receiving yards

"I have been asking Kirby more about getting me more involved in the passing game just joking around but you know a lot of them came on wide open one came on a scramble for Brady to find me and putting the ball in my hands quick so I can make some happen."

On the mindset coming into the week

"You know that's our mindset all week is how can we find ways to play well in all three phases, because you can't win games in this league if you just play on offense or good on defense, and everybody's not helping each other out. We really bought into that this week. We had a chip on our shoulder from the game last week, and we knew what we could do on the field. And tonight, we took a little anger out from last week."

On his background and being a Tiger

"Yeah, I mean, it's something I will remember for the rest of my life. This is the only school that took a chance on me. I had to fight for everything, every single thing I've had, but the guys in this locker room and coaches that we have believed in me since day one, they've given me opportunities. And I will just forever be grateful and couldn't be happier to be a Mizzou Tiger for the rest of my life."

On getting better every week

"I think my confidence level definitely has grown. The way our O-line is blocking right now is unbelievable. You know they're fighting they want to dominate as much as I want to dominate when you have a running back and O-line

fighting for the same goal and pushing in the same direction, and you know, having Coach Moore and the rest of the offensive staff putting the ball in our hands it's extremely special for us."

TENNESSEE HEAD COACH JOSH HEUPEL

Opening Statement

"Give credit to Missouri, they played well. Really disappointed in the performance of our football team, didn't like the way we finished the ball game. We didn't play smart enough or good enough early in the football game to win this one. And line of scrimmage there was a stark difference, I said it early in the week that would be a pivotal part of the football game; they were able to run the football, we weren't. Offensively, we didn't have the efficiency that you need to go and score points. So disappointing."

On struggling to contain the run...

"They created a lot of seams. He was able to make us miss, ran through some things too. At times just gap integrity, they reached us and we didn't have anybody in the front side gap. So just a combination of that. Brady Cook made a bunch of plays with his feet to extend a bunch of drives on third down and a difference in performance as at the line of scrimmage."

On what went wrong in the second half...

"Offensively just didn't communicate early in the first drive, but the second drive we had an opportunity. So think about that drive, turnover on the next one, game got away. End of the day we got to play smart football and you got to play extremely physical while you're doing that. We did not do that on the opposite side of the football today."

On defensive struggles on third down...

"Didn't want to be in straight man free against their wide receiver corps, so there was some two high shell there as well. Quarterback gets out of the pocket, sometimes lost contain, sometimes he's stepping up into the pocket, and we're not able to tackle out in space. So a combination of all those things changed the way the game was played early."

TENNESSEE QUARTERBACK JOE MILTON III

On not getting the ball that much...

"We just got to take what the game gives you. You got to try to figure out what you need to do on offense so we can get ourselves right".

On the fumble in the fourth quarter...

"That's just me. I just got to clear it back. You know, that's nothing to do with the whole offense".

On the outcome of the game...

"Mistakes happen. You just got to be able to correct them. You got to be able to correct them fast especially in games like this, especially when you got an offense that has a great running back and great quarterback and some guys on the outside that make plays. You got to be able to refocus and get ready for your opportunity to show up".