



UCF Football Postgame Quotes - Sept. 28, 2024

Colorado 48, UCF 21

UCF Head Coach Gus Malzahn

Head Coach Gus Malzahn's opening statement:

Alright, first of all, congratulations to Colorado. They outplayed us, out coached us. You know, they're a good team and I'm really disappointed for our fans. They brought it today with everything and we talked about seizing the moment, we didn't get it done. I just told our team that, you know in the game of football and in life, you learn most about yourself and major adversity and we didn't get it done. We got out coached, we got outplayed. Offensively, we turned the ball over four times, very uncharacteristic. We got down there in the five yard line in the first drive, and through interception. Defense, I don't think we made them pump the first half. I think we had two sacks. We got to find a way to get more pressure on the quarterback. They did a good job of running the football, mixing things up with that. And then, you know, offensively, we got to be able to generate more rushing yards than we did, but you know, you got to give them credit. I think they're a good team. They played, played good on defense, and they played good on offense too and special teams

Coach Malzahn thoughts on the contest:

They played, you know, it got to bear in different ways. And then there was a time they started playing just base four down, and we just got to do a better job, you know, pushing, pushing guys off the ball. I mean, they they played in our backfield some. We had trouble protecting, disappointing, too. I said, bottom line, there's a lot of yards, but man, there were so many mistakes, and that's really what I'm disappointed by. And I'm the head coach of this operation. It starts with me, and we got to do a better job of coaching. We got to do a better job of playing.

Coach Malzahn on the feeling in the locker room:

I mean, it stinks right now. There's no doubt everybody in that locker room feels the same way, and our expectations are high. We should feel that way, but it's one game. I mean, that's what I told him, it's one game. And we'll learn a lot about our team this week. We'll find out truly who we are. I mean, we were on top of the world after that last win. Now we're in the tank right now. Who we are as a team. We're going to find out.

Coach Malzahn on adjustments to be made:

I felt pretty good about, you know, going over, looking at the things we need to improve on. It didn't carry over here, out there, obviously, but we gotta keep working. We just got to keep working. And our guys, I have confidence our team, I really have confidence they'll come to that team meeting tomorrow and bright eyed, they'll be ready to take the next step. Like I said, we'll find out a lot about our team this week, who we truly are.

Coach Malzahn on ball security:

That's all of it, man. I mean, that's part of winning football. Can't turn the football over much, so we've done a pretty good job up until this point. That was uncharacteristic. We gotta, we gotta solve that, and we gotta coach it better. I mean, it's like about coaching you're in it with your players, man. Whatever happens on that field, the coaches are responsible too.

Coach Malzahn on bouncing back with a tough schedule ahead:

Well that's why I was saying what I said earlier. I mean, we're gonna find out a lot about our team, I will say this. I mean, I feel really confident telling y'all the way they're going to respond tomorrow. They got to do it, but I feel really confident about that, and we got another big one next week. I mean, it's one game, you know, in the big picture, and you got to find a way to grow. You got to find a way to get better, you know. And that's that's gonna have, that's gonna be our deal.

Coach Malzahn's on reassessing things after the uncharacteristic performance:

Yeah, I totally agree. I mean, we'll watch the film like I said. We got to challenge our coaches, challenge our players and figure out a way to take that next step as a team. And like I said, I feel really confident standing here today that the guys will answer the bell. But will it be easy? No, because they feel like crap right now tonight.

UCF Linebacker Ethan Barr

Barr on the team's performance:

Yeah I think we had a really good week of practice, and so we were hoping to count that show up today. I mean, at the end of the day, we've got to be better. They have a really good team. They got a lot of good players that can make plays at the end of the day. That's kind of what came down. So they were able to extend, extend drives and make the plays downfield that they needed to make to continue drives going. And so I think there's definitely things that we can improve on. I think it's unfortunate, but this isn't just because we lost this game. It doesn't mean, you know, anything past this game is going to spiral or anything like that. We can come back to work tomorrow and improve and keep going.

Barr on the team not being able to seize the moment:

Yeah, and first of all I just want to talk about just staying positive, eliminating all the negativity from the outside, and staying together as a team. And that's really what we need to do. Come back tomorrow. We have practice tomorrow. We got film, so being able to learn from our mistakes and make them, make those adjustments, make those improvements that we need to have moving forward. And just learn and be able to grow and come together as a team and not separate, not to fault blame anywhere. The game is on all three phases, and we all got to be better on all three phases. And that starts with the defense system.

Barr on if Colorado's play surprised the UCF defense:

No, I don't think so. I think we prepared very well, and we did really well. And like, matching routes, that's something that we really emphasized this week, just because that's what they do heavily, They do what they do. They aren't gonna do something that they don't have to do. They have the players to do what they do, and they have a good quarterback to make plays and when they need to make plays. And so yeah, nothing was a surprise.





Barr on the atmosphere at FBC Mortgage Stadium:

Yeah, but first of all, I want to say thanks to all the fans. I think seeing the Big Noon Kickoff and feeling the energy in the stadium was awesome. And I think that's something that we need moving forward throughout the rest of the season, and I think they did a great job at the beginning of the game. We really felt that, that you know, that first drive that we had to pick, I know everyone on the defense really felt that we were excited. We had the momentum at the moment. And you know, our fans, they stayed with us the whole game, and I appreciate them for staying with us. And, you know, leaving the game. And you know, even when things were kind of separating a little bit there at the end, I think they really showed up and continued to support us, so I appreciate it.

UCF Offensive Lineman Marcellus Marshall

Marshall on the process to move forward:

Yeah the biggest thing is not let the game beat you twice. Just get in tomorrow. Break down the tape. See what we gotta improve on. And then at the end of the day, clear because we got a new opportunity coming up next week.

Marshall on if Colorado loading the box presented problems:

I wouldn't necessarily say that. I mean, we played a good team. They did- They executed their game plan very well. And at the end of the day, they had some more hats in the box. We had to stuff up relatively well. But again, it just comes down to that strain and finish and just little details to help us be better.

Marshall on losing a game surrounded by so much hype:

I mean, obviously we want to win every game. That's the goal. You guys have heard us talk about that since we got started, so it is definitely, losing sucks. I hate to lose. Everyone in that locker room hates losing. We hate I mean, we had fans come out this morning and even to the game, huge crowd there to support us. We feel like we let them down too, but we just want to encourage them to keep coming out. We're going to get in tomorrow, get better and bounce back next week.

UCF Quarterback KJ Jefferson

Jefferson on his interception thrown on the opening drive:

That was a big momentum shift in the game. One thing we focus on at practice is just capitalizing of turnovers from the defense and his red zone efficiencies. I mean, we got to be efficient and efficient in the red zone and come away with points, whether that's touchdown or kick. I mean, we got to come up with something so that, right there is totally on me, so I take full responsibility for that, and that's one area that I need to get better.

Jefferson on what Colorado was doing defensively:

They did some really good things on defense. They kind of, we had to make some adjustments on the sideline, but ultimately, we just got to be able to just come out and start way faster, and it's all on us to be able to go out there and execute the plays that's being called. So I mean, they did some really good things on defense, disguised different things and doing different movements up front. But I mean, it wasn't nothing that we prepared for. We just got to go out there and execute.

Jefferson on if he was surprised how the game played out:

Extremely surprised. I mean, just from the fact that, I mean, we felt like we had a great game plan to go into the going into the game, and also being able to prepare over the bye week, and had an extra week to prepare for those guys. But, like I said, I mean, we just came out. We didn't just, we didn't execute at a high level. I mean, we some moments of the game that we would like to have back. But like I said, we just all come down to execution

Jefferson on the loss:

Extremely disappointing for our team, for the fans, just being able to just have such a audience like we had tonight and what today, and to have Big Noon Kick Off, it was a big deal for the university and for us to come out and not execute at a high level and come up short. I mean, just it hurts. I mean, that's a taste that we don't want to experience anymore. So we just got to get back to a drawing board and put our best foot forward and lead and prepare the right way. And go down to Gainesville.

Colorado Head Coach Deion Sanders

Coach Sanders' Opening Statement:

Wonderful game. Wonderful game. Utmost respect for Coach Malzahn. He keeps me going, keeps me on my toes. What he has accomplished and what he has brought to college football is phenomenal. The way he started, things he's gone through, it inspires me tremendously and to be on the same field with one of the guys that took my son to one of his camps he was being recruited by and offered him, it has been straight up 100 his entire career and I have love for him. But to be on the opposing side coaching was historic for me. I'm grateful I got that opportunity and thankful just to be on the same field. Football wise, it's one of the first times we came out and played a collective game, offensively, defensively as well as special teams with Mata hitting that field goal right before the half was tremendous. Just the play call right before we got out of bounds, I think it was 8 seconds on the clock we got out of bounds, with 3 seconds left, it was just phenomenal execution what the offense was capable of, Shedeur, think he got touched a couple of times, but other than that we ran the ball effectively. Really proud, I don't know how many yards we rushed for all together, 29 for 128, I'll take that. That's what we want. We want that kind of balance. We desire that balance and I know these guys can do it, I believe in them wholeheartedly. I want you guys to put your fingers to work and your pens to work the same way you do when they're giving up sacks. I want that same passion, the same commitment to blessing them and giving them encouragement and motivation as you do when your ripping them apart because it's only fair. Equality is only fair when everyone is in life. These kids have feelings and emotions and I'm so darn proud of them. Defensively, we gave up a couple explosions which we knew first down, shot down they granted their in will route. We gave up that, that wasn't indicative to who we are, but even starting the game with a pick, Shedeur don't do nothing stupid like that Ill tell you I wanted to turn into Dad right there, I really did, but it's just not who he is, thank God we got over that, we got by that, and we went on to play as were capable of playing.





Coach Sanders on the defensive challenge UCF presented:

Well, the quarterback, we knew he was going to be a problem, and we had to stop him from running the football. It's not just a one man band, I mean, with Harvey, but I mean, KJ Jefferson is unbelievable. I mean, that's what he does, and he's really good at it as well as he could throw it darn football. We knew we had to take away something, so just trying to stifle the run a little bit to get them to start over. But we knew we could score as well, so to keep up with our type of scoring that gets them out of their comfort zones and provokes them to throw the ball a little more than they would like to, because that's not truly who they've shown that they've been.

Coach Sanders on being an underdog on the spread:

We don't care about that. Y'all, do we? We are underdogs every week. Ain't nobody wants to see us win. You know that, except for our fan base? You know, my brother ran right? Yeah, yeah, yeah. Like the football they ride with us. But ain't nobody putting nationally want to see us get down. So, all I want to say, let me, let me finish blessing her. That's just the nature of the game. We're not mad about it. We're not upset about it. We know who we are. We know how we get down. It's not like we come out talking that talk, because we don't really do that. You say we do that, but we really don't do that. Our kids are very humble. I don't say what's going to happen. Never. I say what I would like to happen, but not what's going to definitely happen, but I'm so darn proud of where we are. We could be in a whole different place right now. But look, we're going into the break. What's the record? Because I'm one game at a time. I just want to hear y'all say it collectively. We've won one right now going into the break and I'm so excited. You have no idea it's gonna be really good playing right tonight.

Coach Sanders on his overall message to his team:

I challenged a multitude of young men in different ways, ways that they were capable of handling the challenge. And they stepped up, they stepped out, and they did the doggone thing. And I'm proud of each and every one of them. They really did, and it was a direct challenge with a name called, you know, I expect you, I don't give a darn if you dominate, but you gotta, you gotta least break even on your matchup. You can't let him whoop you. It was one of those messages last night in between them, we said what we're gonna do and what we're going to win by, and they exceeded that. Because I know, if we never say if the night before, its when our young men go out there and do what they're capable of doing, we know what the outcome is going to be.

